



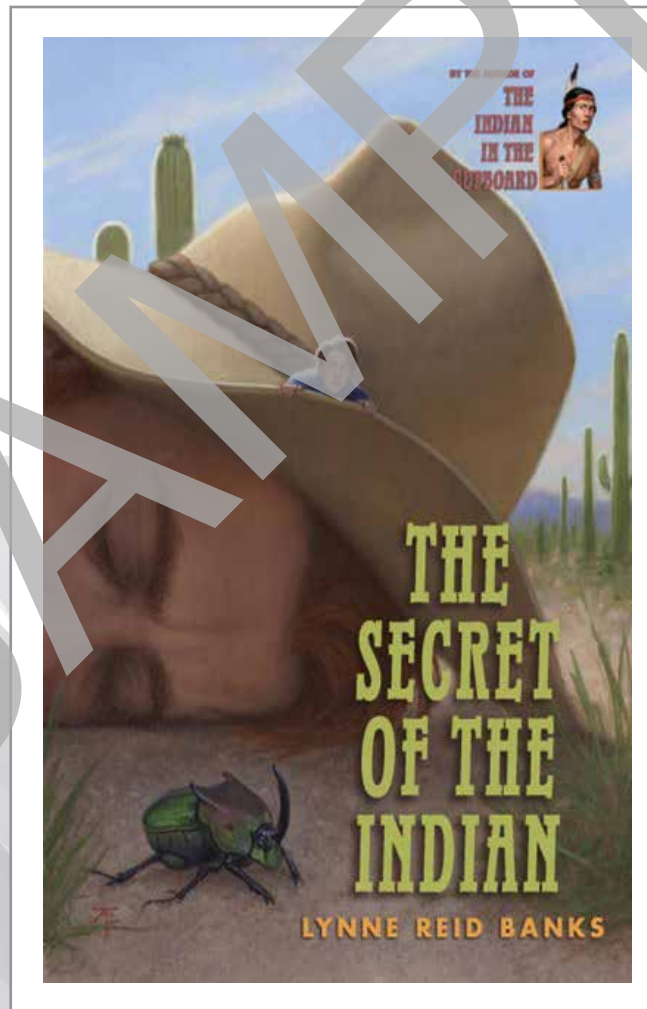
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 6-8

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

The Secret of the Indian

Lynne Reid Banks



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Secret of the Indian

Lynne Reid Banks

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Skills and Strategies

Comprehension

Predicting, cause and effect,
comparison/contrast

Literary Elements

Characterization, setting,
parallel action

Writing

Description, narrative, letters,
note, short story

Thinking

Brainstorming, research

Vocabulary

Word mapping, synonyms,
antonyms, analogies

Listening/Speaking

Discussion, pantomime,
drama

Summary:

This is the third book in a series, beginning with Banks' award-winning Indian in the Cupboard. This story takes up where The Return of the Indian leaves off: Omri returns home to London from a time travel trip to America during the time of the French and Indian Wars. Back at Omri's home, some "skinheads" break in while Omri's parents are away. Omri and his friend Patrick put some Marines in Omri's special old medicine cabinet and lock it with the magic key—bringing the tiny Marines to life. The tiny Marines successfully drive away the skinheads with their little guns, shortly before Omri's parents arrive. Now Omri and Patrick face a new crisis. In Omri's room, Matron—a plastic nurse brought to life—is doing her best to minister to some wounded Indians, but several have died. Not only must the boys figure out what to do with the very real-albeit tiny-bodies, but they must find a doctor to help Matron. After sending the dead Indians back to their own time to receive a proper burial, the boys decide to try to buy a plastic doctor from Patrick's peevish cousin, Tamsin. Meanwhile, Patrick insists on finding out for himself what time travel is like; Omri agrees to send him back (by using the magic key on a seaman's chest) with Patrick's favorite plastic figure—the cowboy "Boo-Hoo Boone." Unfortunately the plans go awry when Patrick nearly squeezes Boo-Hoo to death during the time transfer. When Tamsin's nicer twin, Emma discovers Omri's secret, he is forced to make a "new insider" of her. Tamsin, in turn, helps convince her sister to sell the plastic doctor, which Omri quickly brings alive to help Matron treat the wounded. Back in Boone's world, tiny Patrick takes a hair-raising ride on Boone's horse and meets the flamboyant, kind Ruby-Lou who turns out to be in love with Boone. Fortunately for Boone, Omri is able to perform CPR on the tiny figure in London, which results in the recovery of the life-size Boone in pioneer-times America. After tiny Boone requests some liquor, Omri breaks into the family liquor cabinet and is caught red-handed by his father, who pressures him to drink what he has poured.

