

The Mysterious Benedict Society

By Trenton Lee Stewart

DTDLD Battle of the Books 2009

Who is the author of the book?

Trenton (Lee) Stewart

How many pages is the story itself?

485

What position can Messengers be promoted to?

Executives

What were test takers required to bring to the Monk Building?

A single pencil and a single rubber eraser. (p. 1)

How many pencils was Reynie instructed to bring to the second test?

One (p. 1)

Where was Reynie's second test held?

The Monk Building (on Third St.) (p. 1)

Where did Reynie live?

The Stonetown Orphanage (p. 2)

How old is Reynie?

11 (p. 2)

Who is Miss Perumal?

Reynie's tutor (p. 2)

What language did Miss Perumal sometimes speak when she was telling stories of her childhood in India?

Tamil (p. 2)

What language is Miss Perumal teaching Reynie?

Tamil (p. 3)

What is the main subject in the newspapers and on television news?

The "Emergency" (p. 3)

What happened to Reynie's parents?

They died when he was an infant (p. 3)

What did Reynie think was odd about the strange advertisement's heading that read "Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?"

It was addressed directly to children and not to their parents (p. 3)

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What country is Miss Perumal from?

India (p. 4)

What room would Reynie go to where no one else would?

The Reading Room (p. 5)

Why couldn't Reynie go to the first session of the test like he had planned?

Miss Perumal's mother fell ill and couldn't take him (p. 4)

What did Miss Perumal find strange about the advertisement for the tests?

There was no telephone number for questions (p. 8)

What is the final question on Reynie's first test?

Are you brave? (p. 10)

First test monitor- what did Reynie call her? Why?

The Pencil Woman/Her thinness, mustard yellow suit, yellowish complexion, rust-red hair, and stiff posture (p. 11)

How many children from Reynie's group passed the test and went on to the second Phase?

One - Reynie! (p. 14)

Why did the test administrator need to sneak out of the back door after the first test?

The children's parents were going to come storming to demand explanations and she had none to give them (p. 14)

What color was the girl's hair who dropped her pencil outside of the second test?

Green (p. 15)

What was Reynie's solution to Rhonda's problem of the pencil down the storm drain?

He broke his in half and shared with her. (p. 16)

In what different ways did the children offer to help Rhonda with her lost pencil?

Reynie: broke his in half and gave her the other half (p. 16)

Sticky: Went into the storm drain to find it (p. 33)

Kate: Used materials from her bucket to retrieve the pencil (p. 39)

Constance: Gave her one of her many pencils (p. 73)

Who was the girl with the long green hair?

Rhonda Kazembe (p. 17)

What did Rhonda's dress make her look like?

She was "wearing her own personal fog bank" (p. 17)

What did Rhonda offer Reynie as thanks for him helping her get a new pencil?

To cheat off her test - she had the answers (p. 17)

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What is Number Two always doing?

Eating

When the test administrator gave the instructions for the second test, she skipped a step.

What step was it?

4th (p. 20)

What two foods did the test administrator eat during the first and second tests?

Peanuts (first, p. 13) and pickles (second, p. 23))

How many questions were on the second test?

40 (p. 23)

Reynie, Sticky and Kate each had a different way of passing tests #2. What was each way?

Reynie- a puzzle (p. 26), Sticky- answering questions more or less correctly (p. 35), Kate- got yellow suit out of a big jam (p. 42)

The second test was really a: Explain how it was set up

Puzzle/The answer to question 1 lay hidden in question 21, the answer to question 2 lay hidden in question 22 and so on. The answers were all in order. (p. 26)

Name 3 ideas why Sticky Washington has the name Sticky. Who has these different ideas?

#1 Skinny as a stick, #2 Everything sticks in his head, #3 You don't feel sticky. (p. 32-37)

#1 Reynie (p. 35), #2 Sticky himself (p. 32), #3 Kate Wetherall (p. 37)

Sticky had something very strange about his appearance. What was it?

He was bald (p. 32)

How did Sticky Washington get his nickname?

"That's why people started calling me Sticky, because everything I read sticks in my mind."
(p. 35)

What name does Kate try to get her friends to call her?

