

# The Return of the Indian

by Lynn Reid Banks

## Classroom Favorites



Teacher's Guide by John Chua

A Perma-Bound Production

### SYNOPSIS

#### Chapter 1 A Defeat

Omri lives in a nice big house located in a slum. Going home from school each day, he must face a group of young skinhead thugs who prey on him. One afternoon, these skinheads attack him and steal his school bag. Omri however, makes it home safely.

#### Vocabulary

hovel (p. 7) slum (p. 7) skinhead (p. 9)

#### Chapter 2 A Victory

Omri receives good news at home. A letter informs him that a story he wrote called *The Plastic Indian* won a competition for young creative writers. Omri had written the story based on his previous adventures in the earlier novel, *The Indian in the Cupboard*. Without telling his family, he submitted the story to the contest, after having received some help from his older brother and using his mother's typewriter.

#### Vocabulary

trance (p. 18) stirrup (p. 20)  
Iroquois (p. 20) magnanimous (p. 21)

#### Chapter 3 The Way it Began

Omri's room is a mixture of old and new items which he found at various places including the local flea market. Sometimes Omri would reminisce about his previous adventures with Little Bear, the plastic Indian, and Boone the toy cowboy. In *The Indian in the Cupboard*, when he placed the toys into a cupboard and locked it with a magic key, the toys came alive. Because of the troubles arising from these adventures, Omri and his friend Patrick decide never again to put the toys in the cupboard. Omri gave the key to his mother, asking her never to let him have it.

#### Vocabulary

prying (p. 25) tepee (p. 26)

#### Chapter 4 The Sweet Taste of Triumph

Because he won the writing competition, he is sorely tempted to share the news with his Indian and the cowboy. Omri decides to use the cupboard one more time and takes the magic key from his mother.

#### Vocabulary

noncommittally (p. 31) nicked (p. 33)

#### Chapter 5 From Dangerous Times

Omri places Little Bear and his wife Bright Star into the cupboard. Upon restoring them to life, Omri discovers something wrong with Little Bear. Bright Star, in her limited English, explains that Little Bear has been shot in the back by soldiers.

Almost in a panic, Omri gives Little Bear some disinfectant and goes to look for help.

#### Vocabulary

medical orderly (p. 39) poignantly (p. 42) moccasins (p. 44)

#### Chapter 6 Going for Help

Omri calls Patrick and then runs out the back door to the train station. He meets up with Patrick who at first refuses to talk about anything to do with the magical cupboard. But Omri convinces him that there is trouble. Together they plot to use toy doctors and nurses belonging to Patrick's cousin, Tamsin. But as they head out the door, Tamsin catches them and starts a fight. Patrick's mother and aunt yell at them and the boys run out.

#### Vocabulary

incredulous (p. 49) shrill (p. 51)

#### Chapter 7 Matron

Omri manages to grab the toy nurse before running out. But the boys are unsure whether the nurse could help Little Bear. After bringing her to life, the matron is extremely amazed by her circumstances—the fact that she now exists as a miniature being in a boy's room instead of working at the hospital. The boys convince her to operate on Little Bear and she asks for surgical tools.

#### Vocabulary

matron (p. 60) flying buttresses (p. 62) haughtily (p. 62)

#### Chapter 8 The Operation

With some toy surgical tools Omri provides, the matron begins to operate on Little Bear. After succeeding in removing the musket ball lodged against his shoulder blade, she asks to be returned to her own world. The boys also realize that Bright Star is pregnant.

#### Vocabulary

hypodermic (p. 67) syringe (p. 67) enigmatic (p. 67)

#### Chapters 9-10 A Good Luck Piece & Boone's Brain Wave

Patrick always carries the toy cowboy in his pocket for good luck. The boys make Boone come alive as well. Because the French had killed many Indians in the time of Little Bear's real life, the boys wonder about putting other toy soldiers into the magical cupboard to help Little Bear fight his war.

#### Vocabulary

quaver (p. 81) Palestine (p. 89) Saracens (p. 89)

#### Chapter 11 Target Omri!

When Omri goes downstairs for lunch, Patrick places five miniature soldiers into the magical cupboard. As Omri enters, he is greeted by a hail of tiny bullets. Omri immediately grabs

the soldiers and locks them back into the cupboard. Discussing how they can help Little Bear fight the French in eighteenth-century upstate New York, the boys decide to go out and buy more Iroquois Indian plastic warriors.

