The book gives Merriam-Webster’s definition of “conch.” Besides being a type of mollusk, what else can a “Conch” be?
A native or resident of the Florida Keys (introductory page)

In what year does *Turtle in Paradise* take place?
1935 (intro)

In what month does Turtle head down to Florida?
June (p. 1)

Complete this phrase that Turtle uses: “The only difference between grown-ups and kids is that grown-ups go to jail for murder. Kids . . .”
“get away with it.” (p. 3)

Who drives Turtle to Florida? How does Turtle know him?
Mr. Edgit (p. 3), he’s a friend of Archie, Turtle’s mom’s boyfriend (p. 5, 10)

What type of car does Mr. Edgit drive?
Ford Model A (p. 3)

Why is it ironic that Mr. Edgit sells a product called Hair Today?
Because he is bald (p. 4)

What is Mr. Edgit’s first name?
Lyle (p. 4)

Who is the president at the time this story takes place?
(Franklin) Roosevelt (p. 4)

What type of product does Mr. Edgit sell? What is it called?
A hair serum, “Hair Today” (p. 4)

When did this story take place?
During the Depression (June, 1935) (Page 4)

How did Mama meet Archie?
He is a traveling salesman. He showed up at their door. (Page 5)

What does Archie do for a living?
He’s a traveling salesman (p. 5)

In what month is Turtle’s birthday?
May (p. 5)

Turtle makes a comparison between the men who mother falls in love with and something in nature. What is it?
**Turtle in Paradise** by Jennifer L. Holm
DTDL Battle of the Books 2012

**Dandelions (p. 6)**

What kind of pet does Turtle have? What is its name?
A cat, Smokey (p. 7)

What is Little Orphans Annie’s dog’s name?
Sandy (Page 7)

Who does Mr. Edgit compare Turtle and her cat to?
Little Orphan Annie and her dog, Sandy (p. 7)

Why does Smokey have ragged patches of fur?
She was burned (p. 7), the Curley boys set her tail on fire (p. 8)

What children has Turtle lived with as the housekeeper’s daughter? (p. 8)
Sylvia Decker
Josephine Stark
Melvin & Marvin Curley

Who is “America’s Little Darling”? What is Turtle’s opinion of her?
Shirley Temple, Turtle can’t stand her (p. 8)

What is the model name of the house that Turtle’s Mom and Turtle want to buy?
Bellwood (p. 9)

Why does Turtle have to go to Key West to live?
Her mother gets a live-in job with a woman who won’t accept children in her home (p. 9)

Who does Turtle’s mother send her to live with in Florida?
Her sister, Minerva (p. 9)

What is the name of the house Turtle wants to live in someday?
The Bellewood, Model #3304 from Sears (p. 9)

What is the full first name of Turtle’s aunt?
Minerva (p. 10)

What is Turtle’s mama’s favorite song?
“Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries” (p. 10)

What is the name of the street where Aunt Minerva lives?
Curry Lane (page 14)

When Turtle first arrives at Aunt Minnie’s house, there is a child’s wagon out front. What is painted on the side of it?
“Will wurk for candy” (p. 15)
Turtle’s cousins have a pet dog. What is its name?  
Termite (p. 16)

What physical trait is different between Turtle and her mama?  
Turtle’s eyes are gray as soot and her mama’s are soft blue (p. 17)

What color hair does Turtle have? What color eyes?  
Brown, “gray as soot” (p. 17)

What state does Sadiebelle live while Turtle is in Key West?  
New Jersey (p. 18)

Why is Aunt Minnie surprised to see Turtle?  
Because she hadn’t received her mother’s letter telling her she was coming (p. 19)

Who adopts Little Orphan Annie?  
Daddy Warbucks (p. 21)

Why did Sadiebelle get Smokey for Turtle?  
Because one night she woke up to a rat nibbling her hair (p. 22)

What are some of the funny pages in the newspapers?  
Little Orphan Annie, Flash Gordon, Terry and the Pirates, Krazy Kat (p. 22)

What is Turtle’s favorite comic strip? What are some of her other favorites?  
Little Orphan Annie (p. 22), Krazy Kat, Flash Gordon, Terry and the Pirates (p. 22)

Whose room is Turtle given to stay in at Aunt Minnie’s?  
Beans’ (p. 22)

How does Buddy know that Turtle isn’t from Florida?  
She talks funny and she’s wearing shoes (p. 23)