At school, Omri is thrilled to learn that he has won a fiction-writing prize for his story about the Indian in the cupboard, but his joy is short-lived; rigid Mr. Johnson, who actually glimpsed the tiny live Indian with Omri the year before, confronts Omri about the factual nature of the story. Back in Boone's time, the sky turns yellow and a tornado begins to form. Patrick and Boone return to present-day London through the chest—bringing the destructive tornado with them (just as Mr.

Chapters 3-4
pp. 16-31

Vocabulary:	rummaging 16	transforming 18	emerged 19
	contingent 20	singed 21	rifling 21
	routed 21	aftermath 21	conferred 22
	casualties 23	clambered 25	destinies 26
	paddock 26	morgue 26	formidable 27
	convulsive 27	ferverly 27	allegedly 28
	dithered 30	penlight 30	

- Vocabulary Activity:**
- Could you rummage through a closet? (*yes*)
 - Could a butterfly emerge from a cocoon? (*yes*)
 - Could a boy clamber over a rock? (*yes*)
 - Would you buy casualties in a clothing store? (*no*)
 - Would you hold a banquet in a morgue? (*no*)
 - Could soldiers be routed by an artillery assault? (*yes*)
 - Could you write a letter with a penlight? (*no*)

Discussion Questions:

1. Sometimes authors use a flashback to tell readers about something that happened before the story begins. What do you learn in flashback about how “it had all started more than a year before”? (*Omri’s brother had given him a medicine cabinet as a present and Omri had discovered that when he used his great-grandmother’s key to lock the cupboard, plastic figures—like the American Indian given to him by Patrick— could be brought to life.*)
2. Why did the boys send the Indians and the cowboy back the first time? (*They discovered that Little Bear was demanding and that it was too much responsibility to protect the figures from the dangers in our world.*)
3. Why did Omri break his resolution and bring the Indian back to life? (*He wanted Little Bear to share in the triumph he felt after winning the prize for his story, “The Plastic Indian.”*)

4. Why did Omri bring back Little Bear's wife, the Marine Corporal, the other Indians, Boone, and the Matron? (*Little Bear's wife happened to be putting injured Little Bear on a pony when the magic worked; Matron was brought back to help save Little Bear's life; the others were brought to life to help Little Bear take revenge on the Algonquins.*)
5. How did Omri get his head burned? (*Omri had gone back—by turning the magic key on a seaman's chest—to witness the battle.*)
6. In a way, the boys are responsible for the injuries to the Indians. Why? (*Most of the Indians shot each other with the guns the boys had given them to fight the Algonquins.*)
7. How did Tamsin's fall off a bicycle result in Patrick's being at Omri's house now? (*Patrick had moved to Kent, but his mother was visiting Patrick's aunt and cousins; when one hurt herself, the stay was extended.*)
8. Compare and contrast how the two boys feel about the deaths. (*Omri is on the verge of crying and feels responsible; Patrick feels badly, too, but rationalizes that there's no point in feeling too badly, and that the Indians lived in dangerous times.*)
9. What is Matron like? (Begin an attribute web—see page 15.) (*stern, gruff, hard-working, feeling overwhelmed but unwilling to let her feelings show*)
10. Why isn't Omri happy to see Emma? (*He knows that she has come to take Patrick home, and he needs Patrick's moral support and help with the injured Indians.*)

Prediction:

How will Patrick respond to Omri's suggestion that he go back now with Boone? What will Emma say when she finds Patrick gone? What problems will Patrick run into?

Literary Analysis: Setting: The setting is the time and place of a story. What clues do you have so far to the setting of the story? (Omri lives in London; his neighborhood is a “not-so-good” one—considering that his babysitter was mugged and his house ransacked; time is present-day for Omri—Little Bear’s time is the 18th century.)

Art Activity: Using a seed tray, plastic figures, and whatever other small objects you choose—recreate the scene Omri witnessed when he checked on the little people the morning after the skinhead episode (p. 25).

Research/Math:

1. Research the French and Indian Wars.
2. Find out the equivalent of a pound in American money. (The Almanac and the Business Section of your local newspaper are two possible sources.) How much did Omri win for his story? (300 pounds; each pound is a little over 2 dollars, so— \$600.)