The Last Tasmanian

By Herb Curtis

**Introduction (Page 7)**

1. Where is the island of Tasmania? (1)
2. Who was Trucanini? (1)
3. Why do you think Hilda Porter’s great grandfather was upset by the story? (1)
4. What did he do about it? (1)
5. What is the significance of the last line? (1)

**Chapter 1 (Page 9)**

1. Briefly explain the following characters: (20)

Dryfly Ramsey Matthew Nutbeam

Lindon Tucker Shadrack Nash

Bill Wallace Palidin Ramsey

Lillian Wallace Helen MacDonald

Shirley Ramsey Bert Todder

1. Describe the setting. (2)
2. How does Ducky Shaw feel about his two workers? (2)
3. Explain “drifting” and tell what happens if you get caught. (2)
4. What is a sign that the community is supportive of each other? (2)

**Chapter 2 (Page 33)**

1. Describe Shad’s parents. Give two or three character traits for each one and provide references from the text. (6)
2. What are they fighting about? (1)
3. Describe Shad’s outfit and appearance in detail. Who is he trying to look like? (4)
4. Why are Dryfly and Lillian breaking up? (1)
5. What makes Dryfly feel better? (1)

**Chapter 3 (Page 57)**

1. Explain Hilda Porter’s concerns. (2)
2. Why is Dryfly concerned for the baby his mother will have? Do you agree with him? Explain. (3)
3. List two positive things that happen in this chapter. (2)
4. Do you think Dryfly will take Bill up on his offer? Would you? Why or why not? (3)

**Chapter 4 (Page 77)**

1. Define the following words: (4)

Abomination

Incorrigible

Mediocrity

Lambent

1. What has changed at Shirley’s house since Nutbeam has come to live there? (3)
2. Why are Dryfly and his mother worried about him working for Bill? (2)
3. What new information does Hilda give on Tasmania? (3)

**Chapter 5 (Page 100)**

1. Explain what Hilda Porter does about her “man” dilemma. (4)
2. Sum up in a short paragraph what Dryfly thinks of the American influence on Canada. (5)

**Chapter 6 (Page 117)**

1. Hilda’s dilemma is solved. How? (1)
2. What is the point of Lillian’s letter to Dryfly? (1)
3. What affect does John Kaston’s vision have on you as a reader? (1)
4. Describe the “evil presence” in this chapter. What are the signs? (2)
5. Hilda tells her story again. Record a few facts. (3)
6. How is Shad changing his style? Why is he doing so? (2)

**Chapter 7 (Page 137)**

1. What name does Dryfly pick for the new band? What is the significance of it? (2)
2. Explain their first gig. (3)
3. What do we learn about John Kaston and Helen MacDonald in this chapter? (1)
4. How is Dryfly feeling lately about his situation with Lillian? List five points he makes to support your answer. (6)
5. The “evil presence” visits Dryfly. How does it affect him? (1)

**Chapter 8 (Page 154)**

1. Draw and color Nutbeam and Shirley’s new home. (9)
2. Why do they not have a front step? (2)
3. Add some notes on Tasmania. (3)
4. What advice does Elvis give Dryfly? (3)
5. Bill Wallace shames Dryfly. How does he do it? Why do you think he did that? (2)
6. How would you describe John and Helen’s relationship at the end of this chapter? (1)
7. In your opinion, why would Herb Curtis put this situation in this book? (1)

**Chapter 9 (Page 172)**

1. Add to your Tasmanian story. (Page 177) (3)
2. John Kaston feels that his life has improved lately. What “blessings” is he counting? (2)
3. Why do you think Bill gave the job of caretaker to John instead of Dryfly? (1)
4. Dryfly has some serious thoughts on churches and religion. Do you agree with him? Where is the irony here? (2)

**Chapter 10 (Page 196)**

1. Name the members of the Whoopsnakes. Who are they emulating? (4)
2. What effect do the Whoopsnakes have on the teenagers in the Blackville area?(2)
3. Make a T chart that shows how the Whoopsnake followers and the Brylcreamed “greasers” are different. (6)

**Chapter 11 (Page 209)**

1. Define the word “procrastinate”. (1)
2. Make five good questions from this chapter. (5)
3. Supply answers for your questions. (5)

**Chapter 12 (Page 224)**

1. Define “corrugated” and “eccentric”. (2)
2. Add more to your Tasmanian story. (3)
3. What is the secret that everyone knows? (1)
4. Write a personal essay on secrets that are not really secrets. You may include such things as: family secrets that everyone pretends are not happening, neighborhood secrets, secrets you’ve told your friends that didn’t remain secrets, why people don’t keep secrets, etc. Write a minimum of 150 words. (5)

**Chapter 13 (Page 237)**

1. Define “metacarpus”. (1)
2. What surprises the people of Brennan Siding about John’s sermon on Christmas Eve?(1)
3. Who do you think the stranger was? Explain. (2)
4. What affect does his presence … and his disappearance have on the reader? (1)

**Chapter 14 (Page 251)**

1. Define “misanthropy”. (Page 266) (1)
2. What effect do you think Lillian’s letter will have on Dryfly? (1)
3. What is the big news and Nutbeam and Shirley’s house? (1)
4. What surprises Nutbeam the most about Sally? (1)

**Chapter 15 (Page 268)**

1. Define “catharsis”. (1)
2. In the introduction, Lawrence Porter, Hilda’s great-grandfather, said about the Tasmanian story, “*It’s a lesson about humanity that should never be forgotten*.” What is the lesson? (2)
3. What are some possible themes of this novel? (3)
4. Why do you think Herb Curtis called this book about Brennan Sidingers *The Last Tasmanian*? (2)