**Vocabulary**

encampment (p. 93)

**Chapters 12-13 The Troops & A Death and a Healing**

Omri and Patrick go out to buy toy figures. When they return, Little Bear inspects them and rejects some of the Algonquin Indians among them. The Algonquins are enemies of the Iroquois people. The boys bring all their toys to the lawn outside. A mishap occurs when Kitsa, the family cat, catches Boone and his horse. Kitsa seriously injures the horse and Boone puts it out of its misery by shooting it. Little Bear is anxious to return to his time with the Indians the boys bought.

**Vocabulary**

decorously (p. 101) pommel (p. 105)  
rhododendron (p. 105) delirious (p. 116)

**Chapter 14 Red Men, Red Coats**

Omri places a few eighteenth-century English soldiers in the cupboard, hoping that they will help Little Bear fight the French. Instead the soldiers turn on Little Bear and almost kill him. Omri immediately locks them up, turning them back into toy soldiers.

**Vocabulary**

sterner (p. 123) harangue (p. 124)

**Chapter 15 Corporal Fickits**

Omri decides to make a twentieth-century British marine come alive and then instructs him to teach the Indians how to use modern weapons.

**Vocabulary**

spiel (p. 127) pouter (p. 133)

**Chapter 16 "If'n Ya Wanna Go Back..."**

With the Indians ready, Omri sends them back to fight in eighteenth-century upstate New York. Bright Star is also about to give birth to a baby. Boone helps her and then suggests that Omri uses the magic key in a larger cupboard to send everyone, including Omri, back to the eighteenth-century.

**Vocabulary**

anticlimax (p. 138) vulnerable (p. 139)

**Chapter 17 As Far As You Can Go**

Patrick persuades Omri to place Bright Star, Boone, and himself in a trunk. Omri locks it using the magic key and transports them to the eighteenth-century. Omri unlocks the trunk and brings Patrick back. Patrick reports seeing incredible things. Omri now wants to try it too and Patrick locks him in the trunk. Suddenly, he becomes an inanimate part of a tepee in eighteenth-century New York.

**Vocabulary**

agitated (p. 147)

**Chapters 18-19 Algonquin and The Terror of the Battle**

The Iroquois Indians in the village prepare to leave for the forest. At first, Omri doesn't understand why. Then other Indians appear; they are Algonquin Indians who have come to sack the village. One Indian sets fire to the tepee. Luckily, Patrick unlocks the chest and brings Omri back. Omri is slightly burned and bruised but safely back in the twentieth-century.

**Vocabulary**

procession (p. 155) sack (p. 158)

**Chapters 20-21 Invasion & Battle of the Skinheads**

That night, three skinheads break into Omri's house to steal things. Omri gathers the toy British soldiers. When the skinheads attack Omri and Patrick, the toy soldiers return fire, causing incredible fear among the skinheads.

**Vocabulary**

mollycoddling (p. 176) pell-mell (p. 181)

**Epilogue by the Fire**

Little Bear is angry with himself because the modern weapons he used ended up killing some of his own people. He wants to use the guns to fight the French, but Bright Star prevents him from doing so. Little Bear shows his new baby and names him after Omri.

**Vocabulary**

orenda (p. 189)

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Reid Banks, a versatile writer known for her works for children and adults, was born in London in 1929 to a Scottish doctor and an Irish actress. She was an only child and her parents were devoted to her. When World War Two began, she and her mother were evacuated to Canada. Banks returned to a devastated Europe after the war ended. She hated it at first, having grown accustomed to life in Canada. Following the footsteps of her mother, she became an actress. Gradually she drifted into play writing and ended up as a television reporter. Her first novel, *The L-Shaped Room*, was a critical and financial success and was adapted into a movie. In the 1960s she spent eight years teaching in an Israeli kibbutz. Her first children's book *One More River* is about a Canadian girl who arrives in Israel in the 1960s. A story she made up for her young son about a little plastic Indian became the basis for *The Indian in the Cupboard* (1980). *The Indian in the Cupboard* was a runaway success, selling over a million copies. It was made into a film by Paramount Pictures in 1995. Many children wrote to her, urging her to create sequels to *The Indian in the Cupboard*. *The Return of the Indian* (1986) and *The Secret of the Indian* (1989) successfully make up a trilogy.

**CRITIC'S CORNER**

Critics have in general praised Reid Banks for her versatility, technique, style, and ability to relate well to children. Ann Thwaite of the *Times Literary Supplement* described *The Indian in the Cupboard* as "original, lively, compulsive reading." *The New York Times* called the book "the best novel of the year." *The Indian in the Cupboard* also won the 1985 California Young Reader Medal Award and was chosen by the Association of Children's Librarians as the Distinguished Book of 1981. *The Return of the Indian* has also won critical acclaim. Some critics however, see the sequel as a much darker vision of the world. Omri now lives in a poor neighborhood with all its urban problems. Patrick moves away from a physically abusive father. The sequel definitely has an anti-war message. The medical orderly dies in a war, and the Iroquois accidentally kill each other with modern weapons.

