Study Guide for Joan Aiken’s “Searching for Summer”

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the story or class discussion.

indomitable

omen

unavailing

voluble

withered

II. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the story.

simile

example:______________________________

setting

What is the setting of the story?____________________________________________________

protagonist

Who are the protagonists of this story?____________________________________________

antagonist

Who or what is the antagonist?____________________________________________________

situational irony

example:______________________________________________________________________

verbal irony

example:______________________________________________________________________

dialect

example: ______________________________________________________________________

characterization
direct characterization

indirect characterization

static character

dynamic character

theme

What is the **theme** of the story?

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**III. QUESTIONS:** Answer the following questions.

1. What color dress did Lily wear to her wedding?

2. Why was it important to wear this color?

3. It has been years since what?

4. How did old people begin their stories?

5. What did the children think was absurd?

6. What does Tom say he and Lily will do on their honeymoon?

7. What is the reaction of other people to what Tom says?

8. Why does Mrs. Hoskins start crying?

9. Why did Lily stay in her wedding clothes even when it was uncomfortable because of the cold?

10. After Lily started to get discouraged, what did she and Tom do?

11. What does Lily say she would like to see that she has never seen?

12. When was the last time the proprietor, or owner of the restaurant, saw the sun?
13. Why did they stop in Molesworth?

14. What was the name of the pub that Mr. Noakes ran?

15. How is Mr. Noakes characterized?

16. What is Mr. Noakes’s reaction to Lily saying they are looking for the sun?

17. What does Mr. Noakes say he would do if he had some permanent sun?

18. What does Lily realize she has?

19. Why could Lily hardly bear to walk with her left foot?

20. What words does Tom say that sound strange to the two of them?

21. What does Mrs. Hatching say that make Tom and Lily quizzically repeat the words?

22. What do Tom and Lily find at Mrs. Hatching’s house?

23. What did Mr. Noakes want to know?

24. Why didn’t Tom and Lily tell Mr. Noakes what he wanted to know?

25. Why don’t Tom and Lily go back and get the wedding dress?