

Map II WRAY CASTLE

Aunt Bea drove us through the winding roads of the Lake District and on to our next destination, Windermere.

'You'll forgive me if I go the scenic route, so we can come in through Coniston,' she called above the engine.

I was dozing and started awake.

'Sorry, dear boy, but you won't want to miss the Old Man.' Or at least I think that's what she said.

The Old Man turned out to be a high fell that loomed over a beautiful narrow lake, which looked magical as the early morning mist lifted from it. As we left that behind, coming almost immediately upon another, even bigger lake, I turned to Aunt Bea. She cut me off.

'You were about to say there are a lot of lakes in the Lake District, weren't you?'

I knew that Windermere was going to be beautiful. It's practically the poster child for the whole Lake District. But it's one thing to know that, and another to see it for yourself. We got out of the car and stood there for a long time, watching the water shift and change as the day brightened.

'You can see why the Romantics were obsessed with it here, can't you? It's a beautiful balance between



wildness and cultivation. Just the right amount of danger lurking at the edges to make you feel you've been somewhere proper. You can see how a young Beatrix Potter might have been inspired by that mix of the wild and the human. Fir and tweed, nature red in tooth and claw and bonnets. You can almost see Peter bounding around the corner in his blue jacket with Mr McGregor in hot pursuit can't you? She came back here throughout her young life, and when her writing career took off she bought land all across the Lake District. At the time of her death she donated some 4,000 acres to the National Trust. But the first time she came here was to Wray Castle,' she told me, as we set out on our walk.

'Very imposing, it is. All crenulations and buttresses and cruciform arrow slits and rigidly straight lines, rendered in heavy grey stone. Perfect for repelling enemy knights. It's all a lie, of course. The arrow slits don't even go anywhere. It was built in 1840 for a surgeon who had a rich wife, and it's perfectly pleasant inside. It's very convincing though, a great example of the Victorian Gothic. Perhaps the lesson here is not to take things at face value – or not to put too much faith in the things that the world presents as true. So be on the lookout for trickery and deception, my boy. Particularly when on a treasure hunt!'



QUESTIONS

Easy

1. How many sheepfolds are there on the map?
2. How might you approach Low Wray from the east differently in summer than in winter?

Medium

3. What is the highest number written in orange on the map?
4. What might be the smelliest place on the map?

Tricky

5. Sum the numbers of the two highest A-roads together, and subtract the number of the B-road. Halve the result, and add the number of times the word 'Brathay' appears on the map. Divide by the number of ferry routes out of Ecclelrigg House, and find the resulting number in black. Heading directly west, how many contour lines do you cross before leaving the map?
6. Blelham Tarn, with its associated bogland, is a site of special scientific interest. What is a tarn?

Challenging

7. What is the name and species of the famous Beatrix Potter antagonist who links Crag and Hole on the map?
8. Which of the following words is the odd one out?
 - a. Angle
 - b. Brathay
 - c. Gale
 - d. Pull

Key Puzzle

* There are several churches on the map, but only one ecclesiastical word. What is it?





1. 4 (1 east of Ambleside, 1 north of Todd Crag and 2 south-east of Strawberry Wood)
2. You can catch a ferry
3. 5286, the number of the B-road into Clappersgate (though the greatest contour line height fully on the map is 300, east of Strawberry Wood)
4. Stencher Beck
5. 3 ($5075 + 593 - 5286 = 382 \div 2 = 191 + 4$ [Brathay Farm, Brathay Hall, Brathay Rocks and Brathay Garths] = $195 \div 3 = 65$, 65m point on B5286 near Beck Pane Wood)
6. A mountain lake, specifically one hollowed out by glacial erosion
7. Tommy Brock, the badger (Brock Crag and Brockhole)
8. d. Gale (it is the only one not written on a green background anywhere on the map)



Key Answer

* Vicarage