

Finding Mother After Five Decades

A Story of Hope

COMPLETE TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE

This guide contains the Teacher Answer Sheets for all 7 chapters in *Finding Mother After Five Decades: A Story of Hope*.

Each answer sheet corresponds with the matching Student Lesson and is provided for educators to review student work, guide discussion, and support instruction.

FOR EDUCATOR USE

Students can access the individual Student Lessons from the learning page. This complete answer guide is provided separately for educators.

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Inspirations by Grace LaJoy, LLC

Book 1

Finding Mother

Answer Keys Chapters 1-7

Lesson One - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 1 of the book, 'Finding Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to analyze the reason for the main character's problem using key points from the text.

Chapter One – "Before Mother Left"

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Place an X on the line beside the main idea of the text.

_____ The author's father physically harmed her mother.

_____ **X** _____ **The author's mother was mentally unfit to care for her family.**

_____ The author empathized with her father because he cared for her.

The four statements below "support" the main idea. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- (a) Mother would often experience episodes, which resulted in the harming of the author and her siblings. (Page 16)
- (b) Jerome told the author that their father is not to be blamed for their mother's condition. (Page 16)
- (c) Father experienced a lot of stress and disappointment due to his wife having a mental illness. (Page 17)
- (d) Father did not receive the support he desired from his wife. (Page 17)

Sequencing

Rearrange the following lines from Chapter 1 by numbering them correctly.

- (4) The author blamed her father for her mother's emotional state. (Page 16)
- (2) The author has some very heartbreaking memories of her mother. (Page 15)
- (6) Father was disappointed due to his wife having a mental illness. (Page 17)
- (1) Mother left when the author was only two years old. (Page 15)
- (3) Father had called the authorities to take mother to a mental hospital. (Page 15)
- (5) The author remembers her mother beating her with a broomstick once. (Page 17)

Literary Techniques: Flashback

Using flashbacks as a story device, the author takes readers back in time to explain something that happened. Answer the following questions in a word or more.

- (a) Which year or decade is the author recalling events from? **1969** (Page 15)
(b) How old was the author during that time? **two years old** (Page 15)

Identifying Cause and Effect

“I heard stories about my mother’s mental illness causing her to experience episodes, which resulted in her harming my siblings and me.”

What is the Cause? my mother’s mental illness

What is the Effect? Episodes, which resulted her harming my siblings and me.

Point of View

‘Point of view’ means the position from which something or someone is observed.

‘First Person’ is when the story is told from the point of view of a character. *E.g. I, we, me, us*

‘Second Person’ is when the narrator talks to the reader. *E.g. you, yours*

‘Third Person’ is when the narrator is not a part of the story. *E.g. he, she, it*

(a) Who is telling the story in Chapter 1? **The author / protagonist**

(b) Circle the narrator’s point of view in Chapter 1: **First**, Second, Third

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 1 is “empathetic”.

Empathetic means showing the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

Read the statement below. Then choose one of the questions below and answer it. Write your answer in the space provided then discuss it with your group.

1. Would you feel empathy if someone you loved was treated badly? Explain why or why not.
2. Describe a situation where you felt empathetic towards someone or something.
3. Do you think it is important to show empathy to those who are going through something difficult? Explain and include an example if possible.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Lesson Two – Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 2 of the book, ‘Finding Mother’. The purpose of this lesson is to analyze the feelings of the main character after a specific event.

Chapter Two – “After Mother Left”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Place an “X” on the line beside the main idea of Chapter 2.

_____X_____ **The author misses her mother and wants to find her.**

_____ The author feels bad about her own mother not wanting to receive her.

_____ The author’s father is sensible and genuinely cares about his family.

The four statements below “support” the main idea. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

(a) The protagonist did not agree with what her father said about her mother. (Page 19)

(b) The protagonist felt that her grandmother and father were just making excuses

because they resented her mother. (Page 20)

(c) The protagonist felt afraid to tell her father that she wanted to find her mother. (Page 22)

(d) Wanting to know her mother’s side of the story, motivated the author to find her. (Page 22)

Plot Analysis: Conflict

The conflict in a story is the struggle faced by two opposing forces. It is usually the main character that faces some sort of conflict, either with another character (person vs. person) or with themselves (person vs. self).

