

## THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME by VICTOR HUGO

### KEYS TO THE QUESTIONS:

1. Why was 6<sup>th</sup> January an exciting day in Paris?

Because every year on this date there was a special celebration called 'The Feast of Fools'. There was a competition and the ugliest person in the crowd was chosen to be the 'King of Fools'. It was considered a big honour to be chosen the 'King' because he would be the most important man in Paris for the whole day.

2. Why was Quasimodo deaf? Was he also dumb?

He was deaf because he had been ringing the bells of Notre Dame for many years and the noise made him deaf. No, he wasn't. He was deaf, but not dumb.

3. How did Quasimodo feel about being the 'King of Fools'?

Quasimodo had a look of joy on his usually serious, sad face. He was proud to be the centre of attention.

4. Who was Esmeralda? Describe her.

She was a young gypsy girl. She was about 16 years old and very beautiful. She was tall and slim and had small feet. Her large, black eyes shone in her happy, smiling face. Her long black hair fell around her shoulders. She was dressed in a colourful gypsy dress.

5. Who was Paquette? Did she like Esmeralda?

Paquette was a recluse who lived alone in a tiny room in the darkest corner of the square.

No, she didn't. She always shouted at Esmeralda and cursed her because she hated the gypsy woman's songs and dances.

6. Why was there a small bed in front of the entrance to Notre Dame?

Because unwanted babies were left there. People could take any baby they wanted from there and keep it. Those babies who were not taken would be put in an orphanage.

7. How did people who saw the child react? What did they want to do with it?

They were terrified of the baby because they thought it was a monster.

People wanted to kill him because they thought he would bring them bad luck.

8. What happened to Quasimodo after he attacked Esmeralda?

The soldiers tied him with strong ropes and took him at the Court of Justice.

9. What terrible thing had happened to Paquette 16 years ago?

She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and one day she left her alone and when she came back the baby was not there. Paquette found a bag with an ugly and deformed boy inside. She suspected the gypsies had taken her baby and had left the ugly child which nobody wanted.

10. How did the crowd react when Quasimodo was beaten? The official torturer hit him with his whip and the crowd laughed and applauded. They saw it as an exciting spectacle.

11. Why was the judge certain that Esmeralda had stabbed Phoebus? Who was the real murderer?

Because he was certain that she was a witch and she was the only one who The real murderer was the priest Claude.

12. How did Esmeralda react to Claude's declaration of love?

She looked at him with fear and hate. She detested him because he killed Phoebus.

13. Why was Paquette happy that Esmeralda was going to die?

Because she hated gypsies. According to her, they were witches and child thieves. One gypsy stole her baby 16

years ago.

14. How did Quasimodo save Esmeralda?

He used a rope to swing himself down next to Esmeralda. He picked up the young girl and her little goat in his strong arms and ran into the Cathedra with them.

15. When did Claude finally understand that Esmeralda would never be his?

When he offered to help her but she said that she only loved Phoebus and she would prefer to die than be with him.

## SUMMARY

In 15th century Paris, Clopin the puppeteer tells the story of Quasimodo, the misshapen but gentle-souled bell ringer of Notre Dame, who was nearly killed as a baby by Claude Frollo, the Minister of Justice. But Frollo was forced by the Archdeacon of Notre Dame to raise Quasimodo as his own. Now a young man, Quasimodo is hidden from the world by Frollo in the belltower of the cathedral. But during the Festival of Fools, Quasimodo, cheered on by his gargoyle friends Victor, Hugo, and Laverne, decides to take part in the festivities, where he meets the lovely gypsy girl Esmeralda and the handsome soldier Phoebus. The three of them find themselves ranged against Frollo's cruelty and his attempts to destroy the home of the gypsies, the Court of Miracles. And Quasimodo must desperately defend both Esmeralda and the very cathedral of Notre Dame.