The Great Kate Weather Machine (p. 37)

Why did Reynie regret shaking hands with Kate Wetherall when they met?

Her grip was so strong it was like getting his fingers caught in a drawer. (p. 37)

Name three things Kate carries in her bucket.

Slingshot, flashlight, pen light, bottle of extra-strength glue, rope, marbles, swiss army knife, a pen light, a horse-shoe magnet, a spool of clear fishing twine, slender nylon rope and a special kaleidoscope/spy glass (p. 38)

What color is Kate's bucket?

Fire-engine red (p. 38)

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What amazing gift did Kate have?
Telling distances and weights (p. 40)

What was common about the beginning descriptions of the man in 7B?
Weatherbeaten (p. 44)

Sticky's real fist name:
George (p. 45)

What were the directions for the third test in room 7-B?
CROSS THE ROOM WITHOUT SETTING FOOT ON A BLUE OR BLACK SQUARE. (p. 46)

How did the Kate, Sticky or Reynie cross the floor in room 7-B?
Reynie strode confidently – the shapes were rectangles not squares. (p. 46)
Kate walked the tightrope (first time), rolled the bucket across like a circus bear (second time). (p. 47)
Kate walked on her hands (third time!). (p. 48)
Sticky crawled on hands and knees. (p. 48)

Prior to taking the tests, what had Kate been doing with her life?
She was working with the circus (p. 53)

What happened to Kate's parents?
Her mother died when she was a baby, her father ran away when she was 2 (p. 54)

How did the children get through the maze of identical rooms?
Reynie: Figured out the puzzle – the wiggly arrows pointed the way to go (p. 58)
Kate: Went through the heating vent (p. 61)
Sticky: Went through, trial and error, until he found the staircase and memorized his steps (p. 64)
Constance: Stopped and had a picnic in a corner (p. 77)

In what country was Rhonda born?
Zambia (p. 69)

Which one of the languages of Zambia did Rhonda say she speaks?
Bembi (p. 70)

What is the reason that all the children are there taking these beginning test?
Mr. Benedict (p. 69)

Which of the kids was able to read most languages but had trouble speaking them?
Sticky (p. 70)

What does every room in Mr. Benedict's house have plenty of?
Books (p. 70)

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What did Mr. Benedict call the "Pencil Woman"? Why?

Number 2/It is the code name she prefers. She is shy about her name. (p. 72)

Why Number Two's code name ironic?

Because she looks like a Number Two pencil (p. 72)

How many pencils did Constance bring with her to the test?

37 (p. 72)

What was Mr. Benedict's condition?

Narcolepsy (p. 75)

Why does Mr. Benedict wear green plaid suits?

Green plaid has a soothing effect on him, calms him to keep his narcolepsy at bay (p. 75)

Sticky, Reynie and Kate didn't think much of Constance Contraire's test taking results.

What did they say? What was Mr. Benedict's response?

"How can someone pass the test if they do not answer any of the questions?"/"There are tests and then there are tests" (p. 76)

Why has it been so hard for Mr. Benedict to form a team? Needs a team of children- the few that he has found grow up too fast and then he can't use them. He hasn't found more than one at a time and those have been at different times. (p. 78)

The factors that the 4 children had in common:

They passed, they are gifted, they are children, and they are alone (p. 79)

What did Constance think Narcolepsy was? What is the psychological condition for stealing?

Stealing/Kleptomania (p. 80)

At the end of the first day of being part of the Benedict Society Reynie realizes that he has made some new friends. What does he do for Sticky?

After Sticky has fallen asleep, Reynie removed his slippers from his feet, glasses from his nose, setting them with the plant book upon a bedside table, then he covered Sticky with a blanket. (p. 86)

In the first test- the chess question- what was the result of Reynie's answer?

He was the only child to ever answer the question correctly (p. 89)

In the chess question, why does Reynie think the white player might have moved his knight back to the original starting position?

Because he doubted himself (p. 90)

What did Constance request for breakfast?

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Candy (p. 91)

What is Milligan's first duty?

Make sure we're safe, a bodyguard. The most important thing is that he's here to protect you. (p. 92)

Why was Number Two always hungry?

