

DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD

Review

The Indian in the Cupboard is a 181 page fantasy novel written by Lynne Reid Banks for young adults. A young boy receives a magical present, and soon makes some new friends. Once his new friends come alive he must wrestle with who to tell, what it means to be a living thing, and how to take care of them. *The Indian in the Cupboard*, covers many topics such as friendship, ownership, enemies, and what it means to be alive.

Omni has been known to do childish things especially in revenge and he can have trouble staying out of an argument or controlling his anger. With his new friends, some of his old games start to seem less interesting to him. However, to make the right decision, Omni must learn and remember the difference between something plastic and something alive and deal with others with very different views from himself.

Book Club Questions

1. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni receives a gift he's not very excited about at first. Have you ever gotten a gift that you didn't think was very exciting at first but later turned into one of your favorites?
2. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni refers to Little Bear as "my indian." Once little bear is considered alive, is Omni right to refer to him as his?
3. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni and his friend Patrick use "school slang" that they've made up. What "school slang" have you and your friends made up and use at school that only a few would now the meaning of?

4. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni experiments to find out what he can make come alive. What would you put into the cupboard if it were yours?
5. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni worries as he lets Little Bear and the horse run free outside that they will escape. Would you have allowed Little Bear and the horse to run free? If you had been Little Bear, would you have tried to escape?
6. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni places a number of things in the cupboard. Do these things wish to return to where they came? Why or why not? Would you have wanted to return if you had ended up in Omni's cupboard? Why or why not? Why does Omni hesitate to send them back?
7. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni learns a bit about the Indians from Little Bear. What does he learn? What is the cause of the Iroquois and the Algonquin's interest in scalping?
8. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni tries to resist the temptation to tell others about Little Bear. Should Omni have told Patrick or any others about Little Bear? Why or Why not? What may have happened if he had showed Little Bear to his brothers? Mother or Father? Kids at school?
9. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni feels there is much about having Little Bear that is "not fun." What is "not fun" about having Little Bear? Do you agree that having Little Bear would have some aspects that were "not fun." Why or why not?
10. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni wonders if it's a good idea to use the cupboard to bring anyone else alive. Do you feel it is a good idea to create any more? Why or why not? If your best friend asked you if they could would you let him or her?
11. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni promises not to turn the

Cowboy back. Should he keep his promise or is it more important to protect the Cowboy? Why or why not?

12. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Little Bear and Boone are enemies. When they get into a fight should Omni have broken it up? Should he have broken it up sooner? Why or why not?

13. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni notices changes in his attitude toward things he once thought fun. How has Omni grown from his experience with Little Bear?

14. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni and Patrick have different views of Little Bear and Boone. What are the differences between each kids attitude and treatment of Little Bear and Boone? What accounts for this difference?

15. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni does find some aspects of having little bear around even at school. What "fun" does Omni have with Little Bear?

16. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Little Bear asks Omni for other Indians and even a wife. Should Omni provide these things for Little Bear? Why or why not?

17. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni and Patrick run into problems over Little Bear and Boone that affects their friendship. In what ways is their friendship most affected.

18. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni is accused of taking Adiel's shorts. Why does Adiel assume that Omni took them?

19. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Little Bear and Boone see each other as enemies? Does Little Bear's feeling change toward Boone or do Boone's feelings change toward Little Bear? Why or why not?

20. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni forgets something important before sending Little Bear under the floor board. What did he forget?

21. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Little Bear and Boone can be dated by some of views they hold. What are some of the views that Boone and Little Bear have that have changed by the time Omni is alive? That have changed for those of us living now?

22. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, Omni takes some risks to give Little Bear what he demands. What are some of the risks he takes to appease Little Bear that could have had serious consequences?