In ‘Finding Mother’, the author does not believe her father’s reasons for her mother leaving and rejecting her. Although she misses her mother terribly, the author is hesitant to tell her father that she wants to find her.

What kind of conflict do you think the author is facing here? Circle the letter for the correct answer.

a) Person vs. Person

b) Person vs. Self

c) Both

Identifying Cause and Effect

“My father often complained about how my mother got a job working for a dry cleaner and was terminated when she refused to do things according to her boss’s instructions.”

What is the cause? Mother refused to do things according to her boss’s instructions.

What is the effect? She was terminated from the job.

Note to teacher: The cause could also be that mother was terminated from her job, with the effect being father often complained.

Context Clues

Read the following line from the story, and figure out the meaning of the highlighted word using clues in the sentence. Circle the letter for the correct answer once you are sure.

He **mocked** her voice as he reminisced about the way she used to say, “One of these days I’m going to go far, far away.”

- a) insulted
- b) made fun of
- c) imitated**

Interpreting and Evaluating Information

How does the author truly feel about the things her father said about her mother? Write three things from Chapter 2.

1. She did not like or agree with most of what he said about her mother. (Page 19)
2. She felt that he was the reason for her leaving. (Page 19)
3. She felt that he was just making up excuses. (Page 19)

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 2 is “grateful”.

Grateful means feeling or showing an appreciation for something done or received.

Read the statement below. Then choose one of the questions below and answer it. Write your answer in the space provided then discuss it with your group.

In the story, the author said she felt grateful that her mother left to get the break she needed.

1. Name one or more things a person may do when they are feeling grateful. Provide one or more examples for each thing you name.
2. What is something that you are extremely grateful for right now?
3. How would you teach someone to be grateful?

_____ **Answers will vary from learner to learner.** _____

[illegible]

Lesson Three – Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 3 of the book, ‘Finding Mother’. The purpose of this lesson is to understand the difficulties faced by the main character in achieving her goal.

Chapter Three – “The Search”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Place an “X” on the line beside the main idea of the text.

- _____ Grace uses many online and offline resources to locate her mother.
- _____ Grace is hoping that her mother will respond to her letters.
- X Grace keeps trying hard to find her mother though her efforts are in vain.

The four statements below “support” the main idea. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- (a) Grace wanted to find her mother even though she was afraid of being **rejected**. (Page 23)
- (b) Grace requested for the marriage license and application for her parents
from the **State Department of Public Health**. (Page 25)
- (c) Grace could not wait to search for her mother using her **social security number**
and her **last name**. (Page 27)
- (d) Grace sent a letter to four women named **Geneva**, hoping that one of
them would be her mother. (Page 28)

Sequencing

Following the timeline of Grace’s search techniques in Chapter 3, rearrange the following events in the correct order.

- (4) She then used online white pages to search for addresses and phone numbers. (Page 26)
- (3) She later visited a couple of Genealogical Research Libraries. (Page 25)
- (1) Grace went to the local Social Security Administration office to ask them for help. (Page 24)
- (5) Then she contacted an online people locator service. (Page 26)
- (6) Finally, she sent out a letter to four women who shared her mother’s name. (Page 28)
- (2) She asked for her parents’ marriage license from the State Dept. of Public Health. (Page 25)

Plot Analysis: Conflict

The central conflict is the main problem in a story. The conflict makes a story interesting to read and shows the motivations of the characters, as well as the consequences of their actions.

Chapter 1 and 2 of 'Finding Mother' introduced us to Grace's family with some background information. What is the main conflict for Grace in Chapter 3?

Sample answer: The main conflict for Grace in chapter 3 is not being able to find her mother. She uses many techniques and resources to search for her mother with the help of the information she has. However, no matter what she tries, there is no evidence or trace of her mother's whereabouts.

Identifying Cause and Effect

"I was disappointed in her as I felt like she did not care what happened to the twin boys."

What is the cause? I felt like she did not care what happened to the twin boys.

What is the effect? I was disappointed in her.

