

# The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Photocopiable

**While reading**

**Story One, Part 1**

- 1 **Underline the wrong word and put the right one.**
  - a Mr. and Mrs. Button wanted their baby to be born in a house. ....
  - b Mr. Button felt very angry after he talked to the doctor. ....
  - c Mr. Button's son wanted his father to buy him a coat. ....
  - d Benjamin's parents colored his hair black. ....
  - e Mr. Button brought home some books for Benjamin. ....
  - f Benjamin wanted to do more amusing activities. ....
  - g Benjamin's father didn't want his son to wear his suit in the street. ....

2 **Put a word or words on the left with a word or words on the right.**

- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| busy    | food   |
| serious | noise  |
| loud    | milk   |
| gray    | city   |
| shop    | look   |
| warm    | window |
| simple  | beard  |
| soft    | games  |

**Story One, Part 2**

- 3 **Put the words in the right place to make a sentence.**
  - a lady shoes The wore beautiful gold dance  
.....
  - b A people Hildegarde lot thought mad of was  
.....
  - c party town Benjamin every in went every to  
.....
  - d the Benjamin mirror his looked in face at  
.....
  - e house Roscoe Benjamin want his didn't in  
.....
  - f made boxes Benjamin things pictures from  
drew and  
.....
  - g ladies to Benjamin The wanted to older talk  
.....

- 4 **Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**
  - a It was raining when Benjamin and his father went to the country house.
  - b Hildegarde knew that Benjamin was Mr. Button's son.
  - c Benjamin's father liked to talk about business.
  - d Hildegarde was happy that Benjamin was getting younger.
  - e Roscoe didn't want Benjamin to call him by his first name.
  - f Benjamin told Roscoe that he was going to camp Mosby.
  - g The kind officer at the camp was riding a horse.

**Story Two, Part 1**

- 5 **Finish the sentences with the right words.**  
 hoped help spent made knew picked understand
  - a Clark's old car ..... a noise like a cough.
  - b Clark ..... a lot of time with young men.
  - c Nobody ..... who the Confederate boys were.
  - d Sally Carrol ..... that Harry's parents liked her.
  - e A rich, old lady's father ..... up the trash in the town.
  - f The girl from the South didn't ..... the people in the North.
  - g Sally Carrol wanted to ..... the boys make a snowman.
- 6 **Answer the questions.**
  - a Who gave Clark money to have fun?  
.....
  - b Why was nobody in Tarleton in a hurry?  
.....
  - c How long did Harry plan to stay in Tarleton?  
.....
  - d When did Margery Lee die?  
.....
  - e What did Sally Carrol drink on the train?  
.....
  - f How old was Harry's brother Gordon?  
.....
  - g How long did Harry have for a vacation?  
.....

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## Story Two, Part 2

- 7 What's first? Number the sentences 1–6.
- a  Sally Carrol and Harry see a poor man in the street.
  - b  Sally Carrol can't find Harry in the underground passage.
  - c  Clark takes Sally Carrol swimming for the second time.
  - d  Sally Carrol meets Roger Patton.
  - e  Margery Lee talks to Sally Carrol.
  - f  A lot of people go into the ice palace.

8 Find the right words in Story Two Part 2.

- a It is similar to the word "think." (p. 38) .....
- b A material used to make clothes. (p. 41) .....
- c The opposite of wide. (p. 42) .....
- d Another word for strange. (p. 45) .....
- e Something that women wear but men usually don't. (p. 46) .....
- f To make a loud noise when you are angry or afraid. (p. 46) .....
- g A part of the body that moves blood around. (p. 46) .....

## Story Three, Part 1

- 9 Circle the wrong word in the sentences.
- a Ardita's uncle thought she was little more as than a child.
  - b The white man climbed quickly quick up the ladder.
  - c The pirates were running from through the law.
  - d Ardita wasn't interested interesting in money.
  - e Carlyle put all his money onto into a business idea.
  - f Carlyle was enjoying enjoyed his life very much.
  - g Ardita looked up and saw an island in on the ocean.

10 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a Ardita didn't hear the sound of her uncle's tposefots.
- b A black man called Babe seemed to be Carlyle's main tistasnas.

- c Ardita thought Carlyle was selfish but also a mciratno person.
- d Carlyle and his group played in the big tsetehar in New York.
- e One of the irofefcs knew Carlyle was a musician.
- f Ardita thought the morning was a time for sleeping, and being rsalsece.

## Story Three, Part 2

11 Circle the right word or words.

- a Ardita went swimming in the *warm / cold* water.
- b A lot of men wanted to *hurt / marry* Ardita.
- c Carlyle saw the revenue boat from the *top of a hill / Narcissus*.
- d Carlyle took a ring from *an old / a pretty* woman with red hair.
- e *Babe / Carlyle* sent a message to Mr. Moreland.
- f A *thief / detective* took the ring from a woman called Mimi.
- g There was Florida *gold / sand* in the bags.