She never sleeps. A person needs a great deal of energy to stay awake all the time, and thus a great deal of food. (p. 93)

What is the definition and translation of obfuscate?

To make so confused or opaque as to be difficult to perceive (understand)= muddled (p. 99)

Why does the Sender use children to send the messages?

Only a child's thoughts can be slipped into the mind unnoticed (p. 101)

Because our 4 contestants do not particularly watch much TV they have avoided what? Exposure to the hidden messages. (p. 102)

One of the messages that's being sent is: "The missing aren't missing, they are only . . . what?"

Departed (p. 104)

What did the men in the maze do with Constance?

They put her in a big canvas bag. (p. 110)

They gave her a shock with wires from their watches. (p. 113)

How did Mulligan take out the men in the maze?

Tranquilizer darts (p. 112)

Constance hates to be called:

Connie (p. 114)

What is the name of the school the students must go to undercover?

The Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened (LIVE) (p. 114)

What is an often repeated phrase in the messages?

"Dare not defy the institute" (p. 115)

Where does Mr. Benedict plan to send our 4 children? To serve as what?

To the Institute /Spies (p. 116)

How will the children get secrets of the Institute out to Mr. Benedict? Who will teach them?

Morse Code/Sticky (p. 119)

Where is LIVE located?

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Nomansan Island (p. 119)

What does Sticky teach the others so that they may communicate secretly?
Morse code (p. 119)

What does Sticky hate to be called?
His real name George Washington (p. 120)

What did Sticky's parents do with their son's gifts for information retention?
They kept entering him in contests for the prize money, The more he won the happier they were and the more unhappy he became. (p. 123)

What is the reason for Mulligan's sadness and his disguises?
Complete amnesia, escaped from the Institute and doesn't want to be recognized. (p. 125-128)

What did Milligan lose on the island?
His memory (p. 125)

Why does Milligan call himself Milligan, when can't actually remember his name?
It was the first name that flew into his mind when he regained consciousness (p. 126)

What did Mr. Benedict expect would happen when the power was increased slightly? To full power?
Slight increase – eliminate the need for televisions or radios to transmit messages
Full power – they would hear voices in their heads (p. 131)

How was power created for the Institute on Nomansan Island?
Tidal turbines - power of the tides (p. 132)

Who founded the Institute?
Ledropha Curtain (p. 132)

The sender's name is:
Leodropha Curtain (p. 133)

For Reynie, who was the person he wasn't sure he could trust?
Himself. He knew he trusted Mr. Benedict.(p. 136)

Give the full names of all 4 children in the society
Kate Wetherall, Reynard "Reynie" Muldoon, George "Sticky Washington," Constance Contraire (p. 137)

Why is Reynie often chosen as a spokesperson?
Sticky gets tongue-tied, Kate gets steamed (p. 139)

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Mr. Benedict says, "I believe she may be the very key to our success." Who is he talking about?

Constance (p. 140)

Who came up with the idea of the name "Mysterious Benedict Society"?

Constance (p. 145)

What is the word printed on the red banner at the Institute?

LIVE (p. 149)

Who does Ledropha Curtain use to send his subliminal messages?

Messengers/Children/Top Students (p. 155/p. 96/p. 118)

What school were Kate, Sticky, and Constance supposedly from when they enrolled at LIVE?

Binnud Academy (p. 152)

What do many of the employees at LIVE wear, that serves as a weapon?

Silver shock watches (p. 153)

What two executives met the Benedict Society when they first came to LIVE?

Jackson and Jillson (p. 154)

What is the difference between an Executive uniform and a Messenger uniform?

The Messenger uniform has striped pants (p. 155)

How do Kate & Constance get to the boys' room at the Institute?

Through the ceiling (p. 156)

How does Kate help Constance move faster?

Carries her on her back (p. 158)

What is Kate's spyglass disguised as?

Kaleidoscope (p. 159)

What plants cover up the hidden holes strewn throughout the Nomansan Island?

Drapeweed (p.162)

Who discovered the abnormal drapeweed and also got caught in it?

Sticky (p. 162)

What did the team discover about themselves during the drapewood incident?

What they could accomplish together. (p. 164)

How did Mr. Curtain become rich enough to build the Institute?

