**Basket of Flowers Study Guide**

**Ch 1**

**1) What two lessons does the novel say it will teach?**

 1- That the human heart is full of sin, producing evil fruit which results in misery

 2- There is only one remedy for this state of the soul- God's Holy Spirit, which produces fruits of righteousness and perfect peace

**2) What kind of a person was James Rode?**

He was intelligent, hardworking and amiable because he was a Christian. Everyone liked him

**3) Why did James turn down the job offer to work at the Count's garden?**

Although it paid very well, the Count was not a Christian.

**4) What happened to James' other children besides Mary?**

They all died and James' wife also died when he was 60 years old.

**5) Describe Mary.**

She was beautiful, obedient, modest and loved her father greatly.

She took care of the household

**6) What was James and Mary's favorite task?**

Taking care of the flowers

**7) What did James prefer to spend his money on instead of Jewels and silks and outward adornments?**

Flower seeds

**8) What did James teach his daughter through the flowers?**

He taught Mary to admire the power and wisdom and goodness of God.

They also spent much time in prayer every morning

**9) What was James' view of God?**

That He was a tender Father of mankind, whose love was shown not only in all the beautiful works of nature, but above all in the gift of Jesus Christ.

**10) How did James instruct his daughter to be like the violet?**

Let this beautiful flower serve to you as an emblem of humility and sweetness, by its modest colour, its disposition to flourish in hidden places, and the delicate perfume which it sends forth. May you, my dear child, be like the violet, modest in your demeanour, careless of gaudy clothing, and seeking to do good without making any fuss about it"

**11) How did James instruct his daughter to be like the lily?**

"See, in this lily, my daughter, the symbol of innocence. Its leaves are finer than the richest satin, and its whiteness equals that of the driven snow. Happy is the daughter whose heart is pure, for remember the words, 'The pure in heart shall see God.' The more pure the colour, the more difficult to preserve its purity. The slightest spot can spoil the flower of the lily, and so one word can rob the mind of its purity.

**12) What is more beautiful than a rose according to James?**

"Let the rose be the image of modesty. The blush of a modest girl is more beautiful than that of a rose."

**13) Why are modesty and innocence sisters?**

"Innocence and modesty are twin sisters, which cannot be separated. God in His goodness has given to modesty, innocence for a sister and companion, in order that she might be warned of the approach of danger" (p17)

**14) What does the frost spoiled apple blossom represent?**

"As frost spoils the apple blossoms, so wicked pleasures spoil the beauty of youth. Oh, my dear Mary, tremble at the thought of going aside from the right path.

**Ch 2**

**1) Who did Mary meet after picking flowers?**

the Countess Eichbourg and her daughter

**2) How did Mary respond when the Countess offered to purchase the two bouquets that Mary had made?**

Mary declined any money and gave them freely to the Countess and her daughter

**3) How did Amelia and the Countess respond to Mary's gift basket of flowers?**

They were very thankful and planned to give Mary a gift in return

**4) How does Juliette respond to the dress being given to Mary?**

She is jealous

**5) Why was Mary's father not pleased with the dress?**

The valuable present might make others jealous, and it might cause Mary to become vain.

He also said "No costly and beautiful garments so much adorn a young girl as modesty and good manners. It is the Bible that says the ornament of the meek and quiet spirit is in the sight of God of great price."

**Ch 3**

**1) What did the Countess accuse Mary of? Why?**

Of stealing a diamond ring. Because Mary was in the room where the ring went missing

**2) How did Amelia and Mary's father respond to the theft?**

They both assume that she stole it

"Mary, be frank, and do not add falsehood to the crime of theft"

**3) After Mary's father is convinced of her innocence why does he tell her to fear nothing?**

"There is nothing to fear on earth but sin. Prison and death are not to be compared to it."

**4) How does Mary's father respond in the face of the trial that they are to face?**

"Take courage. Not one hair of our heads can fall to the ground without His permission. All that happens to us is the will of God, and what more can we wish? Do not be frightened into saying anything but what is strictly true. If they threaten you, or if they hold out promises, do not depart a hair's breadth from the truth."

