

game. They had wound each other up. I doubt they even heard me. Leo grabbed a foam noodle from behind Lester and charged upstairs with it. Lester followed.

7 “Do not disturb your mother!” I called out in my Tracker voice. “For if you do, she shall surely come sailing down the stairs in a fury!”

8 Suddenly I heard a loud thump and the sound of objects falling, followed by Leo’s triumphant cry, “Score!” I heard an upstairs door swing open, and Mom’s voice called out, “Logan! Aren’t you watching your brothers? Lester and Leo, get back downstairs and find something quiet to do! Logan, come up here and see what they’ve been up to.”

9 Leo and Lester came slowly back down the stairs as I trudged tiredly up the stairway, feeling like I was about eighty years old. When I got to the top, I saw dozens of hardcover books scattered in the hallway. (My parents were not noted for orderliness or organization. They basically just had too many books, and not enough bookcases.)

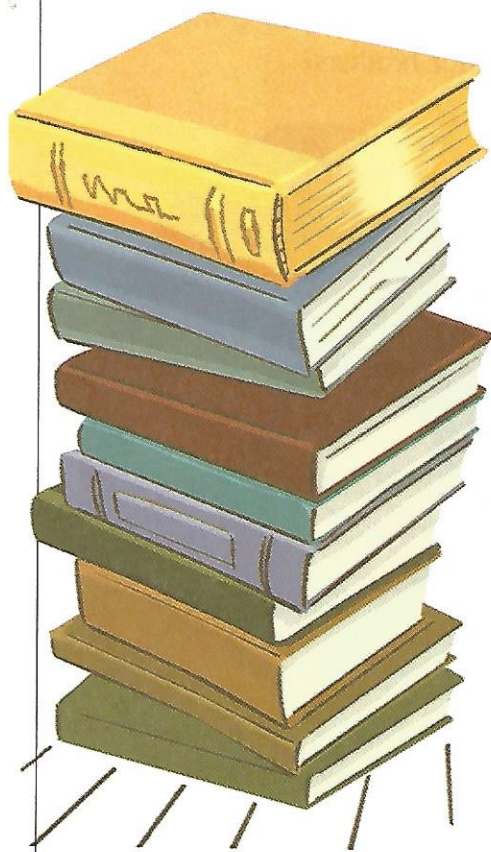
10 I sighed and started to put the books back into a balanced pile against the wall. Then my eyes settled on a book I’d never seen before. It had an old-fashioned leather binding with fancy gold lettering. I picked it up gently and turned the pages with care. It was just an old book of poetry, but it looked valuable and important.

11 Cries and noisy **scurrying** drifted up from downstairs. The twins were back at it again. I heard Mom’s voice from behind her office door: “Logan, can’t you get them to settle down? Please? I have to finish this report.”

CITE EVIDENCE

C In paragraph 9, why are the books scattered in the hallway? Circle a sentence in paragraph 8 that helped you draw this inference.

D Underline the sentences that describe the book and show how the narrator treats it. Discuss whether you think the book might be important later in the story, and why.



Comprehension Check

How do you know that the narrator is already tired of watching his brothers? Explain your answer with details from the text.