Who are Turtle’s cousins? List them in order of their age, youngest to oldest.  
Buddy (4), Kermit (9-10), Beans (11) (p. 23-24, 29)

What happened to Smokey’s tail?  
Some boys lit it on fire (p. 23)

Why does Buddy never have pants on?  
He’s always having accidents (p. 24)

Which one of Turtle’s cousins wears glasses?  
Kermit (p. 24)

Why does Kermit have to take naps?
Because he had rheumatic fever and now has a weak heart – he should take naps or his heart might give out and he could die (p. 26)

Who says, “That’s okay. I’ll get your marbles the next time you die!”?
Buddy (p. 26)

Which one of the Diaper Gang had rheumatic fever and was left with a weak heart from it?
Kermit (page 26)

How does the Diaper Gang get paid?
In candy (p. 28)

What are the rules of the Diaper Gang? (p. 28)
You gotta know the rules.
No girls allowed.
Keep your rag clean.
Always duck.
Never tell anyone the secret formula.

What does the Diaper Gang do?
Babysits for candy (p. 28)

Specifically, what kind of babies does the Diaper Gang take care of?
Bad babies (p. 28)

What does the Diaper Gang’s secret formula cure?
Diaper rash (p. 28)

What does Turtle find when she first opens Aunt Minnie’s icebox?
A scorpion (p. 31)

What is an “alligator pear”?
Avocado (p. 32)

What did Aunt Minnie call an avocado?
Alligator Pear (page 32)

What does Archie sell?
Encyclopedias (p. 32)

Why does Beans say they don’t let girls in their Diaper Gang?
Because girls always want to pick up the babies when they cry, and this spoils them so they cry all the time (p. 34)

What is a trick the Diaper Gang uses to get babies to stop crying?
Wraps them up tight in a blanket (p. 35)
Why is Mrs. Lowe’s baby named Pudding?
She thought she was getting fat from eating too much banana pudding, but really she was pregnant (p. 36)

How does news get around in Key West?
The Conch telegraph (p. 37)

What do people in Key West call themselves?
Conchs (p. 37)

What is the Conch Telegraph?
The people in Key West (who call themselves Conchs, many of whom are Turtle’s relatives) like to gossip – word gets around quickly (p. 37)

Where did they keep sea turtles until they were butchered?
In Turtle Kraals (page 38)

Where was Turtle living before she moved to Key West?
New Jersey (page 39)

What is Turtle’s mom’s name?
Sadie (belle) Gifford (p. 39)

What is Buddy often found not wearing?
His pants (p. 42)

Who wants to be a member of the Diaper Gang but is always failing?
Too Bad (p. 46)

What is the name of the man who sells ice cream?
Jimmy (p. 47)

How much does ice cream cost from the ice cream man?
A nickel (p. 47)

How does Turtle trick Jimmy into giving her ice cream without paying for it?
She says her nickel was in the bottom of her can, under the ice cream (p. 49)

What type of ice cream does Turtle get?
Sugar apple (p. 49)

What happens when Aunt Minerva sees Turtle playing with her paper dolls?
Aunt Minerva said that her sister had stolen them from her and demanded Turtle return them to her. (Page 52)
What toy does Aunt Minnie take from Turtle because they were once hers?
Paper dolls (p. 52)

What is klee-klee?
A game like tag (p. 53)

What was the game the boys were playing that looked a lot like a tag to Turtle?
Klee-Klee (page 53)

What is Johnny Cake’s business?
Rumrunner (p. 57)

Who does Turtle go to in order to find a job? Who ends up giving her one?
Johnny Cakes (p. 57), Slow Poke (p. 60)

What ingredients are in leche?
Cuban coffee with lots of milk (p. 58)

What is Slow Poke’s favorite of the funny pages?
Terry and the Pirates (p. 60)

What does Slow Poke catch on his boat?
Sponges (p. 60)

What is the name of Slow Poke’s boat?
The Lost Love (p. 61)

What does Turtle lie about when she first starts her job with Slow Poke?
Her ability to swim (p. 63)

Who is Slow Poke’s first mate?
Ollie (p. 63)

What happened to Slow Poke’s old first mate?
He got “bitten by a shark” (caught by a woman named Margaret) (p. 63)

Turtle and Slow Poke sometimes call themselves Pat and Terry. What are these names from?
The comic strip Terry and the Pirates (p. 65)

What are Turtle and Slow Poke’s nicknames for each other?
Pat and Terry (p. 65)