He made money by mining precious minerals on the island (p. 167)

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Who and what are the helpers? How are they dressed?

Grownups who do the maintenance. They wear white uniforms. (p. 168)

Who said: "On a certain level, everything sounds like nonsense, doesn't it?"

Jillson (p. 170)

How do the executives treat the Helpers?

Think their jobs are unimportant and they do not care to interact with them except to keep them in line. (p. 171)

Are there rules or not?

It seems like no but there are for dress, cleanliness, meals, lights, going places. (p. 171)

The Executives say that there are virtually no rules at the Institute, when in fact there are actually many rules. Name one of their contradictory rules.

You can wear whatever you want, just so long as you have on trousers, shoes, and a shirt.

You can bathe as often as you like or not at all, provided you're clean every day in class.

You can eat whatever and whenever you want, so long as it's during meal hours in the cafeteria.

You're allowed to keep the lights on in your rooms as late as you wish until 10 p.m. each night.

You can go wherever you want around the Institute, so long as you keep to the paths and the hellow-tiled corridors. (p. 171)

Many things that sound like rules aren't actually rules, and it always sounds if there are more rules than there really are. (p. 172)

You're free to talk (at night in your room), but only if you don't make any sound. (p. 179)

What distinctive qualities in his appearance made the Benedict Society kids think Mr. Curtain was Mr. Benedict?

He had a nose shaped like a vegetable, thick white hair, and a green plaid suit (p. 176)

What does Reynie tell Mr. Curtain his nose looks like?

A pink cucumber (p. 177)

What was the big surprise with the founder of the Institute, Mr. Curtain?

He looked like Mr. Benedict himself. Mr. Curtain seemed to be a bad Mr. Benedict likened to Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (p. 178)

What does LIVE stand for?

Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened (p. 178)

The first message back to the children led them to the answer about Mr. Curtain and Mr. Benedict. What did it mean?

Gemini is the sign of the twin, Mr. Benedict and Mr. Curtain are brothers. (p. 184)

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Which Zodiac sign is used to describe how Mr. Benedict and Mr. Curtain are related?
Gemini (p. 184)

At the end of their first signaling session at LIVE, what did Mr. Benedict (or Rhonda or Number Two) signal back to the kids?
Good job, good night, good lu (p. 185)

How did the Institute remind the Benedict Society of the other schools?
1. Rote memorization of lessons was discouraged but required 2. Participation was encouraged but rarely permitted 3. And although quizzes were given everyday, in every class, there was always at least one student who groaned, another who acted surprised, and another who begged the teacher, in vain, not to give it. (p. 188)

Who was considered the leader among the Messengers?
Martina Crowe (p. 188)

Which of the four in the Benedict Society were making perfect scores?
Sticky and Reynie (p. 189)

Describe Constance's bad manners:
She spilled food, chewed with her mouth open most of the time and held her utensils like shovels (p. 196)

Where is Mr. Curtain's favorite spot to sit on the island?
The plaza (p. 198)

What is the name of the room at the Institute in which punishments occur?
The Waiting Room (p. 200)

What did Sticky's anxiety do to him? What did not change with lack of sleep?
He slept badly, then he was drowsy during the day. He still retained all the information (p. 208)

How did Kate tie Martina's shoelaces to her desk?
With her toes (p. 211)

How did Sticky lose his hair?
When he ran away, he invented his own mixture of hair remover and used it to disguise himself. (p. 212)

Our 4 Benedict Society members began to have some strange symptoms after they had received several lessons. What were those symptoms?
Cranky, extremely annoyed (p. 216)

How was Constance's reaction different than the other 3? Why?
She could hear the messenger's voice. She had an exceptionally sensitive mind. (p. 217)

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Who is the only one who can actually hear the Messengers' voices in his/her head?
Constance (p. 217)

What was "earning without learning" going to mean for the society?
Cheating (p. 226)

When the kids signaled to Mr. Benedict to see whether they should cheat, what was his response?
Do not get caught (p. 226)

Who said: "If you don't trust them, keep them close."
Reynie (p. 237)

What was the key according to Mr. Curtain?
Control (p. 238)

