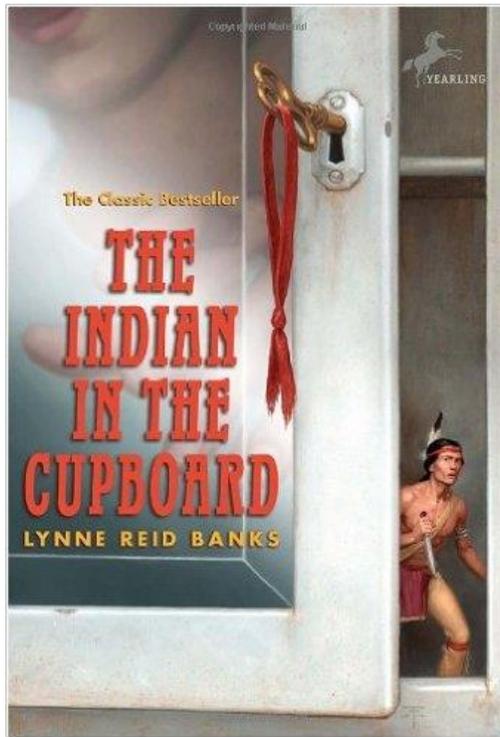


Indian in the Cupboard

Written by: Lynne Reid Banks



Packet by: _____

Main Characters Sheet

Name	Personality/character traits
Omri	
Patrick	
Gillon	
Adiel	
Little Bear	
Boone	

Comprehension Questions Chapters 1-2: (Birthday Presents &The Door is Shut)

1) Why was Omri dissatisfied with Patrick’s gift?

2) What was Omri’s first response when he heard the noises from the cupboard the morning after his birthday?

3) What happened when Omri tried to pick the Indian up the first time? Use the **Cause & Effect** questions below to answer.

Why did it happen?

What happened?

4) Why was Omri afraid to get in an argument with Patrick about the Indian?

5) Omri became anxious about his Indian while he was at school. Why was he concerned for the Indian?

6) “Not touch! You touch, I use knife!” the Indian warned. We can make an inference from the dialogue that the Indian was very _____

- a. Fierce and demanding
- b. Shy and passive (soft spoken)
- c. Sad
- d. Perplexed and confused

7) This story is written from what "point of view?" _____

Vocabulary Chapters 1-2:

compost: _____

petrified: _____

coherent: _____

vast: _____

plait: _____

row: _____

unwarily: _____

appalled: _____

coaxed: _____

falteringly: _____

presumably: _____

ravenously: _____

crestfallen: _____

strewn: _____

verdict: _____

Fantasy vs. Reality

Write a sentence about something from this story that *could not really happen*, and draw a picture below. (Fantasy)



Write a sentence now about something from this story that really *could* have happened. (Reality)

Comprehension Questions Chapters 3-4: Thirty Scalps & The Great Outdoors

8) What does Omri do after he puts the Indian to bed {inside the tepee?} Why did he do it?

9) Why was Omri feeling timid about confiding in his parents about Little Bear {the Indian}?

10) In their conversation about his life as an Indian, what does Omri learn about Little Bear's character?

11) What did Little Bear think Omri studied in school?

12) After he got kicked by the horse, why did Little Bear not let himself limp or show that he was injured?

13) What, or who, did Omri put in the magic cupboard to help Little Bear with his injury?

Vocabulary Chapters 3-4:

intense: _____

wrenched: _____

uncompromisingly: _____

stability: _____

lithely: _____

ransacked: _____

seething: _____

mere: _____

dismay: _____

hesitantly: _____

escarpment: _____

peril: _____

foreboding: _____

brandishing: _____

orderly: _____

Comprehension Questions Chapters 5-6: Tommy & The Chief is Dead, Long Live the Chief

14) Who is Tommy Atkins and what does he do for Little Bear?

15) Who does Omri lie to and why does he lie?

Vocabulary Chapters 5-6:

bewildered: _____

tourniquet: _____

wielding: _____

keen: _____

peevishly: _____

dire: _____

presumably: _____

courtesies: _____

engulfing: _____

hectoring: _____

Comprehension Questions Chapters 7-8: Uninvited Brothers & Cowboy!

16) Why is Patrick frustrated towards Omri at the beginning of the chapter?

17) Why does Omri panic when he sees his brothers in his room? What are they actually doing in there?

18) What problems does Patrick cause by bringing Boone to life?

Vocabulary Chapters 7-8:

privet: _____

uncanny: _____

galvanized: _____

agog: _____

imperiously: _____

magnanimously: _____

incredulous: _____

soberly: _____

feeble: _____

gratifying: _____

instinctively: _____

mulish: _____

infinitely: _____

penetrated: _____

Comprehension Questions Chapters 9-10: Shooting Match & Breakfast Truce

19) {Opinion} Who is more responsible with the magic of the cupboard—Omri or Patrick?

20) What do you think of the relationship between Little Bear and Omri? Do they treat each other as friends would?

