

Pippi Longstocking

by Astrid Lindgren

Classroom Favorites

Teacher's Guide by Kathleen Greenholdt



A Perma-Bound Production

Synopsis

Nine-year-old Pippi Longstocking lives alone with her horse and Mr. Nilsson, a monkey, at Villa Villekulla, a house at the edge of town. She has no mother or father "and that (is) of course very nice because there (is) no one to tell her to go to bed . . ."

Pippi had sailed the ocean with her sea captain father, who disappeared in a storm. She likes to believe that he is still alive. When Pippi left his ship, she took a suitcase full of gold, which allows her to survive.

Tommy and Annika Settergren live next door to Villa Villekulla and they quickly befriend Pippi, who is a strange-looking creature with large shoes and braids that stick straight out from either side of her head. The threesome play together, and Pippi conjures up the most magical games.

Pippi does not get on so well with adults, however, and she tends to irritate the local policemen, a school teacher, a circus ringmaster, and Mrs. Settergren, Tommy and Annika's mother. By the usual standards, adults consider Pippi to be rude and impertinent. However, Pippi has simply never learned the rules of etiquette and proper behavior.

The unusual little girl also impresses Tommy and Annika with her great physical strength and agility. This super-human quality allows her to defeat the World's Strongest Man in a circus wrestling match. She also saves two children in a fire. She is unconscious of any danger to herself, and confronts all difficult situations with imaginative indifference and a pleasant smile.

Biographical Sketch

Astrid Lindgren was born in Vimmerby, Sweden, November 14, 1907. She has two children, Lars and Karin, and she presently resides in Stockholm. She has won many awards for her Swedish children's books, including the following: Hans Christian Andersen Award (1958) and Boy's Clubs of America Junior Book Award (1961) for *Rasmus Paa Luffen*, Lewis Carroll Shelf Award (1970) for *The Tomten*, Swedish Academy Gold Medal (1971), Litteris et Artibus Medal from the King of Sweden (1975), International Writer's Prize from the Welsh Arts Council (1978), and Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels (German Peace Prize) from German publishers and book dealers (1978).

Critic's Corner

Pippi Longstocking was written in 1950. The book received the following honors: Raben & Sjogren's prize competition (first prize for books for children six to ten years old), 1945; Swedish newspaper literary prize, 1946; Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, 1973; and ALA Notable Book (new edition, 1983).

The book was also made into a play, and the character has been featured in popular films distributed in the United States.

A recorded version of the book, on record and cassette, is also available.

General Objectives

1. To understand the importance of learning about others' motivations before judging people
2. To learn about Swedish culture

Specific Objectives

1. To understand the character and motivations of Pippi
2. To learn about the attitudes of adults in the story
3. To see how Pippi affects the lives of Tommy and Annika

Meaning Study

disdainfully, p. 35 - scornfully
emphatically, p. 37 - with emphasis
ignorant, p. 41 - without knowledge
reproachfully, p. 43-44 - disapprovingly
contritely, p. 52 - guiltily
ibex, p. 54 - curved-horned mountain goat
crestfallen, p. 63 - disappointed
foilage, p. 72 - leaves
flaxen, p. 83 - light yellow (like flax fiber)
dell, p. 88 - little wooded valley
tulle, p. 95 - very thin, net-like material
impudent, p. 100 - boldly disrespectful
herring, p. 102 - type of fish from the North Atlantic
chilblains, p. 124 - swollen, painful lumps on feet from poor circulation
ninepins, p. 155 - a game similar to bowling, but which may substitute pins with other objects

Class Discussion Questions

1. How old is Pippi Longstocking, and why does she live alone at Villa Villekulla?
(Pippi is nine years old, and her mother died when she was a baby. Pippi's father had been a sea captain, but he disappeared when a storm threw him overboard into the ocean. Pippi likes to believe that her father is still alive and has become the king of a tribe of cannibals. She imagines that he will come back one day. Villa Villekulla had been purchased by Pippi's father for when he could no longer sail the ocean. He thought that he and Pippi would live there together. Pippi went to the house after her father was lost in the storm.)
2. What did Pippi do before she moved into Villa Villekulla?
(She traveled the world with her father on a ship. After he died, she took two things from the ship: a suitcase containing gold pieces and a monkey, Mr. Nilsson, who had been a gift from her father.)
3. Explain why Pippi is physically "a remarkable child."
(She is very strong. We see Pippi's strength several times in the book: lifting her horse, carrying the policemen, rescuing the boys from the fire, defeating the circus strong man, and lifting the robbers.)
4. Is Pippi an obnoxious and ill-behaved girl?
(According to some standards, she is a bad girl. She does not do as adults tell her, and she has no manners. For example, she will not go to school to learn "pluttifikation," she will not move to a children's home, and she eats a whole pie at the coffee party. However, Pippi has no loving parents to teach her how to behave, and she has lived among many different cultures with many different standards of proper behavior. Also, she believes that some rules are silly and that people are too restricted by their etiquette to have very much fun. An example of this is when she leaves the circus audience to become a performer. Pippi is the hit of the circus, and people love her. Pippi wears large shoes and strange braids, too, to have fun.)
5. Is Pippi mean and wicked?
(No. She does not cheat, steal, or treat other children cruelly. Sometimes she lies, but this is mainly to tell exciting stories, and others recognize that these stories are not meant to sound truthful.)
6. How do adults in the story respond to Pippi?
(Most think that she is a bad child. For example, Pippi appears to be rude in school by defying the teacher's rules. Also, she seems ill-behaved to the ladies at the coffee party. These adults expect children to do as they are told, rather than creating their own rules to live by. And Pippi does not recognize the difference between behaving well and not behaving well.)
7. How do Pippi and Tommy and Annika fit into one another's lives?
(The brother and sister live next door to Villa Villekulla. They are very good, well-behaved children who always do as they are told. They try to avoid trouble, too. However, they long for a playmate, and Pippi becomes their best friend. Pippi also shows them how fun and exciting life can be with a few risks and adventures. And Pippi needs some human companionship and enjoys the fact that friends live so close by.)

