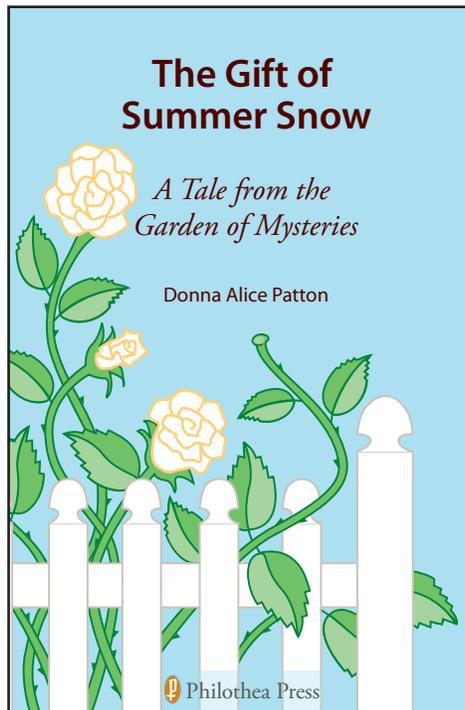


Digging Deeper

A Unit Study for
*The Gift of Summer Snow:
A Tale from the Garden of Mysteries*
by Donna Alice Patton



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It's a Mystery to Me!

In Chapter One you meet Becky and her sister, Yvonne. Becky's in the middle of a mystery. Help Becky solve the mystery by discovering the answers to the following questions.

1. Who or what is a Summer Snow? _____

2. Becky's sister, Yvonne, is reading a book about a haunted orchard. What kind of a book is Yvonne reading?

3. How does Becky describe the branches on the cover of Yvonne's book?

4. Name the two prizes Becky will receive if she wins the Grand Prize at the Junior Garden Show.

5. What is happening to Becky's roses?

6. Yvonne tells Becky to look for two things to solve the mystery. What are they?

Pick One!

How well do you remember Chapter Two? Circle the correct choice to answer each question.

1. Where does Becky live?
 - a. Maid Marion Drive
 - b. Robin Hood Meadow
 - c. Sherwood Forest
2. What kind of garden do Becky and Grandma Bauer plant?
 - a. Flower garden
 - b. Mary garden
 - c. Both a and b
3. Grandma has been a garden club member for 50 years. What is the name of her club?
 - a. Green Shovel Garden Club
 - b. Green Basket Garden Club
 - c. Green Thumb Ladies Garden Club
4. Rose of Sharon Farm, Grandma's home, is named after this person.
 - a. Alma Smedlap
 - b. Yvonne McGuffey
 - c. The Blessed Mother
5. What is the nickname of St. Therese of the Child Jesus?
 - a. The Little Rose
 - b. The Little Flower
 - c. The Flower Saint
6. How many rose bushes did Becky own?
 - a. 5
 - b. 7
 - c. 8
7. What is a cute nickname for a mystery?
 - a. whozit
 - b. whodunit
 - c. whowasit

What Happened Then?

Becky has to stop the rosenapper! She plays detective in Chapter Three. Let's see how well you remember what happened in this chapter.

1. What clue did Becky find in her garden? Do you think this clue is important? Why? Answer in your own words.

2. List at least three things Becky checks to see if they match the picture that she drew of the clue.

3. Mrs. M and Yvonne give Becky some ideas about solving the mystery. Can you remember one piece of advice they gave her? Answer in your own words.

4. Why is Becky so determined to win the Flower Show this year?

A Garden of Adjectives

Words that *describe* or tell more about a **noun** are called **adjectives**. Adjectives are fun to use because they can change an ordinary noun into something special. Becky loves to use adjectives to describe her roses in colorful or exciting ways. She can have *red* roses, *prize-winning* roses, *expensive* roses or *twenty* roses. Chapter Four is blooming with adjectives.

Read each sentence below. Add an adjective to each of the blank lines to describe the **noun** behind the **adjective**. Be creative!

1. Becky had _____ plans for the prize at the garden show.
2. Amanda Quint is a _____ gardener.
3. Peter Wimple is a _____ gardener.
4. Peter grows _____ tomatoes and _____ roses.
5. Becky passes the *grouchy* man's yard. Can you think of an adjective that is almost the same as *grouchy*? Write the new adjective on the blank below.