12 Write questions for these answers.

- a What .....? A palace in Afghanistan.
- b Who .....? Catherine of Russia.
- c How .....? Twenty-five.
- d How .....? Less than a mile.
- e Where .....? At the back of the boat.
- f Where .....? In Carlyle's pocket.

13 Finish the sentences.

- a Ardita was always happy when she was near the .....
- b Carlyle and the black musicians didn't rob a .....
- c Ardita liked Carlyle's looks and his dark .....
- d Carlyle and Ardita danced under the moonlight and the .....
- e The revenue boat had six-inch guns at the front and the .....
- f The revenue men were looking at the break in the .....

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**1 Finish the sentences with the right names.**

Sally Carrol Mr. Moreland Clark Roger Button  
Harry Bellamy Roger Patton Ardita Hildegarde  
Benjamin Button Curtis Carlyle

- a ..... wanted his son to go to Yale College.
- b ..... didn't want to go to parties with her husband when she was old.
- c ..... tried to become a soldier and fight in Europe.
- d ..... had an old car and liked to go swimming.
- e ..... left her home town and went to the North of the United States.
- f ..... said bad things about the people from the South.
- g ..... was a professor and liked reading.
- h ..... often had angry conversations with her uncle.
- i ..... grew up in a poor area and played the piano.
- j ..... had a son called Toby and was a friend of Mr. Farnham.

**2 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**

- a The nurse laughed because Benjamin looked like an old man.
- b Hildegarde didn't like talking to young men.
- c Roscoe wanted his father to call him "Uncle."
- d The weather was very hot in Tarleton.
- e Sally Carrol didn't like Clark because he was lazy and didn't work.
- f Sally Carrol traveled to the North in Clark's old car.
- g Harry's mother didn't like Sally Carrol's hair or clothes.
- h Sally Carrol thought she was going to die in the ice palace.
- i Curtis Carlyle and his black musicians didn't make much money.
- j There was a river on Babe's island.

**3 Answer these questions.**

- a What clothes did Mr. Button buy for his new born child?  
.....
- b What did Mr. Button see Benjamin doing in his bedroom?  
.....
- c Where did Benjamin's parents send him when he was five?  
.....

- d Where did Benjamin first meet Hildegarde?  
.....
- e Who did the Confederate boys die for in the war?  
.....
- f Where did Sally Carrol hear the voice of Margery Lee?  
.....
- g What did the black man change on the *Narcissus*?  
.....
- h What language was Ardita's book written in?  
.....
- i Who said the revenue ship was near the island?  
.....
- j Where did Carlyle say he took the ring off a woman?  
.....

**4 Finish the sentences with the right word.**

strange cold nervous true crazy different  
pleased excited lonely angry

- a Mr. and Mrs. Button were very ..... about the birth.
- b Mr. Button was ..... when Benjamin broke the window.
- c There were many ..... stories about Benjamin in the town.
- d There was something ..... about Harry's mother.
- e Sally Carrol was ..... when Harry talked about the people from the South.
- f The boys in the North were very ..... to the Southern boys.
- g Sally Carrol thought the city in the North was a very ..... place.
- h Carlyle and the pirates were singing a very ..... song.
- i Ardita was very ..... when she saw Carlyle.
- j Carlyle told Ardita only two ..... things.

**5 Circle the right word or words.**

- a The young Benjamin had a *brown / gray* beard.
- b Benjamin was smoking his *mother's / father's* cigarettes.
- c Benjamin's father was a *funny / practical* man.
- d Sally Carrol took Harry to a *school / church* yard.
- e Some of the graves didn't have a *date / name* on them.
- f There was a *summer / winter* carnival in Harry's town.
- g Ardita liked *reading / drawing* pictures.
- h Ardita and Carlyle liked *selfish / honest* people.
- i Carlyle spent the war *fighting / playing* music.
- j Ardita thought her uncle was a *stupid / clever* old man.

## The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

### Book key

#### 1.1 1 Open answers

(a He wrote *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Tender is the Night* and *The Last Tycoon*, and many short stories.

b He came from the United States.

c Most of his stories were written in the 1920s and 1930s.)

2 Open answers (a husband and wife b friends from schooldays c girlfriend and boyfriend)

#### 1.2 Open answers

2.1 1 oldest 2 older 3 younger

2.2 a 7 b 3 c 1 d 4 e 6 f 2 g 9 h 5 i 8

2.3 1 strangely 2 calmly 3 noisily 4 impatiently  
5 quickly 6 politely

#### 2.4 Open answers

3.1 1 happy 2 love 3 excited 4 worried  
5 difficult 6 understands 7 forgets 8 baby

3.2 1 C to D 2 D to G 3 G to D 4 C to D  
5 A to F 6 E to B

3.3 1 social activities 2 flowering plants  
3 murderous eyes 4 endless stories  
5 important subjects 6 sunny streets  
7 successful businessman 8 colored paper

#### 3.4 Open answers

4.1 1 Sally Carrol 2 Clark 3 Harry 4 Clark  
5 Margery 6 Sally Carrol 7 Harry 8 Harry

4.2 1 ... it is too cold. 2 ... everyone is cold.  
3 ... in a taxi. 4 ... old and large.  
5 ... shaped like an egg. 6 ... in the library.  
7 ... in the street. 8 ... in the North.

