

Reuniting with Mother

A Story of Tenacity

COMPLETE TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE

This guide contains the Teacher Answer Sheets for all 5 chapters in *Reuniting with Mother: A Story of Tenacity*.

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 2

Reuniting with Mother

Answer Keys Chapters 1-5

Lesson One – Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 1 of the book, 'Reuniting with Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to understand the emotions of the characters in the story, because of an important event.
Chapter One – “After Finding Mother”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

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

_____ Grace and her brothers were not sure if their mother would receive them.

_____ Grace's brothers did not want her to drive to her mother's destination.

_____ **X** _____ **Grace was eager to see her mother as soon as possible.**

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

(a) Grace had waited **forty-nine** years to see her mother and could not wait any longer.
(Page 69)

(b) Terrance warned Grace of a **winter storm warning** in the area where their mother lives. (Page 65)

(c) Grace's **daughter** paid for all her expenses so that she could travel to see her mother.
(Page 66)

(d) Jerome suggested that they leave on **March 8th** and return on **March 11th**. (Page 66)

Sequencing

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

(4) The following morning, Grace drove to Terrence's house to go to the airport with him. (67)

(3) Grace receives an email from the private investigator she contacted a few days ago. (66)

(6) After landing, they ate some food and boarded the connecting flight to their mother. (68)

(2) The next morning, Jerome suggested the dates when they could leave and return. (66)

(1) Grace informed Terrence, and Jerome informed Grayson about their mother. (65)

(5) They then boarded the flight departing from Kansas City to a connecting flight. (67)

Plot Analysis: Exposition

The exposition is the beginning of the story where the characters and setting are introduced. Complete the box below with details of the exposition in Chapter 1.

Exposition
a. Setting: Kansas City
b. Time: March, Winter
c. Main character's name: Grace
d. Secondary characters: Jerome, Terrence, Grayson
e. Mood: anxious, tense, anticipating
f. Point of view: First Person

Identifying Cause and Effect

“Excited about me finally finding my mother, my daughter paid all my expenses to reunite with her, which included my plane ticket.”

What is the cause? Excited about me finally finding my mother,

What is the Effect? my daughter paid all my expenses to reunite with her, which included my plane ticket.

Textual Evidence

Cite two lines from the text to show that Grace was nervous about visiting her mother. Explain why you picked those lines in the second box.

Textual Evidence	Explanation
1. I stated, “I am very tired and anxious, yet nervous.”	These two lines from the text show that Grace feels anxious about seeing her mother after a very long time. She even says a prayer hoping that her mother would receive them. She was afraid about her father’s warning being true.
2. I said a short prayer hoping that everything would go well and that our mother would receive us.	

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 1 is “zealous”.

Zealous means showing great enthusiasm for a cause or objective.

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, Graces says that she feels zealous about finally getting to see her mother again.

1. Would you feel zealous about meeting a long lost relative after many years? What would you do when you finally meet them?
2. What are some things that would make you zealous?
3. Do you think it is good to be zealous? Why or why not?

Answers will vary from learner to learner.

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Lesson Two - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 2 of the book, 'Reuniting with Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to understand the negative feelings of the characters after an unexpected outcome.
Chapter Two – “Seeing Mother After 49 Years”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

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

- _____ Grace and her brothers traveled far to see their mother.
- _____ **X** _____ **Grace and her brothers felt disappointed that their mother didn't accept them.**
- _____ Geneva did not appear the way Grace imagined her to be.

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

- (a) Grace felt **unsure** if the woman they were visiting was actually her mother. (Page 72)
- (b) When Geneva did not believe they were her children, Grace told her that she had brought her **birth certificate**. (Page 72)
- (c) Grace and her brothers pleading with Geneva to accept them seemed **useless**. (Page 73)
- (d) Ashley reminded them that Geneva had a mental **illness** and may need time to accept them. (Page 74)

Sequencing

Circle the letter for the correct answer based on the events in Chapter 2.