Becky passes the _____ man's yard.
6. What if the *grouchy* man started to smile? Can you think of an adjective that would be the opposite of *grouchy*? Write the new adjective on the blank below.

Becky passes the _____ man's yard.
7. Yvonne enjoys reading *mystery* books. Can you think of an adjective that would change the kind of book Yvonne reads? Write the new adjective on the blank below.

Yvonne enjoys reading _____ books.
8. Summer Snow is a _____ rose. Becky has _____ rose bushes.

The Mystery of Words

Learning new words and their definitions is like solving a mystery. In Chapter Five, Becky is busy tracking down clues. Use your *magnifying glass* (dictionary) and search for the *clues* (definitions) of the following words. Write a simple definition for each word.

1. Sinister _____

2. Spindly _____

3. Competition _____

4. Irritation _____

5. Suspicious _____

6. Pantomime _____

8. Gnome _____

10. Imprint _____

Scratch That Clue!

Becky believes she's found several useful clues in her hunt for the rosenapper in Chapter Six. How well do you remember this chapter? Fill in the blanks below then check your score. Are you a **Master Gardener**?

Correct Answers: (10) You're a Master Gardener (7-9) You're an Enthusiastic Gardener (4-6) You're a Hopeful Gardener (1-3) Your-Thumb-is-not-Green Gardener

1. Becky held the drawing of the _____ track in front of Amanda's eyes.
2. Becky could tell Amanda's _____ tread was smaller than the drawing.
3. Two of Becky's roses were bought at the _____.
4. Yvonne had stretched out on a _____ tied between two maple trees.
5. "A real-life _____ is more fun than reading about one," Yvonne said.
6. The sisters walked to the Dairy Dugout and the _____.
7. Yvonne pulled imaginary _____ out of her pocket to give to Carter.
8. Becky knows that flowers that only bloom once are called _____.
9. The grumpy boy had taken _____ to give his girlfriend.
10. Becky looked up in the library and noticed the empty _____ where the boys had been sitting.

Be My Friend

“Sometimes if you go in a direction you don’t plan, good things happen,” Mom tells Becky in Chapter Eight.

1. Becky has decided to ask Amanda to help solve the mystery. In your own words write down what happens when Becky talks to Amanda.

2. The meeting with Amanda didn’t go the way Becky hoped. Have you ever tried to do something right and ended up with more problems? Explain what happened.

3. Why doesn’t Amanda want to be Becky’s friend? _____

4. Do you think Amanda will tattle to Mrs. Franklin? Do you think she should report Becky?

5. What should Becky do now? _____

6. Should Becky still try to follow St. Theresa’s Little Way or should she give up?

7. What is St. Theresa’s Little Way? _____

Friends are Like Flowers

Grandma Bauer has a motto hanging on her kitchen wall. It says *"In the garden of life friends are like flowers. You can never have too many."* In Chapter Nine, Becky has a talk with another friend. How well did you read the chapter? Fill in the blanks below to find out.

1. What are the first and last names of Becky's helpful neighbor, Mrs. M.? _____

2. Can you name the kind of plant Mrs. M. grows? _____

3. Do you remember what grade of school Mrs. M. taught? _____

4. Mrs. M. tells Becky a story about a classmate named Sadie. What did Sadie do that upset Mrs. M.? _____

5. Name the holiday in Mrs. M.'s story. _____

6. Do you remember the funny saying on the card that Mrs. M. wanted to buy? _____

7. What story did Sister Francis tell about St. Theresa? Write it down in your own words.

8. Did Mrs. M. and Sadie become friends? _____

9. Mrs. M. reminds Becky about an old saying. Fill in the blanks to complete this saying.

You can catch more _____ with _____ than with vinegar.

Different or Alike?