Vocabulary Chapters 9-10:

delirium: _____

frenzied: _____

tactics: _____

dolefully: _____

truce: _____

plumb: _____

nonplused: _____

Comprehension Questions Chapters 11-12: School & Trouble with Authority

21) Why does Little Bear stick Omri with his dagger at school?

Vocabulary Chapters 11-12:

bandolier: _____

stark: _____

fiendish: _____

hordes: _____

gesticulating: _____

tousled: _____

partition: _____

alcove: _____

retorted: _____

Comprehension Questions Chapters 13-14: Art & Accusation, the Missing Key

22) Why did Patrick tell Mr. Johnson the truth about Boone and the Indian?

23) Why does Omri get in trouble with the art teacher? Why does she laugh at him?

24) What does Adiel take from Omri? Why?

25) Why does Little Bear shoot Boone while they're watching TV?

Vocabulary Chapters 13-14:

flummoxed: _____

mottled: _____

expanse: _____

enthralled: _____

poised: _____

infinitesimal: _____

aghast: _____

staunchly: _____

sieve: _____

chasm: _____

prostrate: _____

disinfectant: _____

Comprehension Questions Chapters 15-16: Underfloor Adventure & Brothers

26) Put the following events in order:

1. Little Bear goes under the floor board.
2. A woman for Little Bear is brought to life.
3. Boone is shot by Little Bear.
4. The key for the cupboard is found
 - a. 4,3,2,1
 - b. 4,1,2,3
 - c. 3,1,4,2
 - d. 3,1,2,4

27) Omri told Little Bear that Boone didn't need the 'spirits' to help Boone recover. What did he say he needed? _____

28) What is Omri's plan for getting the key to the cupboard back?

29) What was the main conflict Omri faced in chapter 16?

30) Why did Omri give the key to his mom at the end of the book?

31) What would you say the main idea or theme of the book is?

Vocabulary Chapters 15-16:

insulation: _____

perils: _____

lath: _____

vulnerable: _____

bedraggled: _____

blokes: _____

hypodermic: _____

septic: _____

relapse: _____

flourish: _____

pommel: _____

huskily: _____

petered: _____

Answer Key

Comprehension Questions:

- 1) Omri was somewhat tired of small plastic figures, since he already had so many.
- 2) He was scared and very afraid.
- 3) The Indian stabbed him with his knife (effect) because Omri tried to pick him up & it scared the Indian. (cause)
- 4) Omri was worried that if he spoke about the Indian at all, something bad would happen to him.
- 5) Omri realized the Indian might die if he didn't have enough oxygen.
- 6) The Indian was very fierce and demanding (a)
- 7) Third person point of view

Reality (Omri going to school and learning OR the argument Omri & his brothers had at breakfast) vs. **Fantasy** (Omri putting the Indian & other plastic figures in the cupboard & having them come to life)

- 8) He (Omri) conducts an experiment to determine if the cupboard can turn anything that is plastic into something living.
- 9) They might take Little Bear & the cupboard away from him.
- 10) The Indian had taken 30 scalps (or lives) in real life.
- 11) Little Bear thought Omri studied the law of the tribe, honor for ancestors, & ways of the spirits.
- 12) Little Bear just wanted to act brave and tough.
- 13) Omri put in a First World War soldier (with a red armband.)
- 14) Tommy is a soldier serving as a medic in the World War.
- 15) Omri first lies to Patrick about his Mom having guests over as a pretext for why Patrick can't come over to play. When he gets home, Omri began to think of a story to explain the mess in his bedroom to his mom, but is saved by the phone ringing.
- 16) They've been friends for a long time, and Patrick normally can tell when Omri is lying. But he realizes this is a non-lie, and yet he can't believe it without actually seeing the Indian {Little Bear.}
- 17) Omri thinks his brothers have discovered Little Bear & he panics that they've discovered his secret. They actually went in his room because Gillon's rat got loose & then they got distracted by the little house (fashioned by Little Bear.)

- 18) Patrick is so excited about the little men figurines coming to life & he doesn't want to keep things a secret from everyone else (specifically his brothers.) He wants to bring them to school. It's also a bad idea since cowboys and Indians are typically enemies in real life from that time period & the two do not seem to be getting along. (see chapter 9, *Shooting Match*.)
- 19) {Opinion} I think Omri is definitely more responsible, because after he brings the Indian to life, he provides for his basic needs (i.e. food and supplies.) He also doesn't treat them like toys, but real people.
- 20) Omri mostly seems to treat Little Bear as a friend, until he starts misbehaving. Then he seems more like a father figure to him (see pg. 103 or the end of chapter 10.)
- 21) Little Bear wants to be let out of Omri's pocket and allowed to see Omri's classroom and everything else at school.
- 22) Patrick felt like he was obligated to tell him, in order to escape getting disciplined. But he thinks Mr. Johnson will think his eyes tricked him.
- 23) Omri is chattering or talking to Boone and Indian (even though the teacher thinks he's talking to himself.) She laughs because the drawing is so minute & tiny.
- 24) Adiel takes the white cupboard because he couldn't find his football shorts & was sure Omri had taken them.
- 25) Boone is taunting about all the Indians being killed on the TV show by the cowboys.
- 26) C. 3,1,4,2
- 27) Omri said he needed a doctor.
- 28) He plans to put Little Bear down under the floorboards to find the key.
- 29) The conflict Omri faces is sending Little Bear back to his time and place. It comes up when Little Bear wants Omri to bring more plastic Indians to life to have his wedding feast with.
- 30) He wants her to keep track of it & keep it safe, since he already lost it once.
- 31) You must treat everyone with respect & care, no matter how big or small they are.