1. What did Grace think when she first looked at Geneva?
 - a. She decided that she wasn't her mother right away.
 - b. It triggered memories of how she desired to take care of her.** (Page 71)
 - c. She did not doubt that the woman was her mother because she felt excited.
2. Did Geneva look anything like how Grace expected her to be?
 - a. No. Grace was surprised that Geneva did not look like her and was not tall.** (Page 71)
 - b. Yes. Geneva looked like her youthful self in the pictures, but aged now.
 - c. No. Geneva did not look like she would be related to them at all.
3. Did Geneva accept the gift that Grace had brought for her?
 - a. Although tempted to accept it at first, she refused it.** (Page 73)
 - b. Yes, she was very interested in the gift and accepted it.
 - c. No, she refused it before Grace even took it out of her bag.

Themes: Expectation Vs. Reality

The theme is the main idea or underlying message in a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly. One of the themes in this chapter is “expectation vs. reality”.

Grace has certain expectations about the time she would meet her mother. However, the outcome of the event turned out to be different.

Complete the table below based on what Grace expected to happen versus what actually happened when she met her mother.

Expectations	Reality
Grace had a picture in her mind of Geneva based on a young adult picture of her in her twenties.	Geneva did not look anything like the woman in the picture.
The woman in the picture was well-dressed, with styled hair, a round face with a smooth complexion, light colored skin, slightly slanted eyes, full lips and white teeth with a bright, beautiful smile.	Geneva had frizzy grey hair, her face was oval-shaped with a weary look in her eyes and only a few teeth left.
Grace thought that Geneva would look like her and even be tall.	Geneva did not look like Grace, neither was she tall.
Grace expected her father’s warning about Geneva rejecting them to be untrue.	Her father’s warning about Geneva turned out to be true.
Grace expected to meet April when they arrived at the boarding house.	Grace and her brother met a woman named Ashley instead.

Literary Techniques: Emotive Language

Emotive language is a literary device that writers employ in order to stir the reader’s emotions. They may intentionally use certain emotional words to kindle feelings of empathy, sadness or joy in the reader.

Pick words from Chapter 2 that the writer has used for the following:

Sadness: **disappointing** **heartbroken** **distraught** **devastating**
 (Page 73) (Page 73) (Page 75) (Page 76)

Identifying Cause and Effect

“The way Geneva looked each of us in the face and rejected us without any remorse. I absolutely did not like the woman who we had just encountered, and I did not want her as my mother.”

What is the Cause? Geneva looked at each of us in the face and rejected us without any remorse.

What is the Effect? I absolutely did not like the woman who we had just encountered, and I did not want her as my mother.

Textual Evidence

Cite two examples from the text to show that Geneva was uncomfortable and suspicious about her visitors.

Textual Evidence

1. She seemed afraid and overwhelmed by all of our questions.

Textual Evidence

2. She looked up at my three big and tall brothers, then glared at me and said, “I don’t know who you are. I’m not going to talk to anybody because I don’t know you all.”

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 1 is “sedulous”.

Sedulous means careful and using a lot of effort.

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, we see how sedulous Grace is about visiting Geneva, despite the risk of meeting the wrong woman. She has always put in a lot of effort for this cause and finally accomplished it.

1. Would you remain sedulous even if what you are trying to achieve will take years to accomplish? Why or why not?
2. Describe something that you would work sedulously for and state your reasons.
3. Do you know someone who is sedulous about something? Describe them and their cause.

Answers will vary from learner to learner.

Lesson Three - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 3 of the book, 'Reuniting with Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to analyze clues and key information in the text to interpret the outcome of the main event.
Chapter Three – “Will Mother Accept Us?”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

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

- X Grace was determined to get Geneva to warm up to her and her brothers.
- Grace coaxed Geneva into talking by buying some of her favorite things.
- Geneva honestly did not recognize Grace and her brothers.

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

- (a) Miss Davis told Grace that if she brought Geneva cigarettes, she would sit with her and talk. (Page 80)
- (b) Geneva got off the bus and limped across the street towards the boarding home. (Page 81)
- (c) Grace handed Geneva a list of phone numbers that Jerome had made for her. (Page 83)
- (d) She also gave Geneva a copy of her own birth certificate. (Page 83)

Sequencing

Look at the following events from Chapter 3 and number the boxes according to the order in which they happened.

