



Comprehension Guide by Ginny Walls

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How to use this Guide

This guide is intended to help you study, understand and enjoy Heidi. You might ask if a guide is really necessary to read a book. Is the student not just working to improve reading skills while being taught to enjoy reading a book? Certainly it is the case that the more a child reads, the more he should improve his skills, but quantity is not the only issue. Once a child has received adequate phonetic training he should learn how to read a book. Most educators using this guide will be teaching children in the grammar stage, generally understood to be during the elementary years in a classical education. (For a thorough understanding of classical Christian education we recommend reading Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning or The Case for Classical Christian Education, both by Douglas Wilson.) The basic goals of reading in the grammar stage are as follows:

The student should be able to:

- 1. Fluently read a given selection orally.
- 2. Show an increased desire for reading.
- 3. Show comprehension on a literal and inferential level.
- 4. Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
- 5. Identify basic biblical values in the literature being read.
- 6. Identify various styles (myths, poems, fantasy, fiction, nonfiction, etc.)

Answers to the questions are found in the back of the guide. Although the answers in the guide appear in an abbreviated form, the students' answers should be in complete sentences, and they should restate the question in their answer.

Example:

Question: What was Grandfather's response to meeting Heidi?

Answer: Grandfather's response to meeting Heidi was one of surprise.

Such writing practice trains the student to answer thoroughly, completely and with proper grammar. Another reason is to encourage integration. We want students to understand that how they write something is as important as what they write.

You may wonder how to grade the student's work in this guide. Keep it simple. Unless otherwise indicated you should assume that each question is worth five points.

Chapter 1

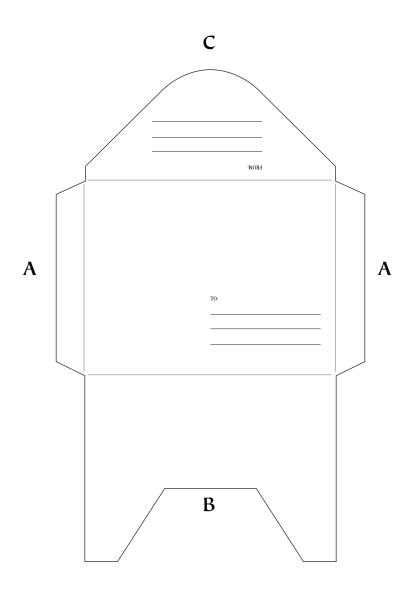
1.	The story of Heidi is set in a beautiful location. Describe the story's setting.
2.	As the story begins Heidi was being escorted up a footpath. Who was taking her on this hike? Where were they going and why?
3.	As they traveled a neighbor invited herself along on the climb. What was her name and from where did she come?
4.	Barbel was very curious about Dete taking Heidi to live with her Grandfather. Why was she concerned about the young girl living with him?
5.	What was Dete's response to Barbel when questioned about leaving such a young girl in the care of Alm-Uncle?

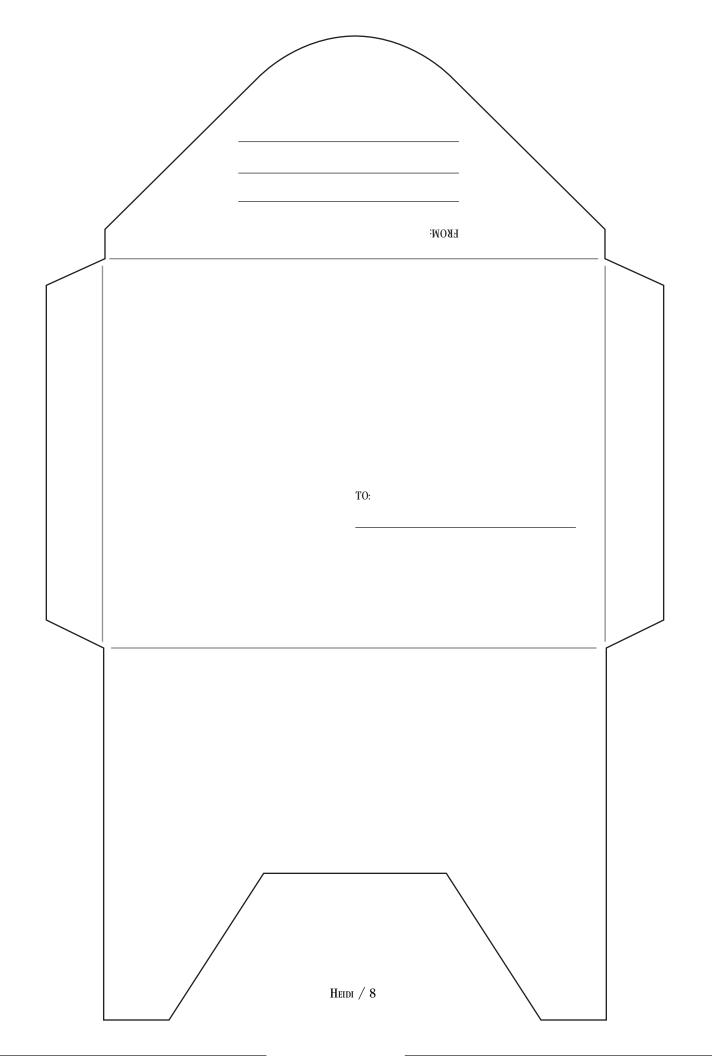
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Project—Self-Mailer Letter