8. Is Pippi a happy child?
(Yes and no. She has all the fun she could possibly desire with no one to tell her what to do or how to behave. But there are indications in the story that Pippi wishes her mother and father were around. For example, she talks to her "angel" mother up in heaven and hopes that her father is not really dead.)
9. Explain Pippi's actions during the fire.
(Pippi has no knowledge of the danger of fire. She thinks the flames are bright and beautiful. When she saves the boys it is only because she can think of a way to get them down. But she does not understand why they do not like the fire. To her, this is just another fun adventure and not a heroic act.)
10. How do we see the Swedish culture in the book?
(The names in the book, such as "Annika Settergren," "Mr. Nilsson," and "Thunder-Karlsson," are Swedish (noted by the double consonants and the letter "k" where a "c" would be used in English). Annika's blonde hair color is traditional for the fair-haired people of Sweden. Pippi makes pepparkakor, a Swedish cookie. Tommy sings "Here come the Swedes with a clang and a bang" while riding on Pippi's horse. Pippi says the word "tack" ("thanks" in Swedish - p. 106). The dance, the schottische, is also discussed.)

Student Activities

1. Write sequel chapters to the book.
2. Read books about and write reports on Sweden and its culture.
3. Draw or paint pictures that contrast Pippi's personality with personalities of other characters in the book.
4. As a class, create ten new rules of behavior as Pippi would see them.
5. Make pepparkakor and other Swedish foods, and listen to Swedish music.
6. Write short reports on "what it would be like to be Pippi Longstocking."
7. Show Pippi Longstocking films, and compare and contrast the character in the book to the one in the movies.
8. Adapt the story into a short play for the class to perform.
9. Pippi asserts that she does not need to learn the multiplication tables. In math class, create story problems that show how it would help Pippi to learn multiplication. (Example: Pippi wants to buy something but needs to decide how many gold pieces she would need to buy it. Also, Pippi needs to decide how much money she has left in the suitcase.)
10. Write poems about the adventures of Pippi.

Other Books by the Author

Pippi Goes On Board, 1975
Pippi In The South Seas, 1959
Pippi On The Run, 1976
Karlsson-On-The-Roof, 1971
Rasmus And The Vagabond, 1960
Ronia, The Robber's Daughter, 1983

Vocabulary Test

Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right.

chilblain

without knowledge

flaxen

disappointed

ignorant

scornfully

ibex

thin, net-like material

disdainfully

leaves

impudent

guiltily

contritely

light yellow

crestfallen

curved-horned mountain goat

tulle

swollen lump on foot

foliage

boldly disrespectful

Comprehension Test A

True or False (25 points)

Write "T" for "True" or "F" for "False" next to each statement.

- _____ 1. Pippi's mother was lost in a storm at sea.
- _____ 2. At the beginning of the story, Pippi is eight years old.
- _____ 3. Pippi has a monkey named Mr. Nilsson.
- _____ 4. Pippi lives at Vilekulla Castle.
- _____ 5. Before they met Pippi, Tommy and Annika were quiet, well-behaved children.
- _____ 6. Pippi cleans the kitchen floor with her hair.
- _____ 7. Pippi saves three little boys in a fire.
- _____ 8. The ringmaster at the circus eventually likes Pippi.
- _____ 9. Pippi likes to believe that her mother is an angel.
- _____ 10. Pippi goes to a tea party at the Settergrens' house.

Quotation Identification (25 points)

Identify the character who said each quotation below.

- _____ 1. "You must get into a real children's home and have someone look after you."
- _____ 2. "Is there really nobody here who wants to earn a hundred dollars? Shall I really be forced to keep this myself?"
- _____ 3. "You must never come here again if you can't behave any better than this."
- _____ 4. "Don't be scared, Annika. Now I can see your legs, and I'll certainly catch you if you fall."
- _____ 5. "Have you ever seen hair like hers? Red as fire! And such shoes. Can't I borrow one? I'd like to go out rowing and I haven't any boat."
- _____ 6. "It isn't the style to have two horns this year. All the better bulls have just one horn — if any."
- _____ 7. "But, Pippi, why in the world aren't you drawing on your paper?"
- _____ 8. "We are just two tramps who came in to ask for food."
- _____ 9. "It's wicked to lie."
- _____ 10. "You don't mean to say that you have seen a man walk by with such big ears?"