4

After the blue bus arrived, Geneva got off and started walking to the boarding house.

1

Miss Davis directed Grace to the corner store where she could buy the things for Geneva.

5

Once inside Geneva’s room, Grace handed her the items she had bought, list of contact details that Jerome made and showed her some pictures of her family.

3

Grace and her brothers waited anxiously for the blue bus to arrive with Geneva.

2

Grace and her brother bought cigarettes, coffee, shampoo, lotion, deodorant and a bar of soap for Geneva.

Literary Techniques: Descriptive Language

Through descriptive language, the author informs readers about what a person, place, object or situation is like.

How does Grace describe Geneva's room in chapter 3? (Page 80)

Furniture: **three beds, four-drawer dresser, two nightstands, one closet**

Decoration: **large piece of framed artwork hanging on the wall**

Colors: **light color paint on the walls**

Tidiness: **bed covers looked clean, floor was shining, no clutter**

Literary Elements: Mood

Moods in literature not only describe how a person feels, but also the atmosphere of groups of people, places, time periods, events, etc.

Based on your analysis of Chapter 3, how is the mood at the beginning of the chapter and at the end?

Beginning	End
The mood at the beginning of the chapter was intense as it heightens the anticipation of the reader. This is because we want to know if Geneva would accept Grace and her siblings.	There is a sense of relief and calm at the end of the chapter as Geneva finally begins to warm up to Grace after seeing the photos and birth certificates.

Identifying Cause and Effect

"I felt amazed because this was the first sign of her showing that she actually knew who we were! This made me feel a little more confident that this woman was indeed my mother."

What is the Cause? ...this was the first sign of her showing that she actually knew who we were!

What is the Effect? This made me feel a little more confident that this woman was indeed my mother.

Textual Evidence

Cite two examples from the text to show that Geneva cared for Grace and her siblings.

Textual Evidence	Explanation
1. The look on her face told me she was not happy to hear that, and I detected that she was experiencing some mixed feelings.	1. Grace could tell by Geneva's facial expressions that she felt bad that their father left them alone after she had left
2. Then, I mentioned to her that we did not know where Carla was. She seemed genuinely concerned about Carla missing. She said, "That's weird that nobody knows where she is!"	2. Even though Geneva had not opened up completely, she seemed surprised that Carla was missing and nobody knew where she was.

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 3 is "open-minded".

Open-minded means you are willing to consider new ideas without prejudice.

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.

Grace has been open-minded ever since she began the journey of searching for her mother. She has tried different approaches, accepted suggestions from other people and even bought things for Geneva as suggested by Miss Davis.

1. Do you consider yourself an open-minded individual? Explain why or why not with examples.

Lesson Four - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 4 of the book, 'Reuniting with Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to observe and analyze character transformation.

Chapter Four – “Reunited”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

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

_____ Geneva was not comfortable with meeting Grace’s brothers together.

_____ **X** _____ **Geneva finally opened up and started talking about some personal things.**

_____ Geneva wanted to know where her other children were as well.

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

- (a) Geneva told Grace and Terrence that she had four more children after she left. (Page 92)
- (b) Geneva and Calvin were together for two years. (Page 93)
- (c) Geneva confirmed that she did not give Grace her middle name, which was LaJoy. (Page 94)
- (d) Geneva’s favorite food was fried chicken. (Page 95)

Sequencing

Number the events of Chapter 4 in the order they happened.

- (4) After that, she asked to see Terrence and opened up while he was there. (Page 91)
- (2) The brothers were confused as to why she wanted to see Grayson first. (Page 88)
- (5) She divulged some personal information during that time. (Page 92)
- (1) Geneva agreed to see Grace’s brothers one at a time. (Page 87)
- (6) Grace and Terrence decide to come back the next day to have dinner with Geneva. (Page 95)
- (3) Next, Geneva asked to see “Devon” since that’s how she remembered him. (Page 89)

Plot Analysis: Falling Action

The falling action happens right after the climax in a story, when the main problem starts to resolve. This is where the tension arising from the story's main conflict starts to decrease. The falling action is also referred to as "Denouement".

