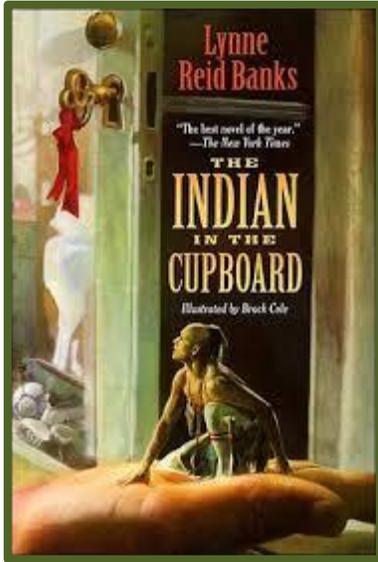




Mosswood Connections



The Indian and the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

Lesson and Activities

Page | 1

When Omri's big brother has no birthday present for him, he gives Omri an old wooden medicine cabinet he's found. The cabinet doesn't seem like much of a present to nine-year-old Omri, until he deposits inside it another present he receives for his birthday: a miniature plastic Indian. His mother comes up with a key for the cabinet, and the real magic begins. When Omri turns the key once, the Indian, named Little Bear, comes alive; but turn the key a second time and it's an ordinary plastic Indian again.

Key Ideas and Details

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

Craft and Structure

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5 Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6 Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.



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Discussion Questions:

Chapter 1: The Indian in the Cupboard

1. Describe how Omri came to have an Indian in a cupboard?
2. What woke Omri before it was time to get up?
3. How did Little Bear behave? How did Omri respond?

Chapter 2: The Door Is Shut

1. What did Omri find when he checked on Little Bear after school?
2. What happened after Omri went to bed, sick with sadness?
3. What basic needs did Omri provide Little Bear?

Chapter 3 Thirty Scalps

1. Did Little Bear turn to plastic today?
2. Describe the adventures with the horse?
3. What kind of feeling is developing between Omri and Little Bear?

Chapter 4 The Great Outdoors

1. How did Little Bear get hurt?
2. How did Omri help him?
3. What do you think Omri will do with the new man?

Chapter 5 Tommy

1. How does Omri explain the soldier's presence?
2. What happens to Little Bear in this chapter?
3. How do they get an axe?

Chapter 6 The Chief is Dead, Long Live the Chief.

1. How did Omri get the chief?
2. What happened to the chief when he was put into the cupboard?
3. How did Omri's father feel about Omri's project?



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Chapter 7 Uninvited Brothers

1. How did Patrick react to Little Bear?
2. How does Omri's family react to the secrets?
3. What does Omri do for Little Bear?

Chapter 8 Cowboy

1. What did Patrick do, that Omri did not want him to do?
2. What did Little Bear ask Omri for?
3. How is Patrick treating Omri now?

Chapter 9 Shooting Match

1. Describe how Omri feels about Little Bear and Boone.
2. What happens between Boone and Little Bear?
3. What does Omri promise if Indian doesn't kill the cowboy?

Chapter 10 Breakfast Truce

1. What did Omri make the 2 little men do?
2. What was the rule they must follow to eat?
3. What happened when the men were done eating?

Chapter 11 School

1. How did Patrick and Omri behave at school?
2. How did Little Bear behave? Boone?
3. What solution did Little Bear come up with to end his boredom?

Chapter 12 Trouble with Authority

1. What happened in the lunchroom?
2. Why was Patrick late?
3. What happened in the headmaster's office?



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Chapter 13 Art and Accusation

1. How did Omri get some fun out of bringing the men to school?
2. What happened in Mr. Yapp's shop?
3. How did Patrick behave toward Omri? How did Omri react?

Chapter 14 The Missing Key

1. What problem did Omri and Patrick encounter when they got home?
2. What did Little Bear do and why?
3. How did Little Bear respond to the consequences of his actions?

Chapter 15 Underfloor Adventure

1. Where did the boys find the key?
2. What danger awaited Little Bear?
3. How did Little Bear react when Boone woke up?

Chapter 16 Brothers

1. What ceremony did Little Bear and Boone perform?
2. What did Omri and Patrick do with the men and the woman?
3. What did Omri do with the special key?

Answers

Chapter 1 The Indian in the Cupboard

1. Omri receives a gift from his friend, a gift from his brother (respectively)
2. Omri hears a scratching and tiny noises from his cupboard
3. Little Bear is brave, strong, and in charge. Omri is respectful, amazed, impresses, and curious.

