

Teacher Guide

Grades 5–6

The Indian in the Cupboard

Lynne Reid Banks

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THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD

by
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Teacher Guide

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Note

The Avon paperback edition of the book was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming, classifying
and categorizing, analyzing

Writing

Narrative, expository

Listening/Speaking

Participation in discussion
and cooperative groups,
entertain others with
dramatic activities

Vocabulary

Synonyms/antonyms,
analogies

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,
cause/effect, inference

Literary Elements

Character, setting, conflict,
theme, suspense, imagery

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Chapters 7-8
pp. 62-85

Vocabulary: compromised 62 privet 64 gaping 67
 galvanized 67 reverently 68 magnanimously 68
 incredulous 69 petrified 80 embedded 80
 ravenously 83

Vocabulary Activity: Match five of the words in the vocabulary list with the word or phrase which means the same thing in the synonym box below.

startle into action	skeptical	staring
hungrily	conceded	generously

(ans: galvanize-startle into action; incredulous-skeptical; gaping-staring; ravenously-hungrily; compromised-conceded; magnanimously-generously)

Discussion Questions

1. Who are the "Unwritten Brothers"? Why do they become suspicious? (Omri's brothers go into his room, discover the longhouse, and hear a horse whinnying under the bed.)
2. Little Bear creates several problems for Omri to solve, such as obtaining raw meat. What are some of the other problems? How does Omri solve them? (Omri gets a piece of beef from the refrigerator, makes a spit from pieces of his Erector set, starts a fire with twigs over a tin plate.)
3. Once Patrick discovers the secret, a new problem develops. What is it? (Patrick wants to have his own version.)
4. How does Little Bear's meat get ruined? (The boys scuffle when Patrick tries to put a cup in the cabinet; Omri steps on the meat.)
5. Why is it "just a well" that Omri usually wins the egg and spoon contest? (Omri has to rush upstairs with a spoonful of soup to stop Patrick from using the cupboard.)

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- 6. Why isn't Omri much bothered when Patrick gets shot? Should he be? (*The bullet from the cowboy's gun is only a little one; Omri is angry with Patrick for bringing the cowboy to life, and worried about the safety of the man and horse.*)
- 7. In what way does Little Bear want Omri to "be mother" to him? (*Usually it is the Apache brave's mother who finds him a wife.*)
- 8. Why doesn't Omri want to bring the men to school? Do you think he should? Why does he decide to bring them? (*He is worried about what will happen if they are discovered; Patrick threatens to tell otherwise.*)

Prediction: Will Patrick tell others the secret? How will Little Bear and Boone get along?

Research Activity: When Little Bear starts swinging his ax, Patrick thinks of David and Goliath (p. 77) Read the original story of David and Goliath and explain Patrick's association.

Art Activity: Based on the description given on page 78, make a picture of Boone (drawing or construction paper cut-outs).

Writing Activity: While Omri is cooking the stew, he has a heart-stopping thought about what might be happening upstairs. Moments later, he finds exactly what he dreaded. Have you ever had your worst suspicions proven correct? Describe that incident.

- Comparisons:**
23. How are Patrick and Omri alike? How are they different? How are Little Bear and Boone alike? How are they different? Complete a Venn diagram for each pair. (Put words and phrases which describe each character beneath his name; put those descriptions which apply to both characters in the overlapping circle.)