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| a. Pippi | f. robber |
| b. Tommy | g. Mrs. Settergren |
| c. Annika | h. ringmaster |
| d. policeman | i. girl on the road |
| e. teacher | j. bully boy |

Short Answer (25 points)

In a sentence or two, explain the importance of each of the following in the story.

1. pepparkakor
2. cannibal king
3. multiplication tables
4. dancing with burglars
5. the servant of Pippi's grandmother

Essay (25 points)

In paragraph form, explain Pippi's views about good behavior.

Comprehension Test B

Multiple Choice (25 points)

Fill in each blank with the letter of the correct answer.

- Pippi goes to a _____ party at her neighbors' home.
a. tea b. coffee c. lemonade
- Tommy's sister is named _____.
a. Annica b. Anika c. Annika
- Pippi's father disappeared when he _____.
a. fell from a ship b. was in a snow storm c. was hunting in the jungle
- At her neighbors' party, Pippi ate a whole _____.
a. cake b. pie c. coffee roll
- Pippi says that her father is now a _____.
a. pirate b. cannibal king c. sailor in the navy
- Pippi draws a _____ on the floor at school.
a. horse b. monkey c. goat
- The burglars first think that Pippi's monkey is a _____.
a. woman b. child c. man
- Mrs. _____ tells Pippi that she must learn to behave if she wants to return to her house.
a. Setergren b. Settergern c. Settergren
- Pippi saved _____ during a fire.
a. one boy b. two boys c. three boys
- Pippi lived at Villa _____.
a. Vilekula b. Vellakula c. Villekulla

Fill In the Blank (25 points)

- Pippi Longstocking was _____ years old.
- Pippi says that her mother is one of the _____ in heaven.
- At the _____, Pippi wins money for defeating the Mighty Adolf.
- Bloom and Thunder-Karlsson are two _____ who pay a visit to Pippi.
- To clean the kitchen floor, Pippi ties _____ to her feet and skates around.
- Pippi rides the _____ to school.
- The monkey's name is _____.
- Pippi's neighbors think that there are _____ living in her attic.
- Pippi makes pepparkakor, a kind of Swedish _____.
- Pippi likes to wear very large _____.

Short Answer (25 points)

In a sentence or two, explain the importance of each of the following in the story.

1. schottische
2. pluttifikation
3. gold coins in a suitcase
4. Christmas vacation
5. children's home

Essay (25 points)

In paragraph form, discuss what characteristics make Pippi an unusual girl.

Test Answers

Vocabulary Test

chilblain - swollen lump on foot

flaxen - light yellow

ignorant - without knowledge

ibex - curved-horned mountain goat

disdainfully - scornfully

impudent - boldly disrespectful

contritely - guiltily

crestfallen - disappointed

tulle - thin, net-like material

foliage - leaves

Comprehension Test A

True or False (25 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. F |
| 4. F | 9. T |
| 5. T | 10. F |

Quotation Identification (25 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. d | 6. a |
| 2. h | 7. e |
| 3. g | 8. f |
| 4. b | 9. c |
| 5. j | 10. i |

Short Answer (25 points)

- pepparkakor - Pippi makes these cookies, which are Swedish.
- cannibal king - Pippi likes to imagine that her father is still alive and that he is the king of cannibals.
- multiplication tables - People think that Pippi needs to know the multiplication tables to succeed in life. Pippi disagrees.
- dancing with burglars - Pippi dances the schottische with two burglars late one night. By the end of the evening she befriends them, and they do not steal from her.
- the servant of Pippi's grandmother - Pippi talks about this woman at Mrs. Settergren's coffee party and bothers the ladies who are guests with her incessant chatter.

Essay (25 points)

Answers will vary.

Comprehension Test B

Multiple Choice (25 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a |
| 2. c | 7. c |
| 3. a | 8. c |
| 4. b | 9. b |
| 5. b | 10. c |

Fill in the Blank (25 points)

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. nine | 6. horse |
| 2. angels | 7. Mr. Nilsson |
| 3. circus | 8. ghosts |
| 4. burglars | 9. cookie |
| 5. brushes | 10. shoes |

Short Answer (25 points)

- schottische - Pippi dances the schottische with the burglars.
- pluttifikation - Pippi calls "multiplication" "pluttifikation." She does not want to go to school to learn multiplication.
- gold coins in a suitcase - When Pippi left her father's ship, she took with her a suitcase filled with gold coins. The coins have allowed her to survive.
- Christmas vacation - Pippi finally goes to school so that she can have Christmas vacation like other children.
- children's home - The police officers want Pippi to live in a children's home where someone can look after her.

Essay (25 points)

Answers will vary.



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