What was similar about the plant in Mr. Curtain and Mr. Benedict's office and what was different?
Both violets. Mr. Curtain's was artificial and Mr. Benedict's was real. (p. 239)

Where was Mr. Curtain born?
Holland (p. 239-240)

According to Mr. Curtain, what are the disadvantages of being a natural leader?
Friends gather round, enemies hate them, even among friends there is loneliness. (p. 241)

What secret did Mr. Curtain tell Reynard about the messengers? About the future of the Institute? George Washington?
No More/Change and improvement is coming/Enormous talent but fidgets (p. 243)

How was Milligan like Mr. Bloomburg and the missing agents?
They all had their memories stolen. They all seemed very sad. (p. 249)

What had Mr. Curtain trained the Helpers to believe?
"That everything was as it should be." (p. 250)

Who is Mr. Bloomberg?
A Helper at LIVE, he used to be a school facilities inspector (p. 251)

How did Reynie calm himself so he could fall asleep when he was on the island?
He wrote mental letters to Miss Perumal (p. 255)

What did Mr. Benedict say about family?
Family members can be your best friends. And best friends, whether or not they are related to you, can be your family. (p. 257)

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What gift did Reynie give to Mr. Curtain?
Blue ribbon book markers for his journal (p. 260)

When Mr. Curtain is sitting on the plaza, he is not gazing off towards the bridge, as the kids originally thought. What is he looking at?
His tidal turbines (p. 262)

What is the term for destroying a person's memories?
Brainsweeping (p. 268)

What is the name of Mr. Curtain's mind control machine?
The Whisperer (p. 271)

Reynie and S.Q. gave Sticky opposite advice when he had to meet with Mr. Curtain. What did each one tell him?
Reynie told him to tell the truth about cheating, S.Q. told him not to admit he cheated (p. 297)

What happened to Martina Crowe after Sticky accused her of cheating?
She was promoted to Executive (p. 304)

What is the Whispering Gallery?
It is where the messages get sent (p. 316)

What is inside the flag tower?
The Whispering Gallery (p. 316)
What does the Whisperer look like?
It is a metal chair with a blue helmet attached to the seatback and a red helmet protruding behind it. It looks like an old-fashioned beauty salon hairdryer. (p. 316)

Who said: "Control is key."?
Mr. Curtain (p. 317)

What were the Messengers told they were doing when they used the Whisperer?
Inputting data, filling the Whisperer's computer bank with necessary info (p. 319)

Students are often told Mr. Curtain is very busy. Indeed he is – what is he always busy doing?
Running the Whisperer, he must be there to run it (p. 320)

What is Sticky's greatest fear?
Not being wanted (p. 327)

What does Sticky do when he's nervous?
Wipes/polishes his spectacles

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How do you open the rock doors to the secret entrances?
Kick them (or ram them with your wheelchair) (p. 338)

What political office does Mr. Curtain hope to achieve once the Emergency happens?
Minister and Secretary of all the Earth's Regions (M.A.S.T.E.R.) (p. 346) Tiebreaker

What is Milligan disguised as when the children discover he is on the island?
A recruiter (p. 357)

Who said: "I've been wishing you luck from the moment I met you. What I wish for you now is a miracle."?
Milligan (p. 362)

Why didn't Kate's footprints leading down to the water give her away?
S.Q.'s giant feet destroyed the prints (p. 390)

Who is Kate's father?
Milligan (p. 447)

Why does Mr. Curtain use a wheelchair?
He has narcolepsy and this helps him maintain control (p. 450)

What triggers Mr. Curtain's narcolepsy?
Anger (p. 451)

What was the pass code on Mr. Curtain's secret door to the Whispering Gallery?
CONTROLE (control in Dutch) (p. 462)

Why was Milligan able to steer through the dangerous waters so well?
He had been swimming the channel every night (p. 466)

How old is Constance?
2 yrs. 11 months (p. 478)

What is Mr. Benedict's First Name?
Nicholas (in Morse code on the back of the book Paperback, last page Hardcover)

Each child in the Mysterious Benedict Society has a special skill. What are they?
Reynie: thinks logically (can figure out puzzles)
Sticky: Smart, knows lots of facts
Kate: Good with distances, weights, etc., and physical tasks
Constance: Stubbornness