How does Slow Poke spot sponges?
Pours shark oil over the water and looks through a glass bottomed bucket (p. 66)

Why does Slow Poke pour shark oil into the water when fishing for sponges?
It helps them see the sponges better when looking through the bucket (p. 66)

Who rescued Turtle when she fell into the water while gathering sponges?
Slow Poke (page 67)

What do Slow Poke and Turtle find floating in the cistern on the island?
A dead rat (p. 68)

Turtle asks Slow Poke, “Why’s everybody got funny nicknames around here, anyway?” What is his answer?
It’s just the Key West way (p. 70)

True or False: Turtle stood out among her cousins as she was the only one with a nickname.
False (page 70)

How did Slow Poke get his name?
He always takes his own sweet time doing things. His mother said he was late for his own birth (p. 71)

What does Aunt Minnie do to make money?
Takes in laundry/washes clothes (p. 72)

Whose mother is Mrs. Solando?
Pork Chop’s (p. 73)

What does Mrs. Soldano make the best of on Ashe Street or maybe even the best of in Key West?
Bollos (p. 73)

What is the bolita?
The Cuban lottery (p. 74)

What large instrument is in Nana Philly’s house?
A piano (p. 76)

Why does Nana Philly keep the piano in her house when it’s filled with termites?
Because it was something her daddy saved from a sinking ship (p. 76)

What is a “wrecker”?
Someone who salvages cargo from shipwrecks off the coast and sells it (p. 77)

What is Nana Philly’s full first name?
Philomena (p. 78)

What is the name of Nana Philly’s caretaker?
Miss Bea (p. 79)

Who is Miss Bea?
Nana Philly’s caretaker (p. 79)

Why are all the kids afraid of Nana Philly? Because she’s meaner than a scorpion (p. 79), hates kids and washed most of their mouths out with soap (p. 80)

Why was Turtle surprised to find out Nana Philly was her grandmother? Because her mother had told her that her grandmother was dead (p. 80)

What does Turtle recognize about Nana Philly? That her blue eyes are the exact same shade of blue as Mama’s (p. 80)

Whose idea was the Diaper Gang? Ira’s (p. 83)

What happened to Ira’s little brother Eggy? He lit some firecrackers and didn’t throw them, so he blew off his thumb and pinky and needed an operation (p. 83)

Why did Ira have to go to Miami? His brother needed an operation at the hospital there (p. 83)

Who is “The Shadow”? A mysterious narrator from a crime radio show (p. 84)

What are Conch kids always eating? Cut-up (p. 85)

What is a “cut-up”? A version of a fruit salad where all the kids bring what they can find and mix it all together, seasoned with “Old Sour,” and passed around (p. 85)

Why do they tick tock Miss Sugarapple? Because she caught them stealing an answer sheet for a test and made them stay after school every day for a month and write I will not steal on the chalkboard two hundred times (p. 85)

What is Old Sour made out of and what do the kids put it on? Key lime juice, salt and hot peppers; a cut-up (p. 85)

How do you tick tock someone? Take a rock and a string, tie it long enough to reach across a roof, throw the rock over the house to land on the opposite side near a window, tug on the string so it makes a scary noise (p. 86)

Who gets tick tocked first? Miss Sugarapple (p. 86)

Archie has sold a lot of things in his job as a traveling salesman. What does he tell Turtle he really sells?
Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer L. Holm  
DTDL Battle of the Books 2012

Dreams (p. 86)

What does Archie say everybody’s got?  
a dream (p. 87)

What nickname does Archie call Turtle?  
Princess (p. 87)

How did Pork Chop injure his leg while tick-tocking?  
He tripped over Too Bad who had followed them (p. 89)

Why did the newspaper call the boys’ tick-tocking a weeping ghost?  
Because Pork Chop had been crying due to tripping over Too Bad (p. 90)

Why did Bean’s dog get the name “Termite”?  
Because he couldn’t get rid of the dog and you can’t get rid of termites. (Page 92-93)

How did Killie the Horse get his nickname?  
He killed a horse by whipping it to death (p. 94)

What is Turtle’s uncle named?  
Vernon Curry (p. 96)

How did Turtle get her nickname?  
Because Mama said she had a hard shell. (Page 99)

What does Turtle make for lunch the first time she visits with Nana Philly?  What does Nana Philly do with it?  
Milk toast (p. 106), Nana Philly knocks it off the table (p. 107)