In Chapter 4, we have started to see a change in Geneva's attitude towards Grace and her brothers. Compile information from Chapters 1 to 4, and write a brief note on what the climax and falling action is for this story.

Reuniting with Mother	
Climax	Falling Action
The climax starts in Chapter 1 when Grace phones the boarding home and talks to Geneva. The following moments are very tense as Grace and her brothers are desperate to confirm if the woman they spoke to was actually their mother. They travel to another state just to confirm this.	Although Geneva wasn't accepting of Grace and her brothers at the beginning, she starts to become more comfortable after Grace shows her pictures and documents of her family. On the second day, she finally allows them to take pictures with her, hug and kiss her, and gives out some personal information that Grace has always wanted to know.

Identifying Cause and Effect

"This was an amazing moment for me, because I had longed to find the siblings my mother had after she left."

What is the Cause? I had longed to find the siblings my mother had after she left.

What is the Effect? This was an amazing moment for me,

Character Transformation

Using the information from Chapters 1-4, write your observations on how Geneva behaved with Grace and her brothers at the beginning, and how she starts to change in Chapter 4.

Geneva	
Before	After
At the beginning, Geneva refused to accept Grace and her siblings because she did not recognize them. She felt uncomfortable, afraid and was not willing to share any personal information.	In chapter 4, she starts to become more comfortable with Grace and agrees to see her brothers one by one. She becomes most comfortable with Terrence and gives out some personal information. She finally warms up and agrees to have dinner with them the following day.

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 4 is “patient”.

Patient means you are able to accept or tolerate delays without getting annoyed easily.

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.

Grace had been tremendously patient with her mother until she agreed to see her brothers one by one.

1. Would you be patient if you were in Grace’s situation? Why or why not?
2. Who is the most patient person you know and why?
3. Is it better to be patient and understanding, or be demanding for faster results? Please explain why.

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

[illegible]

Lesson Five - Answers

This lesson coincides with Chapter 5 of the book, 'Reuniting with Mother'. The purpose of this lesson is to study the resolution of the story and interpret the author's intent.

Chapter Five – “Our Final Visit With Mother”

Main Idea and Supporting Details

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

- _____ Grace and her brothers had a chicken dinner with Geneva on the final visit.
- _____ Grace wanted to know why Geneva left her and her brothers.
- _____ **X** _____ **Grace wishes that Geneva would accept their offers and move to Kansas City.**

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

- (a) Geneva told Grace that she had some business to take care of before she could move. (Page 104)
- (b) Terrence told Geneva that if she moved to Kansas City, they could have her teeth fixed and take her to all of her appointments. (Page 103)
- (c) Grace was shocked that Geneva preferred to live in the poverty-stricken place she was living. (Page 104)
- (d) Geneva had lived in the boarding home for fifteen years. (Page 104)

Plot Analysis: Resolution

The resolution in a story happens after the falling action and it typically where the story ends. In the resolution, all the conflicts are resolved and the characters come to an agreement. However, the ending of the story need not always be a happy one. Sometimes authors will end stories in such a way that there are future possibilities for a continuation.

Answer each question briefly to uncover the resolution of this story in Chapter 5.

- (a) What agreement did the characters come to at the end of the chapter? (Page 104)

Answer: At the end of the chapter, Geneva is more relaxed and comfortable talking to Grace and her brothers. She takes pictures with each of them even though she is embarrassed about her teeth. Grace and her brothers want to help her move to Kansas so that they can take care of all her needs. Before leaving, Terrence tells Geneva that she can call them when she is comfortable and wants to join them.

(b) Was the ending of “Reuniting with Mother” a happy or sad one? Explain. (Page 103)

Answer: The ending was a happy one since Grace and her brothers were able to reunite with Geneva after forty-nine years. However, Grace is a bit disappointed because Geneva was not ready to move to Kansas City right away.

(c) Do you think there is a possibility for the story to continue in the future? Give reasons.
(Answers may vary from learner to learner.)