Interpreting and Evaluating Information

*Why did the excitement of finding her mother start to dwindle for Grace?
Circle the letter for the correct answer.*

- a) None of her search attempts was successful. (Page 28)
- b) The Calvin she spoke to was not the one she was looking for. (Page 27)
- c) None of the four women she wrote to was her mother. (Page 28)
- d) All of the above.**

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 3 is “determined”.

Determined means having made a firm decision and being resolved not to change it.

Read the statement below. Then choose one of the questions below and answer it. Write your answer in the space provided then discuss it with your group.

In Chapter 3, we see how determined Grace is to find her mother through all her search attempts and techniques.

1. Describe a time when you felt determined to achieve something?
2. Do you know someone who has great determination in life? If so, who? What has this person done to show that they have determination?
3. Why do you think that it is good to be determined? Name at least one advantage or disadvantage to being determined?

_____ **Answers will vary from learner to learner.** _____

Lesson Four - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 4 of the book, 'Finding Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to analyze some information that adds more significance to the plot.

Chapter Four – “The Search Continues”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Place an “X” on the line beside the main idea of the text.

- _____ Grace is still unable to find her mother despite several searches.
- _____ **X** _____ **Grace discovers some new information about her birth and her mother.**
- _____ Grace’s brother had kept their parents’ divorce order for many years.

The four statements below “support” the main idea. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- (a) Grace’s birth records showed that her father took her home from the hospital. (Page 32)
- (b) Grace wondered if Kevin could be her sibling. (Page 33)
- (c) Geneva’s birth certificate listed Grace’s grandmother as her birth mother. (Page 35)
- (d) Geneva’s original name was Ginny. (Page 35)

Sequencing

Say whether the following statements are true or false. Write “T” for true and “F” for false.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| (a) Grace’s mother had left her in Kansas City. (Page 31) | T |
| (b) The “state hospital” mentioned in Grace’s birth records was a
normal hospital. (Page 32) | F |
| (c) Kevin was born in the 1930s. (Page 33) | F |
| (d) Joe was Geneva’s actual birth father. (Pages 35) | F |
| (e) Grace did not know that her brother had their parents’ divorce order. (Page 36) | T |
| (f) Grace was five years old when her parents divorced. (Page 37) | T |

Text Structure: Chronological Order

Authors sometimes write stories using the chronological order structure. In the chronological structure, the events in the story are told in the order they happened. It is also called “time order.”

In chapter 4, the author takes us through her journey of searching for her mother by using dates to mark what happened.

Write one-line answers to say what happened in the story on the following dates.

- (a) January 10, 1998 – Grace sent an inquiry letter to the Superior Court, Records Information Center, requesting public information about her mother.
(Page 31)
- (b) May 4, 1998 – She received a copy of her mother’s birth certificate from the State Department of Health. (Page 35)
- (c) September 11, 2008 – Her brother gave her a copy of their father and mother’s divorce order dated 1971. (Page 36)

Identifying Cause and Effect

“I presumed that she did not necessarily “leave” those children in the hospital, but was unable to take them home due to being in a mental hospital at the time of their births, causing the babies to become automatic wards of the state.”

What is the cause? due to being in a mental hospital at the time of their births

What is the effect? was unable to take them home - causing the babies to become automatic wards of the state.

Interpreting and Evaluating Information

Do you think Grace became more appreciative of her father at the end of the chapter?

Circle the letter for the correct answer.

- a) No, she still thinks her father is responsible for her mother leaving.
- b) Yes, because she felt like her father truly wanted her and it gave her security.** (Page 37)
- c) No, although she is ambivalent about both her parents.

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 4 is “tireless”.

Tireless means having or showing great effort or energy.

Read the statement below. Then choose one of the questions below and answer it. Write your answer in the space provided then discuss it with your group.

In Chapter 4, Grace shows how tireless she is in continuing to search for her mother. Only after many attempts does she give up to take a break.

1. Do you think that Grace should have just given up the search for her mother at that point? Explain why or why not.
2. What is something that you would work tirelessly for?
3. Write about a time when you did not give up? What was the result?

_____ **Answers will vary from learner to learner.** _____

[illegible]

Lesson Five - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 5 of the book, 'Finding Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to understand the main character's motivation behind pursuing her goal.

Chapter Five – “The Search Continues”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Place an “X” on the line beside the main idea of the text.