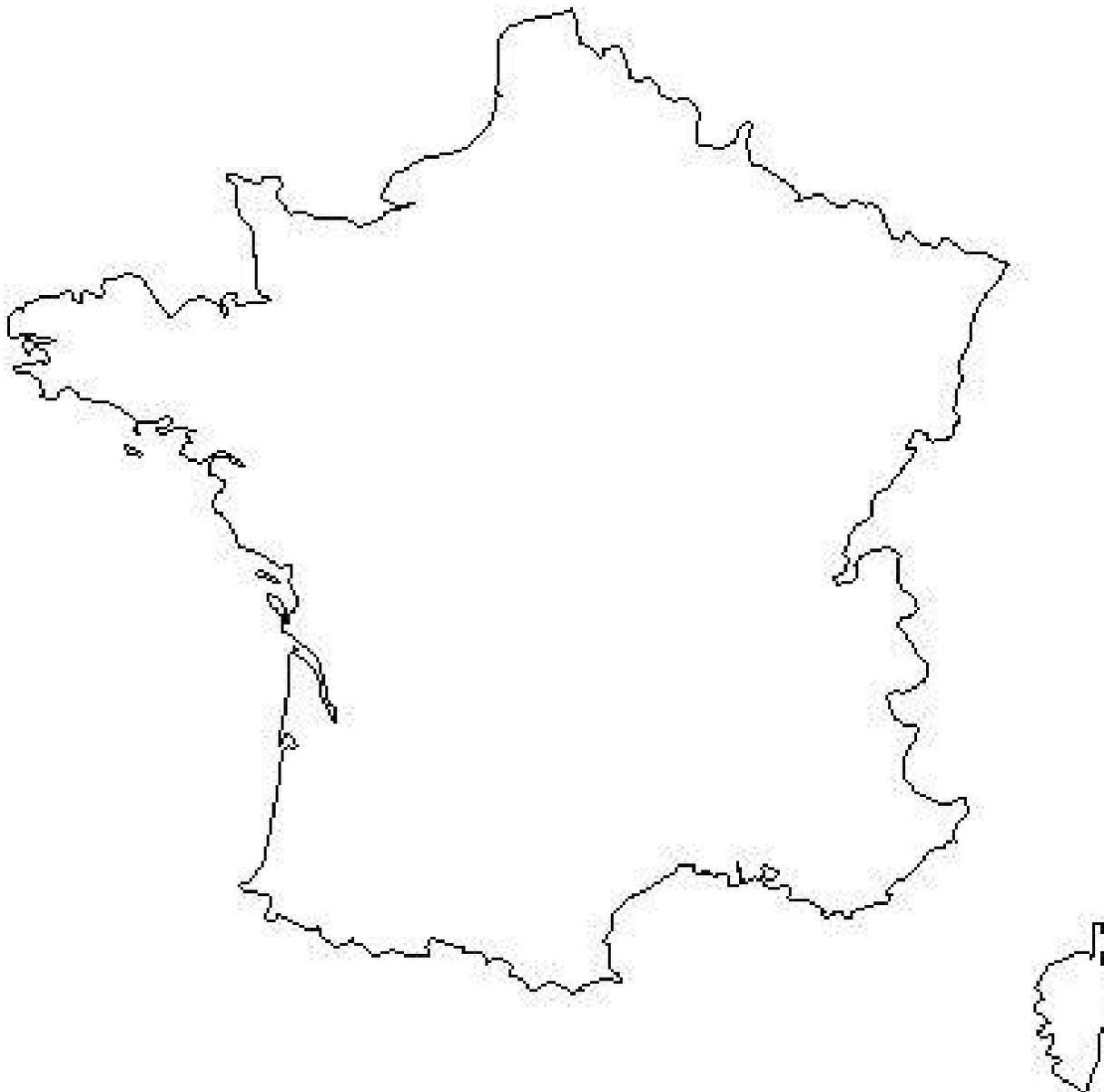
Have you ever had a best friend? Did you discover that you and your friend had many things in common? Maybe you both liked chocolate ice cream or climbing trees. At the same time, there were probably many ways that you and your friend were different. You like mystery books and your friend enjoyed animal stories.

In Chapter Ten, Becky and Amanda discover some amazing facts about themselves. On the lines below list at least three things Becky and Amanda have in common.

Can you think of any ways Becky and Amanda are different? List them on the lines below.

A Flower From France

Have you ever noticed that some saints are known by the places where they lived? By Chapter Eleven, Becky can name four saints and their towns. Can you? Did you remember St. Francis of Assisi, St. Theresa of Avila, St. Rose of Lima and St. Therese of Lisieux – or the Little Flower. Lisieux is a town in France.



And the Suspect Is...

Becky wants to solve the case of the mysterious rosenapper. Someone is snipping her roses before she can pick them herself. Who or what is it?

