

Name_____

Hour_____

Date_____

By the Waters of Babylon

p. 582-586

Use the dictionary for the 4-Step Process and write on the back of the worksheet for these vocabulary words:

chamber(n), anteroom(n), midst(n), chariot(n), summon(v)

1. What has John "gone past" at this point in the story?
2. What could be the "great tunnels and caves"?* Infer. Think of a big city.
3. What was at the entrance of the "dead-house"?
4. How does John escape from the dogs?
5. Why is it strange for John to look at the clay bird?* Why does the first-person point of view add to the story here?
6. What happens to John as he closes his eyes in front of the extinguished fire?
7. John says the gods "flew in the air." What actually happened?*
7. List two descriptions of the "Great Burning". What actually happened?*
8. List two descriptions of the "dead god."
9. Why does John no longer fear going home? What has John learned?*
10. John says, "We must build again." Why is this statement ironic?*

Think about John's description of what was "forbidden" at the beginning of the story. What inside of John led him to break the rules of his society? Write a paragraph that uses three specific examples to suggest the lesson that the author Stephen Vincent Benet is teaching. In other words, what could happen again when people rebuild their world after the story ends? Write at least seven sentences on the back of this worksheet and underline your examples.