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Mrs. Kragen

Reading—*The Phantom Tollbooth* worksheet

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1. An “allegory” is a story or picture that uses symbols (*The American Heritage Dictionary*). In *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Milo is a symbol of kids. Tock is the symbol for adults. A humbug is a fraud, a fake, someone who brags but isn’t telling the truth, and that’s what the Humbug is. Rhyme and Reason are old-fashioned ways of talking about two different ways of thinking; Rhyme is the creative and imaginative side of thinking, and Reason is the logical and analytical side of thinking. No wonder Rhyme and Reason together can solve all problems!

2. The Official Which is Faintly Macabre. She lives in the dungeon because many years ago she had the job of choosing the words to use. She wanted to keep more words for herself, so she chose fewer and fewer words for people to use (67-70).

3. Six idioms used for comic effect in the Royal Banquet are:

* a light meal
* eating your words
* a square meal
* dig in
* a half-baked idea
* Out of the frying pan into the fire.
* Don’t bite off more than you can chew.

4. The Lords of Synonym are:

* the Earl of Essence
* the Minister of Meaning
* the Duke of Definition
* the Undersecretary of Understanding
* the Count of Connotation (40).

They are the Lords of Synonym, and all the words are synonyms.

5. The Dodecahedron is a figure Milo, Tock, and Humbug meet on the way to Digitopolis who has 12 faces. If he is sad he uses his sad face, and if he is happy he uses his happy face (172-173).

6. Rhyme and Reason are two princesses. The King of Knowledge discovered babies in a basket and raised the girls. He called them Rhyme and Reason. The princesses solved problems. His two sons founded the two cities, Dictionopolis and Digitopolis. One thought words were more important and one thought numbers were more important. The girls decided both were equal. The boys did not like that. They banished the girls to the Castle in the Air (74-76).

7. A census taker collects information about citizens. The Senses Taker does that too but he also steals senses. The one sense he could not take was a sense of humor (230).