In Chapters Twelve and Thirteen, Becky and Amanda decide they must stop the rose thief *now*. If they solve the mystery, they can consider themselves **Excellent Detectives**. Fill in the blanks below to find out how well you read the chapter. Are you an **Excellent Detective** or a **Better Ask for Help Detective**? How many answers did you get right?

Correct Answers: (8-10) You're an Excellent Detective (5-7) You're a Promising Detective (2-4) You're Almost a Detective (1) You Better Ask for Help, Detective!

1. Amanda and Becky plan a _____ to catch the rose thief.
2. The girls hid under the _____ bushes in Becky's yard.
3. When Amanda complains about sitting on the wet ground, Becky brings some _____ to sit on.
4. As they watch the Claxton's practice, Amanda remarks that Rodney, "Couldn't hit a _____ with his club."
5. What sound do the girls hear that alerts them to the thief? _____
6. Who snipped off Becky's rose? _____
7. Where did the thief put the stolen rose? _____
8. After taking Becky's rose, where did the thief stop next? _____
9. Can you remember the name of Amanda's purple rose? _____
10. The thief had been taking the roses for someone. Who was it? _____
11. When Becky explains about winning prizes at the fair, the thief mentions winning a prize once. What did the thief win? _____

And the Suspect Is...

12. In your own words explain why the thief thought it was okay to take the girl's flowers.

13. Becky tells Amanda she has an idea. Becky wants to imitate St. Theresa by giving someone a "shower of roses with real flowers." What do you think Becky wants to do?

Flowers, Flowers Everywhere

Now that one mystery is solved, Becky and Amanda have a plan.

Becky calls her plan Operation Instant Garden. In Chapter Fourteen, Becky, her family and friends work to plant a garden for someone who is too sick to garden herself.

Planting and growing flowers and vegetables is lots of fun. If you plant flowers, you can enjoy their beauty in your garden and share them with others. If you plant vegetables, you can eat what you grow. It's amazing the plants you can grow from just a tiny seed or bulb.

There are several kinds of flowers and shrubs planted in Operation Instant Garden. Match the garden words in one list to the description in the other list. Draw a line to each match. Look up pictures of the different plants in a dictionary or seed catalog if you can't find the match.

Rose of Sharon

Garden tool that digs

Aphids

To pull out weeds

Gourds

Flowers that bloom one season

Shovel

Grandma's farm name

Mums

Bugs that bother roses

Wheelbarrow

Garden tool that rakes

Petunias

Mrs. M's favorite plan

Annuals

Small violet like flower

Pansies

A favorite summer flower

Rake

Garden tool to carry mulch

Weeded

A favorite fall flower

The Word Garden!

In Chapter Fifteen, Becky is finally ready to take Summer Snow to the Garden Show. Will she win? Becky loves to garden! Her favorite flowers are roses. Have you ever grown a garden of your own? What is your favorite flower or vegetable?

If you're a gardener, finding the definitions of these words will be easy. If you've never grown a garden before, maybe the idea will *grow* on you! Planting a garden can be fun!

Write a short definition for these gardening words.

1. Loam _____

2. Topsoil _____

3. Gourd _____

4. Cypress _____

5. Mulch _____

6. Compost _____

7. Shrub _____

The End!

In *The Gift of Summer Snow* you've shared an adventure with Becky.

Each time Becky found a clue, or got sidetracked by a red herring, you cheered her on. Then Becky and Amanda solved the mystery and caught the mysterious rosenapper. They entered the fair and you held your breath waiting for that all-important moment – who would win the Grand Prize.

Now you've reached Chapter Sixteen and the mystery is over, it's time to decide. Did you like the ending of the book? Did the book turn out the way you thought it would? Or were you disappointed at how the book ended? Did you want the book to end a different way?

