

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD

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READING RIGHT

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THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD

Synopsis

Omri is given a key, and some plastic figures for his birthday. At first they don't seem like much, but the magic they contain changes his life. He discovers that he can turn toys into real people and animals. At first it is like a game to him, but when he lets his friend Patrick in on his secret, he discovers it is more than just a game. The toys become real people with real needs, and Omri finds out that being responsible for someone else isn't always easy.

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LESSON 1

Chapter 1-3

1. From whom did Omri get the plastic Indian?
2. What does Omri need to do for the cupboard to bring them alive?
 - A. He leaves them in the cupboard for the count of ten.
 - B. There is something magical about the cupboard.
 - C. He uses his great grandmother's key.
3. Why doesn't Little Bear like the plastic teepee when it becomes real?
 - A. The signs on it were of the Algonquin tribe not the Iroquois.
 - B. He wanted his family teepee not someone else's.
 - C. It was a winter teepee but it was summer at the time.
4. What does "ransacked " mean ? "Down in the kitchen he ransacked his mother's store cupboard for a tin of meat."
5. Number the following events in the correct order.
 - ___ Omri bringing the Indian meat.
 - ___ Little Bear riding outdoors.
 - ___ Little Lear taming the horse.
 - ___ Little Bear telling stories of fighting against the French.
6. "Omri shouted, "You made me forget my swimming stuff"! That naturally led to them all being late for school and furthermore, arriving in a very grubby condition". What do you think happened that caused them to be in a grubby condition?
7. What kind of dangers might a miniature Indian and his horse find in in Omri's backyard?

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LESSON 2

Chapter 4-7

1. How did Little Bear's leg get hurt ?
 - A. Omri squeezed him too hard.
 - B. The horse kicked him.
 - C. He tried to jump off the table.
2. Omri didn't want to lie to his mother about the strange objects she found in his room. How does he get out of it ?
3. What does "dire" mean ?

".....he never did it unless the emergency was dire..."
4. Circle the event, which happened first.
 - A. Patrick not being invited over to Omri's house.
 - B. Omri getting in trouble for taking the seed tray.
 - C. Tommy Atkins coming to life to help the Indian.
5. What did Omri's art teacher mean when she said, "what patience all of a sudden" ?
 - A. Omri was working very hard and other days he daydreamed.
 - B. He was trying something new that the teachers had suggested.
 - C. The teacher was being rude because he wasn't paying attention.
6. Patrick senses Omri is telling the truth about the Indian but he still doesn't believe him. Describe how you would feel if a friend told you that story.
7. Omri tells Patrick that turning plastic figures into real people isn't all fun because they are real people with real lives. What does he mean by that ?

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LESSON 3

Chapter 8-11

1. Who shot Patrick ?
2. The cowboy thinks that Omri is a hallucination (not real).
Why does he think that?
 - A. He thinks he had too much in drink.
 - B. He thinks creatures that big can't possibly be real.
 - C. He was sleeping when he saw them, so he figured it was a dream.
3. Omri was awakened by the sound of gunshots. Explain what happened ?
4. What does "dolefully" mean ?
"...where the company was now sitting dolefully on the carpet."
 - A. Full of grief, sad.
 - B. Very sweet.
 - C. Confused.
5. Patrick threatens to tell everyone about the Indian if Omri doesn't do what he wants. How did this make you feel about Patrick ?
6. What do you think might happen if other people found out about the Indian and the cowboy ?
7. Compare how differently the Indian and the cowboy treated when they were first brought to life ?

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LESSON 4

Chapter 12-14

1. Why was Patrick late returning from lunch?
 - A. He had gone to the bathroom.
 - B. He had gone to an empty room to feed the Indian and the cowboy.
 - C. He wanted Omri to worry, to get back at this.
2. Underline the words that could be used to describe Patrick.

Irresponsible understanding cautious foolish
3. When Omri and Patrick got home after school the cupboard was missing. Who had taken it?
 - A. Adiel had taken it because he thought Omri had taken his shorts.
 - B. His Mom had cleaned his room and thrown it out.
 - C. His Father had needed it to keep gardening supplies in.
4. What does "gesticulating" mean ?

"..for they were both gesticulating with their arms.."
5. Omri and Patrick have been friends for a long time but the author says that their friendship is on the, "...edge of destruction". Explain.
6. What would be a reason that you would feel it necessary to end a friendship ?

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LESSON 5

Chapter 15-16

1. The magical key is missing. Who brings it back to them and how does he do it ?
2. Why was it so important for them to find the key quickly ?
 - A. They didn't want the rat to hide it somewhere.
 - B. Omri's Mom had been asking about it.
 - C. To celebrate the return to their own times.
3. What does "stealthily" mean ?

"then slowly, stealthily, the door was pushed a little farther open."
4. Underline the event that happened last.
 - A. The key was lost.
 - B. Tommy Atkins returns.
 - C. The rat got loose.
5. This type of book is this called:
 - A. Fantasy.
 - B. Science fiction.
 - C. Modern fiction.
6. Compare Little Bear to a character in another story you read and tell how they are similar.

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Answer Key

LESSON 1

1. Omri got the plastic Indian from his friend Patrick for his birthday.
2. C
3. A
4. Ransacked means to search thoroughly.
5. The correct order is 2, 4, 3, and 1.
6. The brothers got in a fight with each other on the way to school causing them to be both late and grubby looking.
7. Answers will vary. There could be many dangers in the backyard, some possibilities are: animals- due to their large size, small holes, small stones would become mountains, people might step on them or they could get lost.

LESSON 2

1. B.
2. Omri doesn't have to lie because the phone rings and she goes to answer it.
3. Dire means very horrible or dreadful.
4. C.
5. A.
6. Answers will vary. Most would find the story hard to believe.
7. Omri feels that it isn't all fun turning the plastic figures into people because they are from another time, they have real families somewhere they have needs that he has to take care of, and he feels responsible for helping them.

LESSON 3

1. Boone, the cowboy, shot Patrick.
2. A
3. Omri had tried to keep the Indian and the cowboy apart but the horses had sensed each other and started making noises. This caused the cowboy to be curious and when he found the Indian, he started shooting.
4. A
5. Answers will vary. Patrick's attitude should have made the reader think he is acting selfishly and not very likeable.
6. If other people found out about the small people they would be taken away to be studied or put in a freak show for people to see.
7. The Indian acted brave and the cowboy acted confused and unbelieving. The cowboy tried to ignore the giant boy, and the Indian attacked him.

LESSON 4

1. B
2. Irresponsible and foolish should be underlined.
3. A
4. Gesticulating means to use gestures when speaking.
5. The author thinks the friendship is on the edge because Patrick and Omri are in complete disagreement about how to handle the Indian and the cowboy. Omri is trying to be careful with them, but Patrick sees them as a way to have fun and be better than others. He is not concerned for the small people only for himself.
5. The correct order is 3, 1, and 2.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5

1. Little Bear returns the magical key to the boys by crawling into the hole in the floor of Omri's room and dragging it out.
2. C
3. Stealthily means to be done in a secretive manner.
4. B
5. A
6. Answers will vary