What is Turtle’s way of dealing with Nana Philly’s habit of throwing her lunch on the floor?  
She just cleans it up and then eats her own lunch in front of Nana Philly (p. 109)

One of the meals Turtle serves Nana Philly is grits-and-grunts-and-gravy. What is the ‘grunts’ part?  
Grunts are little fish. ( Page 109)

How many lunch visits does it take for Nana Philly to start eating the food Turtle gives her?  
3 (p. 111)

True or False: Turtle is a big fan of Shirley Temple.  
False (page 112)

Turtle says that “everyone’s always saying that hard times bring out the best in people,” but as far as she can tell, “the only thing that hard times bring out is . . .”?  
Meanness (p. 113)
Who bought Turtle her Mary Jane shoes?
Archie (p. 113)

Why does Aunt Minnie make Turtle give up Smokey?
Because she ruins a silk slip and Mrs. Felton’s skirt (p. 115, 117)

Why is Smokey in danger of getting kicked out of the Curry house?
Because Aunt Minnie thinks he went to the bathroom in her laundry basket and ruined clothes she has to pay for (p. 115)

What makes Aunt Minnie sick?
She gets stung by scorpion (p. 120)

Who kills the scorpion that bit Aunt Minnie?
Smokey (p. 120)

What happens to Aunt Minnie that causes the children to run for the doctor?
She was bitten by a scorpion. (Page 120)

Who does Kermit believe would win a fight between Frankenstein and Dracula?
Dracula, he’d suck Frankenstein’s blood out (p. 123)

When Smokey goes to live with Nana Philly and Miss Bea, besides Turtle, who misses her?
Termite (p. 124)

Where does Smokey end up living when Turtle has to give her up?
With Nana Philly (p. 124)

Why does Turtle look in the piano?
Smokey falls in it and gets trapped (p. 125)

What does Turtle find in the piano?
A cigar box containing a treasure map and a gold coin (p. 126)

Whose treasure is hidden?
Black Caesars (p. 126)

What is inside the cigar box that Turtle finds in Nana Philly’s piano?
A pile of little shells, a folded up piece of paper (a map), and a gold coin (p. 126)

What words are on the top of the map that Turtle finds?
This being Where Blacke Caesar putte His Treaffure (p. 126)

What is the name of the pirate which the treasure originally belonged?
Blacke Caesar (p. 126)
Where does the map show the treasure as being hidden?
The sponger’s key (p. 129)

Whose boat do Turtle and her cousins borrow to find the treasure?
Johnny Cakes (p. 132)

How does Turtle find the stone marking Black Caesar’s treasure?
She trips and falls on it (p. 136)

What landmark marks Black Caesar’s treasure?
A stone with the letter C carved into it (p. 137)

When Turtle trips over a stone on the island, she notices a letter is carved into it. What letter is it?
C (p. 137)

Who forgets to set the hook of Johnny Cake’s boat?
Pork Chop (p. 140)

Who ends up sleeping the night in the shack on the island?
Turtle, Ira, and Kermit (p. 142)

What else enters the shack during the hurricane?
Rats (p. 151)

How do the kids calm themselves on the island during the storm?
They sing a Shirley Temple song (p. 152)

What song do the kids start singing to raise their spirits when they are stranded in the storm?
“On the Good Ship Lollipop”. (Page 152)

What kind of storm blew across the island when the kids were stranded there?
A hurricane (page 156)

Who rescues the group off of the island after the hurricane?
Slow Poke, Ollie and Johnny Cakes (p. 156-157)

In what way did the kids going missing probably save Poppy’s life?
He decided to return when he heard they were missing. Otherwise he would have been in the part of the Keys that was hardest hit. (Page 157)

Who told everyone that Turtle and her cousins took off to look for the treasure?
Killie and Too Bad (p. 158)

Two people ended up telling on the kids and their plot to find treasure, which probably saved their lives. Who were they? Why was this ironic?
Killie and Too Bad (p. 158), because the boys are mean to them

Chances are the kids probably saved Uncle Vernon’s life by getting stuck on the island. How? Because he came straight home when he heard they were missing, and the hurricane hit bad where he had been working, many died (p. 159)

How much was the treasure worth that the kids found?
$20,000 (p. 159)

What does Buddy want if Kermit dies?
His marbles (p. 160)

What does the Diaper Gang buy with their share of the treasure?
A new wagon (p. 160)

What does Nana Philly buy with her share of the treasure?
A new hat and she wants to get her piano fixed (p. 160)

What does Turtle buy with her share of the treasure?
New shoes (p. 160)