 X Grace is hopeful about finding her mother even though it's been
forty-one years.

 Some kind-hearted people have come forward to help Grace find her mother.

 Grace has already tried to find her mother using her social security number.

The four statements below “support” the main idea. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

(a) Grace walked into a Private Investigator's office to help her find her mother. (Page 39)

(b) Grace decided to use the press release for her new book to try to locate
her mother. (Page 40)

(c) When she published her foster care story, Grace purposely included the names
of her siblings and mother. (Page 42)

(d) Grace sent a note with pictures to her mother through the Social Security
Administration Office. (Page 42)

Sequencing

“X” all the things that Grace did in Chapter 5 to search for her mother.

Grace searched for Geneva's biological family. (Page 39) (X)

She paid Sherry to help her find Geneva. (Page 40) ()

She decided to use the announcement for her new book
to try locating her mother. (Page 40) (X)

Using the address the woman found for her, Grace visited
the property. ()

She included the real names of her family in her foster care story
hoping that someone would recognize it. (Page 42) (X)

Grace went on the TV show even though they couldn't find her mother. ()

Identifying Cause and Effect

“However, due to Joe having such a common first and last name, there were tons of them listed in the census records. As a result, it was impossible to tell which one of them was the correct one.”

What is the cause? due to Joe having such a common first and last name

What is the effect? it was impossible to tell which one of them was the correct one.

Interpreting and Evaluating Information

How did Grace feel when some people volunteered to help her find her mother?

Circle the letter for the correct answer.

- a) She felt that they would not be successful, but was willing to give them a chance. (Page 40)
- b) She did not feel confident that they would come up with anything.
- c) She was certain that they would be able to find her mother using her social security number.

Story Structure and Author Intention

Writers structure stories in different ways, depending on their reasons for writing them.

A **milieu** story structure focuses on the world surrounding the characters you create.

A **character** story structure is all about the character’s growth, transformation or downfall.

An **event** story structure is about fixing an external problem where something is wrong and the characters need to set it right.

What structure is the author following for ‘Finding Mother’?

Circle the letter for the correct answer.

- (a) milieu (b) character **(c) event**

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 4 is “hopeful”.

Hopeful means feeling or inspiring optimism about a future event.

Read the statement below. Then choose one of the questions below and answer it. Write your answer in the space provided then discuss it with your group.

In this chapter, Grace tries to remain hopeful about finding her mother one day despite several unsuccessful attempts to locate her.

1. Do you think it is good to be hopeful for things? Explain why or why not.
2. What is something you have been hopeful for something? Did you receive what you were hoping for?
3. What do you think is the right way to handle disappointment?

Answers will vary from learner to learner.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson Six - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 6 of the book, 'Finding Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to understand the impact of failure on the main character and how she deals with it.
Chapter Six – “Losing Hope, Then Finding a Glimmer”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Place an “X” on the line beside the main idea of the text.

_____ Grace feels like nobody can help her find her mother.

_____ **X** _____ **Grace has almost given up hope on finding her mother.**

_____ Grace imagined miraculously finding her mother though hope was dim.

The four statements below “support” the main idea. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

(a) Grace felt **insignificant** when the talk shows she wrote to did not respond to her messages.

(Page 45)

(b) Instead of feeling **hopeful**, she was beginning to feel **resentful**. (Page 46)

(c) Grace decided that if she could not find her mother, she would try to locate her

family members. (Page 46)

(d) Grace felt good that she found **cousins** related to her mother in some way. (Page 46)

Sequencing

Write YES or NO as the answer for each statement.

(a) Grace lost hope in finding her mother during her inactive searching time. **YES** (Page 45)

(b) She felt annoyed when the suggestions people gave her didn't work out. **YES** (Page 45)

(c) Grace never enjoyed watching TV talk show reunions. **NO** (Page 45)

(d) She felt happy for the people who had found their relatives

even though she hadn't found hers.

NO (Page 46)

(e) Grace decided to watch the reunion show immediately after her friend

told her about it.

NO (Page 47)

(f) Grace's big sister Carla had been missing for over ten years.

YES (Page 50)

Plot Analysis: Rising Action

The rising action in a story moves the plot closer to the climax. It is the part where obstacles stand in the way of the author achieving his/her goal.