Chapter 2 The Door Is Shut

1. Little Bear was stiff, he was now an "it," not a "he"
2. Omri hears a noise, the Indian was alive
3. Omri makes sure that the Indian has food and shelter



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Chapter 3 Thirty Scalps

1. No, he stayed alive.
2. The horse chosen, put in cupboard, tamed by Little Bear, and ridden!!
3. Omri and Little Bear are developing feelings of respect and trust

Chapter 4 The Great Outdoors

1. He got scared, jumped, shook box with the horse and Little Bear, then the horse kicked Little Bear.
2. Omri gets antiseptic water, wash cloth, and brings a guy with Red Cross badge to life to help Little Bear.
3. Answers may vary

Chapter 5 Tommy

1. Omri told the soldier that he was having a dream
2. Little Bear gets fixed up by soldier, gets dirt and longhouse materials.
3. Omri brought a knight back to life, grabbed the axe, and then turned him back to plastic.

Chapter 6 The Chief is Dead, Long Live the Chief.

1. Omri snuck away at lunch to the toy store. Patrick refused to go!!
2. The chief was alive, but died when he saw Omri.
3. He was upset that his seeds and things were gone, but respected a boy's privacy, so he accepted a replacement.

Chapter 7 Uninvited Brothers

1. Patrick reacts with amazement and wonder.
2. His parents are highly suspicious.
3. Omri give the Indian meat and fire.

Chapter 8 Cowboy

1. Patrick turned a cowboy to life.
2. Omri gets a wife for Little Bear.
3. He is blackmailing him



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Chapter 9 Shooting Match

1. Omri feels responsible, as if they are real, not toys
2. Boone and Little Bear fight!!
3. Omri promises that Little Bear will get a wife

Chapter 10 Breakfast Truce

1. Omri made them eggs and beans with bread.
2. They eat together or they don't eat.
3. They were allowed to fight – it was a 2 man war that ended with a truce.

Chapter 11 School

1. They behaved like good friends, keeping a secret together
2. Little Bear stabbed Omri when bored, wanted out. Boone slept and cried.
3. He decided to be with Boone

Chapter 12 Trouble with Authority

1. Patrick got in a fight and almost squished the men.
2. He was busy feeding the little people in the music room.
3. He showed the headmaster Little Bear and Boone.

Chapter 13 Art and Accusation

1. Boone drew a TINY picture and blew away the art teacher.
2. Yapp accused Omri of stealing
3. Patrick vouched for Omri, Omri invited him to stay the night.

Chapter 14 The Missing Key

1. They discovered a missing cupboard and a missing key.
2. He shot an arrow into Boones chest because Boone made fun of Indians in a movie.
3. He felt remorseful and ran off alone.

Chapter 15 Underfloor Adventure

1. They found the key under the floor.



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2. Omri's brother's rat got loose.
3. He was grateful, then angry, then crafty, he would care for Boone if given a wife.

Chapter 16 Brothers

1. They performed a blood brother ceremony.
2. They turned them back to plastic.
3. He asked his mom to keep it safe.

Writing Prompts

- If you had a magical cupboard that could bring anything to life, what object or toy would you choose?
- Write a story about Little Bear and Boone, back in their own time.
- Write a story about what will happen with Little Bear at school.
- Should Omri tell someone about Little Bear? Why or why not?
- Your assignment is to write a persuasive letter to Omri that will convince him to tell or not tell about Little Bear.
- Write a letter from Little Bear to Omri. What would he say?
- Write a story about where the soldier has come from and what he is like.
- Write an alternate ending for the story.
- Compare and contrast the characters Little Bear and Boone or Omri and Patrick.

Activity Ideas

- **Learn More About the Iroquois**

Little Bear was an Iroquois Indian, the son of a chief. He told Omri that he lived in a longhouse, not a teepee, and that his tribe fought on the side of the English against the French. Learn more about the Iroquois. Where did they live? Describe their lifestyle and customs. Who were their enemies? Why were they called “The Five Nations”?