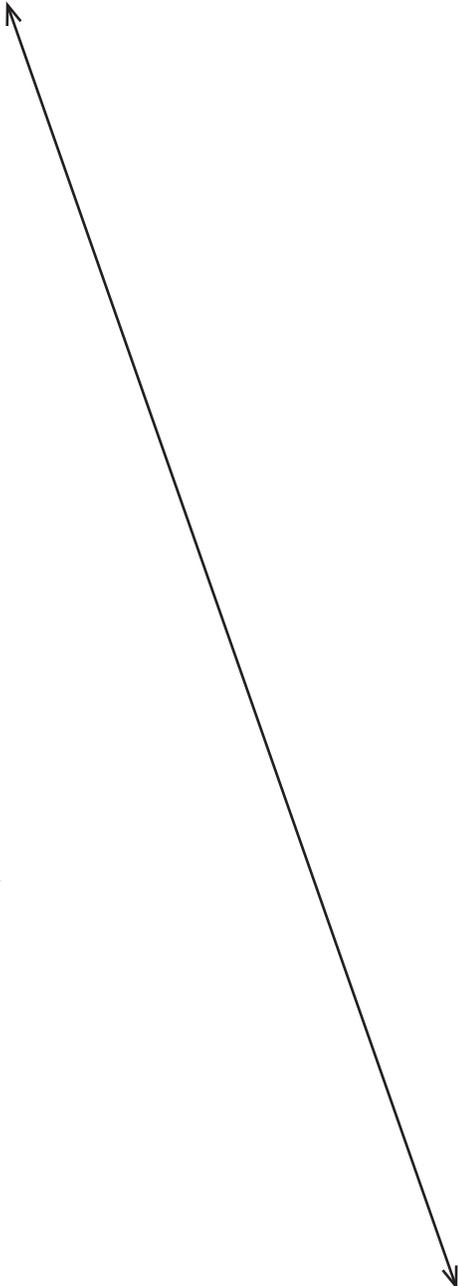
If you wanted a different ending (or if you just want to add more to the existing ending) here's your chance. On a separate sheet of paper, write two paragraphs to end *The Gift of Summer Snow* your way.

At the end of the book, Becky, Peter and Amanda are going to ride the Octopus. On a separate sheet of paper, write a short scene where the three friends are waiting in line for the ride. What are they talking about?

Character Match Up!

Match each character with the short description on the right. The first match has been done for you. How well do you know the characters from *The Gift of Summer Snow*?

Becky McGuffey	gourd grower
Grandma Bauer	Future Golf Pro
Rodney Claxton	Mom's book character
Alma Smedlap	Becky's competitor
Mrs. M.	Owner of rose shop
Amanda Quint	St. Theresa
Chet Andrews	Mrs. M's classmate
Emma	Boy who grows flowers
The Little Flower	Becky's sister
Sadie Wilkins	Neighborhood boy
Peter Wimple	Carter's mom
Yvonne McGuffey	Garden club president
Sister Francis	Mrs. M's teacher
Carter Clark	Becky's grandma
Mrs. Franklin	Yvonne's friend
Olivia Clark	Grandma's competition
Maggie O'Malley	Heroine of the book



What a Mystery!

Do you enjoy reading mysteries? Have you ever had a mystery happen in real life? Becky didn't like real-life mysteries. Have you ever read about a true mystery?

Although most mystery books end with all the questions answered, not all true mysteries are solved. Some famous unsolved mysteries include the missing colony of Roanoke or the disappearance of Amelia Earhart. These mysteries have never been solved.

Many mysteries, like the mysteries of our faith, can't be solved in this life. Think about the Mystery of the Trinity? We might believe we understand it, but our catechism tells us this is a **supernatural mystery**. A supernatural mystery is a truth that we can't fully understand, but we believe it because God tells us it is true.

Let's look at some questions about mysteries. See how many you can answer (Use a blank sheet of paper if you need more room to write your answers).

1. Can all mysteries be solved? Explain why. _____

2. List one supernatural mystery of the Catholic faith. _____

3. What is a supernatural mystery? _____

4. Choose one of the true mysteries mentioned in this worksheet. If you don't know anything about this mystery, look up some facts about it. List two facts you learned.

5. Do you enjoy reading mysteries? List two reasons why. _____

6. What is the definition of the word – *mystery*? _____

The Language of Mystery

Mystery books use special words – almost like a secret language for mystery fans. Becky’s mom might use words like *red herring* or *suspect* when writing her Maggie O’Malley books. As Becky solves the mystery of the missing roses, she learns many new mystery words and phrases.

Look up each of the words and phrases below and write a short definition. If you can’t find the phrase or word in a dictionary, ask someone who’s a mystery fan to help you out. Or search for all the words as you read *The Gift of Summer Snow*.

1. Plot _____

2. Suspect _____

3. Perpetrator _____

4. Red Herring _____

5. Clues _____

6. Scene of the Crime _____