VOCABULARY:

compost: a mixture of decaying organic substances used for fertilizing soil

petrified: to paralyze with astonishment or fear/horror

coherent: sticking together or logically connected

vast: of a very great area or extent

plait: a braid of hair or a pleat in a cloth

row: to get into a fight or disagreement

unwarily: not cautious or watchful against danger

appalled: to fill with horror or dismay

coaxed: to attempt to influence by gentle persuasion; cajoled

falteringly: to speak or act hesitatingly or brokenly

presumably: by assuming reasonably

ravenously: extremely hungry; famished

crestfallen: dejected or discouraged

strewn: to let fall down in separate pieces over a surface; to be scattered

verdict: a final judgement or decision

intense: existing or occurring in a high degree or feeling

wrenched: twisted suddenly and forcibly; pull or jerk by a violent twist

uncompromisingly: not willing to budge or change one's mind; unyielding

stability: firmness in position

lithely: bending readily or flexible

ransacked: to search vigorously through

seething: to surge or foam as if boiling

mere: being nothing more nor better than

dismay: to break down the courage of or dishearten thoroughly

hesitantly: undecided, doubtful or lacking readiness of speech

escarpment: a long cliff like ridge of land or rock

peril: grave danger

foreboding: a prediction or strong inner feeling or notion of future misfortune

brandishing: to shake or wave, as a weapon

orderly: an enlisted soldier assigned to perform various chores for a commanding officer

bewildered: confused or out-of-sorts

tourniquet: a bandage or device for arresting bleeding by forcibly compressing a blood vessel & tightened by twisting.

wielding: to use a weapon effectively or to employ actively

keen: sharp or piercing

peevishly: to be cross or fretful from discontent

dire: very serious & dreadful fear or suffering

presumably: by assuming reasonably; probably

courtesies: excellence of manners; polite behavior

engulfing: to swallow up or submerge

hectoring: to torment or bully

privet: any type of deciduous or evergreen shrub

uncanny: having or seeming to have an inexplicable basis; beyond the ordinary or normal

galvanized: to stimulate; to cause sudden action

agog: excitedly or in a state of eager desire

imperiously: domineering in a haughty or overbearing manner

magnanimously: high-minded or nobility of mind/character

incredulous: non-believing; skeptical

soberly: seriously or solemn in speech or thought

feeble: weak or frail

gratifying: giving or causing satisfaction; pleasing

instinctively: natural or unlearned behavior

mulish: similar to a mule, as being very stubborn

infinitely: immeasurably or indefinitely great

penetrated: to pierce or pass into

delirium: a temporary disorder of the mental faculties in disturbance of consciousness or intoxication; characterized by excitement

frenzied: wildly enthusiastic or excited

tactics: maneuvers or modes of procedure for achieving success

dolefully: sorrowfully or mournfully

truce: a suspension of hostilities for a specific period of time by mutual agreement of the disagreeing parties.

plumb: completely or absolutely (slang)

nonplused: to puzzle or confuse completely

flummoxed: to bewilder or confound

mottled: spotted or blotched in coloring

expanse: an uninterrupted space or area

enthralled: to be captivated or charmed

poised: composed or self-assured

infinitesimal: indefinitely small; minute

aghast: struck with overwhelming shock or horror

staunchly: firmly in principle or loyalty

sieve: an instrument with a meshed bottom, used for separating coarse from fine parts of loose matter, for straining liquids

chasm: a yawning fissure or deep cleft in a surface

prostrate: to cast oneself face down on the ground or to be lying on the ground

disinfectant: any chemical agent used to destroy germs or harmful organisms

insulation: to keep warm by having certain pipes in the structure of one's home

perils: dangers

lath: a thin, narrow strip of wood used with other strips of wood to form a latticework

vulnerable: capable of being wounded or hurt

bedraggled: limp and soiled with dirt

blokes: men, chaps, or guys

hypodermic: characterized by the introduction of medicine under the skin

septic: infected

relapse: to fall or slip back into a former state/practice

flourish: to make dramatic, sweeping gestures

pommel: a knob (as on the hilt of a sword)

huskily: big and strong or a somewhat hoarse vocal tone

petered: to diminish gradually and stop or dwindle down to nothing

Definitions were adapted from [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)