How did the treasure money get split up?
Johnny Cakes got paid back for his boat, then it was split 6 ways: Turtle, Kermit, Beans, Pork Chop, Ira, and Nana Philly (p. 160)

Why did Nana Philly get a share of the treasure money?
Because it was her map (p. 160)

After paying Johnny Cakes for the lost boat, who were the six people the money was split between?
Turtle, Kermit, Beans, Pork Chop, Ira and Nana Philly (p. 160)

What is the secret diaper-rash formula?
cornstarch (p. 161)

What honor was given to Too Bad after the kids were rescued?
He became a member of the Diaper Gang. (Page 161)

Who are the two new members of the Diaper Gang by the end of the book?
Too Bad and Turtle (p. 161, 176)

When does Aunt Miranda realize that Smokey is not responsible for tearing down the laundry?
During the time the children were on the Key (with Smokey) another cat snuck in and made a mess. (Page 162)

Who is the “writer fella” who hangs out with Johnny Cakes? What was his nickname among the locals?
Hemingway (p. 163), Papa (p. 184)
What was Archie and Mama’s big news when they arrive in Key West?
They got married. (Page 165)

What is Archie’s last name?
Meeks (p. 166)

After her mother arrives on the Key, Turtle realizes who her father is. Who is it?
Slow Poke (Page 170)

Who sees Archie leaving Key West without Turtle and her mother?
Pork Chop (p. 172)

Where does Archie run off too with Turtle’s money?
Cuba (p. 174)

What happens to Turtle’s portion of the treasure?
Archie withdrew the money from the bank (page 169) and got on a boat headed for Cuba (page 174)

Turtle realizes her Uncle Vernon was right about her having a soft underbelly. What is hers?
Her mother (p. 175)

What babies does the Diaper Gang take care of?
Pudding (p. 33)
Carlos (p. 43)
Essie (p. 43)
Nathaniel (p. 102)

Who are the original members of the Diaper Gang?
Beans, Pork Chop & Kermit (p. 35)
Ira (p. 83)

Who does the Diaper Gang tick tock?
Miss Sugarapple (p. 86)
a preacher, a store clerk who never gave out free gumballs, some man who yelled at them for picking his
Spanish limes, and a girl named Lucy who wouldn’t let Beans cheat off her test (p. 88)
Mrs. Josephine Higgs (p. 90)

Potential Question: List all of Sadiebelle’s former employers

Crazy Florida names/nicknames (non-name names):
(Turtle)
Buddy
**Turtle in Paradise** by Jennifer L. Holm  
DTDL Battle of the Books 2012

Kermit  
Beans  
Pork Chop  
Jelly  
Pudding  
Slow Poke  
Too Bad  
Cheap John  
Too-Too Mama  
Kitty Gray  
Fat Rat  
Johnny Cakes  
(Cousin) Dizzy  
Old Ropes  
Eggy  
Killie the Horse

Babies the Diaper Gang takes care of:  
Pudding (p. 33)  
Carlos (p. 43)  
Essie (p. 43)

Clues that Slow Poke is Turtle’s dad:  
He seems really curious about her and her mother when he first meets her (p. 39)  
Turtle knows they met in Key West and he was a fisherman (p. 53)  
Slow Poke’s boat is named *The Lost Love* (p. 61)  
Slow Poke hires Turtle even though he probably normally wouldn’t hire a kid or a girl (p. 60)  
When Turtle asks him whether a shark ever bit him (referring to a woman catching him), he says “a long time ago.” (p. 63)  
Slow Poke asks about Turtles mother (p. 64) and seems to know things about her (116)  
When Turtle asks if they’re related, he says he doesn’t know (p. 65)  
There’s something about him that “tugs at” Turtle (p. 65)  
When Turtle asks how well he knew her, the man Slow Poke is with starts choking on his drink (p. 117)  
Turtle is the first person Slow Poke comes to when he rescues the kids, and calls her “Honey” (p. 156)  
Things are pretty awkward when Sadie comes back to Florida, with Archie (p. 166)  
Slow Poke makes the comment that he’s “too late again” when Sadie says she’s married (p. 166)  
When Turtle asks her mom how well she knows Slow Poke, she says “Not very well at all, as it turned out” – this is what convinces Turtle that Slow Poke is her father (p. 170)

What things does Turtle find nothing but trouble?  
Kids (p. 3)  
Babies (p. 34)  
Big families/relations (p. 72)