Answer: Yes, I think there is a possibility for the story to continue because we do not know if Geneva would agree to move to Kansas City in the future. A lot can happen following the ending of this chapter, so there is a chance for the series to continue. I would also like to see more interactions between Grace and her brothers with Geneva. Perhaps Geneva will get to meet their families, or maybe even be able to reunite with her other children. It would also be nice to know what happened to Carla. Since there are some unanswered questions, I would like the story to continue.

Identifying Cause and Effect

“We all realized that our hands were somewhat tied since that final decision would have to be hers.” (Page 104)

What is the Cause? the final decision of moving to Kansas City would be Geneva’s.

What is the Effect? We all realized that our hands were somewhat tied.

Textual Evidence

Cite one example from the text to show that the boarding home was not a good place for Geneva to live happily.

Textual Evidence	Explanation
She wore her black purse strapped around her neck and across her chest. She carried two worn plastic grocery bags, one in each hand.	Geneva mentioned in the previous chapter that people have stolen from her and so she keeps her money safe by putting it in her purse, which she straps around her neck and chest.

Author's Intention

Authors write stories for a variety of reasons. They may want to write the story to get a theme across or even just to teach a moral. It is important to understand the author's purpose for writing the story in order to better understand the text.

Complete the table below to decode the author's intention for writing "Finding Mother After Five Decades" and "Reuniting with Mother".

Name of the Author	Grace LaJoy Henderson
Name(s) of the Book(s)	Finding Mother, Reuniting with Mother
Themes in the Story	love, empathy, expectation vs. reality, abandonment and rejection, knowing the truth, reunion, family, determination
Main Character's Name	Grace LaJoy
Main Character's Traits	determined, empathetic, caring, patient, responsible, tenacious, grateful
Main Character's Conflict	searching for her long-lost mother and wanting to know why she left
Did the main character resolve the conflict in the end?	Yes, she did. She finds her mother after forty-nine years in another state.

Based on the information you wrote in the table above, write a brief note on what you think the author wants you to take from this story.

Sample answer: I believe the author wants us to keep trying for the thing we want very badly to happen, even if it takes a very long time. Grace was tempted to give up searching for her mother when all of her search attempts were unsuccessful. If she had given up, she would not have known how close she was to finding her, and probably would never had met her. Therefore, it is important to have faith and believe that you will get what you are hoping for even if it takes a long time. Never give up on your dream. This is a good take away from the story.

Story Summary

Fill in the boxes below to create a brief summary for "Reuniting with Mother After Five Decades".

**What happens at the beginning?
Introduce the characters and what
they are doing.**

At the beginning, we see Grace and her brothers preparing to travel in order to reunite with their mother, Geneva. The mood is an anticipatory and anxious one, since they are not sure if the woman is actually their mother. (Page 65)

**What is the main conflict of the
story?**

When Grace and her brothers arrive at the boarding house where Geneva lives, they have a hard time getting her to accept them. Geneva is uncomfortable and afraid, and refuses to give them any personal information. (Page 72)

What is the main idea of the story?

Grace and her brothers finally find their mother, Geneva, and want to take care of her. (Page 82-86)

**How were the characters able to
resolve the conflict?**

Grace was persistent in getting Geneva to talk to her. She showed her pictures of her family and her birth certificate. Then Geneva slowly begins to understand who Grace and her brothers are and opens up. Finally, Geneva meets all the brothers and gives out some personal information that Grace has been wanting to hear. (Page 86)

**What happens at the end of the
story?**

At the end, Grace and her brothers have a chicken dinner with Geneva and take pictures with her. They express their desires to take care of her and her needs. They tell her that she can move to Kansas City to be near them whenever she is ready. Geneva says she has some business to take care of before she can move to their city. (Page 96)

Character Trait Discussion

The character trait for Chapter 3 is “tenaciousness”.

Tenaciousness refers to someone or something that holds on firmly.

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.

Grace’s tenaciousness helped her to find her mother although it took forty-nine years.

1. When some goals take longer to achieve, it becomes easier to give up. What would motivate you to be tenacious in this case?
2. Name someone you know who is tenacious? Explain why you think they are tenacious.
3. Are there disadvantages to being tenacious? If so, what are they?

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

[illegible]