4.3 1 because 2 because 3 , so 4 because  
5 because 6 , so 7 , so 8 because

#### 4.4 Open answers

5.1 1 friendly 2 winter sports 3 some 4 sad  
5 fear 6 Roger

5.2 A more than 3 B to see 2 C go swimming 4  
D wonderful weather 1

5.3 1 either 2 too 3 either 4 too 5 too  
6 too 7 either

#### 5.4 Open answers

6.1 Possible answers: 1 uncle 2 reading 3 hear  
4 orange 5 angry 6 rich

#### 6.2 Correct answers:

1 Ardita is more interested in the man than the ring.

4 Ardita is interested in Carlyle's stories.

5 Carlyle takes her to an island.

#### 6.3 Possible answers:

1 ... he will give her the gold and silver ring.

2 ... the white man lifts his hand, ...

3 ... Carlyle will take her to the island.

4 ... Carlyle tells his story ...

5 ... another boat passes the island, ...

6 ... nobody will see it.

#### 6.4 Open answers

**Talk about it** Open answers

**Write about it** Open answers

**Project** Open answers

### Discussion activities key

1 Benjamin: I'm hungry. Can you get me a hamburger?

Mr. Button: A hamburger! Babies don't eat hamburgers. You should drink milk.

BB: I don't like milk, I'll have a beer instead.

Mr. B: You are a strange baby.

BB: Also I want some clothes. I can't wear this blanket when I'm walking in the street or going to parties to meet girls.

Mr. B: Oh, what am I going to do?

2–5 Open answers

6 head, hair, eyes, hand, heart, back, nose, face, arm.

7–8 Open answers

9 He is handsome. He was a musician. He has stolen some money. He has some black friends. He is a nice person.

10 Open answers

11 Ardita is lying on a sofa. The pirates sing a song about wind. The pirates take the men prisoners. The pirates are running from the law. The pirates paint a new name on the boat. Ardita falls asleep when Carlyle talks to her. Ardita thinks Carlyle is playing a trick. Carlyle jumped onto a sandy beach.

12–15 Open answers

## The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

### Activity worksheets key

- 1 a house > hospital  
 b angry > worried/afraid  
 c coat > hat  
 d black > brown  
 e books > toys  
 f amusing > difficult  
 g suit > glasses
- 2 busy – city  
 serious – look  
 loud – noise  
 gray – beard  
 shop – window  
 warm – milk  
 simple – games  
 soft – food
- 3 a The beautiful lady wore gold dance shoes.  
 b A lot of people thought Hildegarde was mad.  
 c Benjamin went to every party in town.  
 d Benjamin looked at his face in the mirror.  
 e Roscoe didn't want Benjamin in his house.  
 f Benjamin made things from boxes and drew pictures.  
 g The older ladies wanted to talk to Benjamin.
- 4 a ~~X~~ b ~~X~~ c ✓ d ~~X~~ e ✓ f ~~X~~ g ✓
- 5 a made b spent c knew d hoped e picked  
 f understand g help
- 6 a His parents.  
 b Because the weather was very hot.  
 c Four days.  
 d In 1873.  
 e A cup of coffee.  
 f About thirty years old.  
 g A week.
- 7 a 2 b 4 c 6 d 1 e 5 f 3
- 8 a guess b wool c narrow d foreign e skirt  
 f scream g heart
- 9 a as b quick c through d interesting e onto  
 f enjoyed g on
- 10 a footsteps b assistant c romantic d theaters  
 e officers f careless

- 11 a warm b marry c top of a hill d a pretty  
 e Babe f detective g sand
- 12 a What did Carlyle want to buy?  
 b Who did the ring belong to?  
 c How old was Curtis Carlyle?  
 d How far away was the revenue boat?  
 e Where were the two gray-haired men sitting?  
 f Where was the package with the ring? / Where did Carlyle keep the ring?
- 13 a ocean b bank c hair d stars e back  
 f cliff

### Progress test key

- 1 a Roger Button  
 b Hildegarde  
 c Benjamin Button  
 d Clark  
 e Sally Carrol  
 f Harry Bellamy  
 g Roger Patton  
 h Ardita  
 i Curtis Carlyle  
 j Mr. Moreland
- 2 a ~~X~~ b ✓ c ✓ d ✓ e ~~X~~ f ~~X~~ g ✓ h ✓  
 i ~~X~~ j ~~X~~
- 3 a A child's party costume.  
 b Smoking a cigarette.  
 c To a kindergarten.  
 d At a dance at the Shevlin's country house.  
 e The people in the South.  
 f In the passage of the ice tunnel.  
 g It's name from *Narcissus* to *Hula Hula*.  
 h French.  
 i His friend, Babe.  
 j In the tea room of an expensive hotel in Palm Beach.
- 4 a nervous b pleased c crazy d cold e angry  
 f different g lonely h strange i excited j true
- 5 a gray b father's c practical d church e name  
 f winter g reading h selfish i playing music  
 j stupid