Copy the note card/envelope provided on the next page and, pretending to be Heidi, write a note on the back to Dete describing what it is like to live with Grandfather. Then cut out the envelope, fold in the sides (A), fold the bottom flap up (B), and then fold in the top flap (C).





Chapter 2

1.	Heidi revealed many character qualities in her first day with her Grandfather. What character was exhibited by the first question she asked her Grandfather when they were
	left alone?
2.	When asked to bring her clothes inside, what quality did she exhibit? Explain.
3.	As she stored the clothes in her
	Grandfather's cupboard, what quality was she showing? Explain.
4.	Finding a place to sleep revealed that she
	had another quality, what was it? Explain.

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5.	Even with the bed barely meeting the criteria of a bed, she was happy and willing to cover with straw to keep herself warm. What quality did this reveal? Explain.		
6.	While Grandfather made dinner preparations Heidi busied herself with her own activities showing she had what other quality? Explain.		
7.	Their meal was sparse; milk, bread and toasted cheese, but still Heidi had no complaints about the menu. Name the characteristic she exhibited and explain.		
8.	Heidi followed her Grandfather around their hut after supper and was filled with wonder as she watched him make minor repairs. What did Grandfather make specifically for her?		
9.	At the end of the day, who was Heidi pleased to meet?		
10.	Was Heidi afraid to sleep in her Grandfather's loft that first night?		

Project—Toasted Cheese

Following are two recipes you might want to try for Toasted Cheese, one of Heidi and Grandfather's diet staples.

Ingredients

1 can cheddar cheese soup

1/2 c. grated American cheese

1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

4 pieces of toast

Directions

In a saucepan heat soup. Add American cheese and sauce. Stir over medium heat until cheese melts. Serve over toast.

Ingredients

1 can Campbell's Cheddar cheese soup

1/4 tsp. dry mustard

1/4 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1/4 c. milk

Directions

Combine all ingredients in saucepan and heat. Pour over toast. Put crisp bacon, cooked broccoli, tomato and hard boiled egg slices on top. It is filling, very quick and inexpensive. One can of soup will serve 2 to 3 adults.

Chapter 3

1.	What awakened Heidi on her first morning in her new home?
2.	Why did Heidi's Grandfather say she had to wash before she could accompany Peter on his trip?
3.	Grandfather had made preparations for Heidi to go with Peter. What were they?
4.	What other instructions did Grandfather give Peter
	before they left?

Chapter 3, Page 2

Heidi was as busy as the goats on their trek up the mountain. What was she doing?				
6. How did Peter get 1	How did Peter get Heidi to stay with him rather than wandering off to pick flowers?			
7. Match the names of	Match the names of the goats with their descriptions.			
Greenfinch	Had big horns and always wanted to butt the other goats.			
Little Bear	A brown goat belonging to Grandfather.			
Little Swan	A white goat also belonging to Grandfather.			
Turk	Nimble and not afraid of Turk.			
White Snowflake	Timid goat who preferred the companionship of people			
	because her mother had been sold.			
8. What reason did Pe	eter give for Grandfather's Little Swan and Little Bear being the pret-			
tiest of the goats?				

Chapter 3, Page 3

9.	When Greenfinch nearly went off the side of the mountain, Peter was going to discipline her for wandering off. What bargain did Heidi make to prevent the goat from being disciplined?
10.	At the end of the day, the sunset over the mountains made the rocks appear as though they were either on fire or a bed of roses. How did Grandfather explain this phenomenon to Heidi?

Project—Postcard

Cut out the postcard below with the pictures of the flowers Heidi so admired (like Cistus and Blue Bellflower), then use it to write to friends or relatives living in another town.



Fold

Fold

POSTCARD .