You may choose to have this research done in small groups and have expectations and objectives such as:

1. Written report with references cited
2. Oral presentation using note cards with facts



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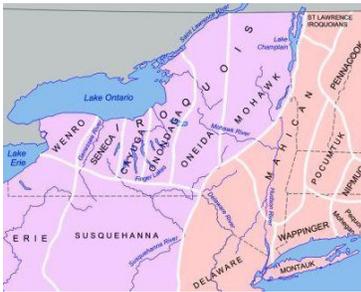
3. Constructing a longhouse



- Information on the longhouse:
<http://www.indians.org/articles/iroquois-longhouse.html>
- Downloadable Longhouse Template:
<http://www.susankae.com/Iroquois%20longhouse.pdf>

Page | 8

4. Drawing and coloring a map of the Iroquois land



- Information about Iroquois land
<http://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/native-american-indians/iroquois-confederacy.htm>
- Traditional Lands of the Iroquois
<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~rfrey/329Iroquoistraditionallands.htm>

5. Making a costume similar to what the Iroquois wore



- Information and template for Iroquois Clothing:
<http://blog.dnevnik.hr/print/id/1626613525/iroquois-indians-clothing.html>

• Individual Project: What's in Your Cupboard?

Make a cupboard. Decide what you will put in it to transform to a living thing. Write a story/ account of what happens when this item comes to life. It does not have to be plastic, as it was in the book, but it must fit in the cupboard. Examples might be: toy dinosaur, stuffed animal, doll, toy car, toy robot, etc.) Encourage the kids to keep their project secret so others can make guesses later.

Materials:

- Paint, Markers and Glue



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Vocabulary

Sheepish	lacking in courage or self-confidence
Chasm	a deep split or gap in the earth
Transfixed	to make motionless with amazement, awe, or terror
Infinity	never ending
Unwarily	easily fooled or surprised
Amiss	in the wrong way
Bandolier	a belt worn over the shoulder to carry something
Clamber	to climb in an awkward way as in scrambling
Wince	to draw back in pain or fear
Intricate	having many closely combined parts or elements
Dawdle	to waste time
Disentangle	to free or become free
Shambling	to walk in an awkward, unsteady way
Raucous	rowdy
Staunchly	loyally, firmly, and dependable
Myriad	a large number
Escarpment	a deep ditch
Tousle	a tangled mass or condition; to make untidy, muss
Aghast	to be struck with amazement or horror
Seething	to be in a great stage of excitement and/or anger



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Lark	something done for fun or adventure
Gingerly	with caution or care
Flummox	confuse
Pommel	a rounded knob at the top and front of a saddle
Strewn	spread by scattering
Novelties	something new or unusual
Ravenous	to be extremely hungry
Scarcely	only just a small amount
Mercifully	showing mercy or compassion
Firewater	intoxicating liquor
Relapse	to fall back in illness
Tethered	a line by which an animal is fastened
Reverently	to show honor or respect
Torso	the human body except for the head, arms and legs
Rapture	a strong feeling of joy
Systematically	having a method or plan
Lithely	bending easily
Miniscule	very small
Fiendish	very wicked or cruel
Magnanimously	generous and forgiving
Prostrate	lacking in power or energy; to lay flat
Persecutor	someone who punishes someone else



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Hectoring	to act like a bully
Scorn	to be angry and disgusted
Coax	to attempt to influence by gently persuasion
Orderly	a soldier who attends a superior officer to perform services
Galvanized	to excite
Plait	a braid
Incredulous	showing disbelief
Presume	to suppose something to be true without proof
Joist	small timber or metal beam
Vittles (victual)	food usable by humans
Peril	something in danger
Verdict	the decision reached by a jury
Dignified	showing that you are worthy of respect
Obligingly	willing or eager to do a favor
Haughty	disdainfully proud; thinking you're better than others
Hullabaloo	a very loud ruckus
Stealthily	done in a sly or secret manner
Brandish	to wave or shake in a threatening manner
Mingle	to move along others as a group
Privet	a shrub used for hedges
Tourniquet	a device used to stop bleeding by twisting or tightening
Musingly	to think over carefully



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Appall	to be shocked
Biscuit	a cookie
Mulish	to be stubborn like a mule
Anxious	fearful of what may happen
Gesticulation	to make gestures when speaking
Lath	a strip of wood used for a base for plaster
Warily	to be very watchful and cautious
Tantalizing	to want something that is out of reach
Retort	to reply sharply
Baffle	to confuse
Alcove	a small part of a room set back from the rest of it
Spittoon	a pot to spit in
Bedraggled	dirty and disheveled.
Ado	fuss or trouble
Grimace	a twisting of the face in disgust
Apprehension	fear of what may happen
Astonish	to strike with sudden wonder or surprise
Crestfallen	feeling shame or humiliation
Sullen	sad or gloomy
Reluctant	showing doubt or unwillingness
Uncanny	extraordinary; beyond the ordinary or normal
Lorry	truck



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