**5) How did the town respond to the arrest of Mary and her father?**

Although they were kind to all, some people were happy they were arrested because of jealousy, while others were sure it was a misunderstanding

**Ch 4**

**1) What important life lesson was Mary reminded of from the bouquet?**

"From the midst of thorns, I plucked these rosebuds; and thus I know that joy will come to me from the very troubles which now cause me pain. If I had attempted with my own hands to unfold the leaves of these rosebuds, they would have perished; but God with His delicate finger had gradually unfolded their purple cups and shed over them the sweet perfume of His breath. He can disperse the evils which surround me, and make them turn to my good which seemed all evil. Let me then patiently wait on His time. (she speaks of many more flowers)

**Ch 5**

**1) What testimony was given to falsely incriminate Mary?**

Amelia's maid lied and said that she saw Mary take the ring

**2) What punishment was Mary given after this false testimony?**

She was whipped until blood came in order to make her confess

**3) What approach did the judge try after the whipping didn't work?**

He told Mary that she would be killed if she didn't confess, but she still refused

Then he told her that her father would also be implicated and that he would also die

**4) How did Mary respond to the threats of her father's life?**

She said "If I say I had the ring, it would be a lie; and, though this falsehood would save my life, I cannot utter it, but if life is demanded, spare at least the white hairs of my beloved father. I should be glad to shed my blood for him."

**5) How did the judge and those listening respond to Mary's words?**

They were deeply moved

**Ch 6**

**1) How did Mary respond when her father asked her to forgive Juliette?**

She assured her father that she has forgiven Juliette

**Ch 7**

**1) How has Juliette responded to the sentencing of Mary?**

She has not been able to eat any food. She has also had terrible dreams

**2) What punishment was given to Mary and her father?**

Mary was not killed, but was banished and all of their possessions were sold to try and make up for the cost of the ring

**3) How did Juliette respond to the banishment?**

The wicked girl recovered her spirits and allowed her evil feelings towards Mary to return.

**4) How did Juliette say that Mary is like the flowers?**

That her glory had faded away.

**5) What did Mary's father do once they were left on the outside of the limits of the country?**

He thanked God for bringing them out of a gloomy prison.

**6) What does James say is better than gold?**

A good conscience, a healthy body, and an honorable trade

**7) How did Anthony, the huntsman, help James and Mary?**

He gave them some money and gave James a walking stick

**Ch 8**

**1) How were they treated by most people as the begged?**

Mostly with rebuffs and abuses, but sometimes with kindness

**2) Who helped James when he passed out?**

A farmer and his wife

**3) What sacrifices did the famers make in order to be able to purchases the things required to restore James' health?**

They gave up some of their usual luxuries including a trip to a neighboring village.

**4) How else did the farmer and his wife offer help?**

They said James and Mary could spend the winter with them and that Mary could continue her sewing and James could do his basket weaving.

**Ch 9**

**1) Why was James able to manage the garden? What was his plan for the garden?**

The farmer and his wife were busy with a large plot of land and did not have time for an additional garden. James wanted to grow flowers and fruits to sell

**2) How did a boy visiting the farm get hurt?**

He scratched himself with the thorns on a rosetree

**3) How lesson did James share with the boy about the rosetree?**

Like this rosetree, every pleasure in life has its thorns. We run towards them, and would fain seize them with both hands. Some are led away by a taste for the dance and theatre, others by a taste for strong drink, or still more shameful vices. But the thorns make themselves felt by and by, and then there comes lament for wasted youth, and a distaste for the pleasures once so eagerly sought. Do not let us be foolishly dazzled by the beauty of the world. The chief end which man has to care for is the saving of his soul, and it is folly to give ourselves up to the enjoyment of passion. Our unceasing effort should be use all diligence to gain eternal life."

**4) How are our hearts like a garden according to James?**

Our heart is a garden which the good God has given to us to cultivate. It is necessary that we should constantly apply ourselves to cultivate the good and extract the evil, which is too apt to take root. That we may fulfill faithfully these two duties. let us implore God's assistance and blessing, which makes the sun to shine and rain to fall, the plants to grow and the fruit to ripen. Then will our hearts be delightful gardens. We shall then have heaven within ourselves."

**5) What did James say Mary should pride herself on instead of the beauty of the body?**

The beauty of the soul and true piety, which will never wither.

**6) How are Christian people's bodies like a seed?**

They will be once again animated after being put into the ground.

**Ch 10**

**1) What reason does James give his daughter for not worrying about herself after his death?**

"You have a kind Father in heaven who will never forsake you, although your earthly father will be taken from you. I do not feel anxious about the manner in which you will gain a livelihood when I am dead, for the birds easily find their food, and you will find enough to nourish you. God provides for the smallest sparrow; will He not also provide for you?"

**2) What did James say provided more joy than the large cities, brilliant assemblies, exquisite meals and scarcest of wines and all other vain pleasures?**

An hour of prayer in his own house.

**3) What example does James give to show that paths of grief lead to blessings?**

When he fainted because of loss of water and they found the kind farmer that they currently live with.

**4) Why might God have decided to remove James and Mary from their previous situation?**

Since Mary had won the favor of the countess and her daughter, it was likely that she would be attracted to a life of vanity, so God moved them somewhere where that would not be a temptation.