What obstacle do you think Grace has to get through in order to achieve her goal of finding her mother?

- (a) Facing the reality of perhaps never finding her at all.
- (b) Dealing with endless searches, which could take years to produce any strong leads.
- (c) Not being able to find a single clue about her mother's whereabouts.
- (d) All of the above.**

Identifying Cause and Effect

"Because of my increasingly raw feelings, I eventually stopped watching reunion shows altogether. I purposely avoided those types of shows because they revealed the harsh reality that my mother was missing and I may never find her."

What is the cause? Because of my increasingly raw feelings,

What is the effect? I eventually stopped watching reunion shows altogether.

-or-

What is the cause? they revealed the harsh reality that my mother was missing and I may never find her.

What is the effect? I eventually stopped watching reunion shows altogether.

Interpreting and Evaluating Information

Circle the letter for the correct answer.

From the feelings expressed by the author in this chapter, we can conclude that....

- a) She feels frustrated and hopeless about ever finding her mother.
- b) She is jealous of the people on talk show reunions because they could find their relatives.
- c) She has not completely given up as she has decided to look for her siblings and mother's relatives.
- (d) All of the above.**

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 4 is "hopelessness".

Hopelessness means a feeling or state of despair.

Read the statement below. Then choose one of the questions below and answer it.

Write your answer in the space provided then discuss it with your group.

In this chapter, Grace is beginning to feel completely hopeless and has started feeling jealous of people who have found their long-lost family members.

1. When would you give up if you were searching for a missing relative?
2. Discuss a time when you completely lost hope in something?
3. How would you encourage someone who has lost hope in something they wanted so badly?

_____ **Answers will vary from learner to learner.** _____

[illegible]

Lesson Seven - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 7 of the book, 'Finding Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to analyze the techniques used by the main character to achieve her goal.

Chapter Seven – “I Found My Mother!”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

Place an “X” on the line beside the main idea of the text.

_____ Grace was about to cease searching for her mother after one last attempt.

_____ Grace could not believe that she was able to talk to her mother.

_____ **X** _____ **Grace is overjoyed about finding her mother after almost 50 years.**

The four statements below “support” the main idea. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

(a) Grace’s mother Geneva, was residing at a **boarding home**. (Page 52)

(b) A woman named **April** helped Grace to connect with her mother. (Page 53)

(c) Grace felt **puzzled** about why Geneva asked her who she was after answering all of her questions. (Page 54)

(d) Grace immediately informed her brother **Jerome** about finding their mother. (Page 52)

Plot Analysis: Climax

The climax is the highest point of interest in a story. This is where the conflict is at the highest point of tension.

It was an anxious moment for Grace when she was trying to confirm if she had actually found her mother. She feels nervous while talking to Geneva on the phone hoping that she was indeed her long-lost mother.

Describe how this part of the story made you feel before and after Grace spoke to Geneva.

_____ **Expected answers:** excited, happy, anxious, eager, curious, emotional, tense _____

Identifying Cause and Effect

"I explained to her that she was in a different state and I was in Missouri, so I could not just come right over. But, that I would come as soon as I possibly could."

What is the Cause? she was in a different state and I was in Missouri

What is the Effect? so I could not just come right over.

Interpreting and Evaluating Information

Circle the letter for correct answer for the two questions below.

What information did Grace use to finally locate her mother?

a) her name and date of birth

b) her name, date of birth and state

c) her name and social security number

Apart from this information, what prediction about her mother did Grace get right?

a) Her mother was immobile and lying in bed in a mental hospital.

b) Her mother could not remember her or her siblings.

c) Her mother was eighty-something years old.

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 4 is "euphoric".

Euphoric means feeling intense excitement and happiness.

Read the statement below. Then choose one of the questions below and answer it.

Write your answer in the space provided then discuss it with your group.

In Chapter 7, Grace has finally accomplished finding her mother after 50 years, and she feels euphoric about it.

1. Write about an incident that made you feel euphoric about something.

2. How would you feel if your friend received a reward and you did not?

3. Give some examples of situations where one should feel euphoric.

_____ **Answers will vary from learner to learner.** _____

[illegible]

