

41 Here he turned to the rough trundle bed full of little woolly heads and broke fairly down. He leaned over the back of the chair and covered his face with his large hands. Sobs, heavy, hoarse, and loud, shook the chair, and great tears fell through his fingers on the floor.

42 “And now,” said Eliza, as she stood in the door, “I saw my husband only this afternoon; he stopped off on his way from the Harris place, and I little knew then what was to come. They have pushed him to the very last standing place, and he told me today that he was going to run away. Do try, if you can, to get word to him. Tell him how I went and why I went, and tell him I’m going to try to find Canada. You must give my love to him, and tell him if I never see him again—” She turned away and stood with her back to them for a moment. Then she finished in a husky voice, “Tell him to be as good as he can, and try and meet me in the kingdom of heaven.”

43 There were a few last words and tears, a few simple adieus⁵ and blessings. Then, clasping her wondering and frightened child in her arms, Eliza slipped noiselessly away.

¹pecuniary (pī kyū’ nē er’ ē)

²paltry (pōl’ trē)

³gild (gild)

⁴accomplice (ə kom’ plis)

⁵adieu (ə dyüz’)

Building Vocabulary

Write the letter of the best definition for each word, as it is used in the selection.

- lugged (paragraph 1)
 - dragged
 - carried
 - brought reluctantly
 - persuaded to come
- pecuniary (paragraph 9)
 - large
 - small
 - compromising
 - financial
- paltry (paragraph 9)
 - trivial
 - financial
 - selfish
 - weak
- fancied (paragraph 11)
 - needed
 - liked
 - imagined
 - dressed up
- gild it over (paragraph 13)
 - make it shiny
 - make it unnoticeable
 - make it come out right
 - make it beautiful