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**Crest Hill Elementary School**

Comprehension Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gathering Blue**  
**Chapter 1**

**Completely answer the following comprehension questions based on information from the chapter(s).**

1. Kira, a teenage girl with a deformed leg, is waiting for her mother's spirit to leave its body in the Field of Leaving. How long does custom dictate that the living must watch over the bodies of deceased adults to allow the spirit safe passage into the afterlife?
2. What is Kira's father's name? What happened to him?
3. Once Kira senses that her mother's spirit has finally departed, she begins to worry about her future. What does this society usually do to crippled children?
4. What does custom dictate happen to all the belongings of those who die from illness?
5. Kira walks back toward her home, hoping to salvage anything that might have escaped the cleansing fire. Despite her disability, she resolves to rebuild her home and forge a new life for herself. Who does she meet on her way back to her home, and where is he from?
6. Matt asks Kira about the Field of Leaving, as the younger children are forbidden from entering it. He also tells Kira some disturbing information. What does he tell Kira and what do the others want to do with her land?

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**Gathering Blue**  
**Chapter 2**

**Completely answer the following comprehension questions based on information from the chapter(s).**

1. Kira returns to the smoldering remains of her home and finds that virtually all of her possessions have been destroyed. However, she's very happy to find something that was untouched. What was left untouched? What else did she find?
  
2. As Kira arrives at the site of her home, a woman emerges from the bushes and begins stealing carrots from the garden. Kira shouts at the woman and drives her off, but not before the scornfully laughing woman steals her fill. What does this scene tell you about how the women of the community feel about Kira?
  
3. After finishing her meal, Kira inspects the pile of saplings. Vandara, an imposing woman from the village, immediately emerges from a nearby clearing. Describe how Vandara looks, and explain why she is a respected member of the community.
  
4. Vandara confronts Kira, plainly stating that Kira is no longer useful or welcome in the village and that Vandara has claimed Kira's space. Other women soon join the confrontation, looking to Vandara for leadership. Vandara picks up a rock, threatening Kira with it, and the other women follow her lead. How does Kira keep the women from throwing the rocks?
  
5. What happens to anyone who causes a death within the village?

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