**5) What does James expect will happen some day after he dies?**

That Mary's innocence will be revealed.

**6) What advice does James give Mary about dealing with misfortune?**

"Let not your heart be troubled by misfortune. Believe firmly that God's tenderness watches over you, that His care will be sufficient for you in whatever place He chooses to take you. In whatever painful situation you may be placed, say, 'It is best for me. Notwithstanding all that, I am safe, for He has brought me here.'"

**Ch 11**

**1) Describe James' final prayer for Mary**

Combines one of Jesus' last prayers for his Disciples with James' own thoughts.

**2) What does James say is worth more than all the gold of autumn leaves?**

The bible

**Ch 12**

**1) What changes happened on Pine Farm?**

The older farmer had his son take over. He was amiable, and good tempered, but unhappy in his choice of wife.

His wife was vain and cared for nothing but money.

Although she should have been pretty, her pride and greed left an imprint on her features that her looks were repellent.

She also was violently opposed to religion and wanted to make her husband's parents miserable and gave them food in a grudging spirit without any grace.

**2) How did the farmer's son select his wife?**

She was rich

**3) What advice did James give about money?**

That it was like rain, you need some, but too much will produce pride and ruin a person.

**4) How did the young farmer's wife treat Mary?**

She complained about her often and despised her

**5) What advice did the minister give to Mary?**

That he would arrange for her to work for a kind Christian family, but in the meantime she should stay where she is and endure.

**6) How does Mary react to this trial?**

She recognizes that she is in the time of the thorns, but that it is but for a season and will result in blooms soon enough.

**Ch 13**

1) Why did Mary have to leave Pine Farm?

The young farmer's wife had a linen stolen from someone and accused Mary (despite an alibi)

So Mary had to leave that very night

2) What other terrible comment did the young farmer's wife make about her husband's parents?

That she should take them with since they are taking too long to die

**Ch 14**

1) Who did Mary meet in the cemetery at midnight?

It was Countess Amelia, who had come to ask her forgiveness and that they had later realized that she had not stolen the ring.

**Ch 15**

**1) How did the Countess Amelia find Mary?**

After discovering Mary's innocence, she was out walking and stopped by a cemetery (as people often do) and noticed a new grave with the basket of flowers used to adorn the grave.

**2) Where does the Countess Amelia bring Mary?**

To her castle to see her parents

**Ch 16**

**1) Where was the ring found?**

In a magpie's nest. They must have stolen it as they are known to do

**2) What happened to Juliette?**

Since the ring was found Juliette's lie was also discovered. She was then thrown into jail and all of her things were sold and all the profits were to be given to Mary.

**3) Describe some of the proverbs about lies mentioned in this chapter.**

**4) Identify at least one other proverb about lying**

**5) How did the judge respond to the discovery of the lost ring?**

He confessed that he would have rather given all of his money away than to do this injustice to an innocent person. He also pointed out that only God is a perfect judge.

**Ch 17**

**1) What happened at the castle?**

The count and countess apologized and gave Mary the ring as an act of justice in addition to giving her the house where she and her father used to live.

**Ch 18**

**1) Describe the events at Pine Farm when the Count and Countess came with Mary.**

Everyone was shocked; especially the young farmer's wife

**2) What offer did the Count give the old farmer and his wife?**

They were invited to stay at a cottage next to the castle

**Ch 19**

**1) What note was sent to the young farmer and his wife?**

That they would still be required to give the old farmer and his wife their quarterly payment for the use of the land as specified by the contract. This ended up costing the young farmer's wife much more than if they would have just stayed where they were.

**2) What other trouble had befallen the young farmer's wife?**

She lost all the money she had invested with a merchant

**3) What ultimately happened to the young farmer's wife?**

She refused to repent of her greed and ended up dying related to the stress of the loss of her money

**Ch 20**

**1) What message did the clergyman give to Mary?**

That someone on their deathbed wanted to speak to her

**2) Describe the house Mary visited with Anthony and the Minister?**

It was a very poor and miserable looking house.

**3) Who was the dying person that had called for Mary?**

Juliette

**4) What happened to Juliette?**

She died

**Ch 21**

**1) How were the old farmer and his wife rewarded for helping Mary and James?**

She was able to help them get their own cottage with a comfortable retirement

**2) What is the moral of the story according the minister?**

That piety towards God and truth towards men will never fail to triumph over the malice of the worst of foes.

**Characters:**

James Rode- Gardener trained from childhood

Mary Rode- Daughter of James Rode

Countess-

Amelia- The countess' daughter

Juliette- A Servant in the house of the Countess, who is jealous of Mary