Some critics however, accuse Reid Banks of sometimes presenting stereotypes in her novels. Two critics, Opal Moore and Donnarae MacCann both describe "Little Bear's portrayal

[as] in no way creative. He is designed to incorporate all of the assumptions that attach to the cinematic [and stereotypical] Indian." Indeed, several critics note that the Indians in her novels are presented as self-destructive noble savages. Another critic deplors her portrayal of poor whites as well. Writing in *The Times Literary Supplement*, Nicole Irving called the identification of working class youths as violent, "thieving louts" an unfair characterization.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To gain a better understanding of the history of the French, British, and Indian in eighteenth-century North America
2. To understand the rise of the skinhead movement in the West
3. To study the urban renewal and gentrification of slums
4. To relate past historical racial problems with current conditions and find relevance in what is being read
5. To appreciate fantasies and the role they play in our society
6. To examine the meaning of courage, prudence, and friendship
7. To examine the life of the cowboy in nineteenth-century America
8. To study the westward expansion of nineteenth-century America

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To increase vocabulary by deriving meaning from context
2. To locate details and locations of the conflicts between the Indian, French, and British in eighteenth-century New York, New England, and Canada.
3. To put events in a time-travel story in sequence
4. To analyze Omri's point-of-view
5. To contrast the lives of Omri, Patrick, Little Bear, and Boone
6. To compare and contrast cultural practices
7. To relate fantasies to reality
8. To describe Omri's sense of responsibility
9. To project Omri's future as a young man

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning or frame of reference in the novel. Explain each as it relates to the book. Use the page number cited in parentheses to reread the terms in context.

1. "(Omri) was the only one who wore school uniform." (p. 8)  
(*Omri lives in a poor neighborhood but he goes to a private school some distance away. When he comes home from school, he is an obvious target for other youths because his uniform makes him stand out. Omri therefore takes off his tie and tries to mess up his uniform. This does not work, however.*)
2. "God in Heaven. Three hundred pounds." (p. 18)  
(*Omri wins three hundred pounds in the writing contest. Three hundred British pounds in the middle 1980s has about the same purchasing power as nine hundred U.S. dollars today.*)
3. Tommy the British medical orderly from the First World War (p. 28)  
(*Reid Banks uses stereotypical names for the toy figures.*

*Little Bear and Boone are also stereotypical "cinematic" names.)*

4. "How much English did she know?" (p. 40)  
(*In eighteenth-century North America, Indians such as Little Bear and Bright Star who have had little contact with the British would not know any English at all. It is part of the author's literary license to enable them to speak a little English.*)
5. One look told Omri what sort. *Professional People* (p. 52)  
(*Patrick's female cousin has toy figures which are doctors, lawyers, and nurses. Here the author may be playing on a stereotype, that girls tend not to play with dolls of Indians or cowboys.*)
6. This showed an extraordinary change of heart for Boone, who had been absolutely down on Indians when they'd first known him." (p. 86)  
(*In the first book, The Indian in the Cupboard, Boone and Little Bear were at first enemies but became close friends.*)
7. British soldiers in Northern Ireland (p. 98)  
(*A large number of British troops has been stationed in Northern Ireland since the late 1960s. They are there to maintain order between Northern Ireland's Protestant majority and Roman Catholic minority, and to combat the Irish Republican Army, a terrorist group fighting to unite Northern Ireland with the Catholic Republic of Ireland.*)
8. "Eighteenth-century Frenchmen in the middle of New York." (p. 99)  
(*From 1692 to 1763 the British and French fought several wars in Europe and in North America, where both established colonies. The last war, fought from 1754 to 1763, is known as the French and Indian War. This name is a misnomer because the British also had Indian allies. The French lost the war and ceded their colonies in Canada to the British.*)
9. There were eight dead Indians (p. 172)  
(*Little Bear and his Indians, armed with modern twentieth-century automatic weapons, ambushed the Algonquins. However, they had only been given quick training on how to use the weapons. As a result, although they defeated the Algonquins, they also inflicted several casualties among themselves.*)
10. "Good kill French!" (p. 187)  
(*Despite the disaster with the modern weapons, Little Bear is still eager to use them against the French and wants Omri to send him back in time again. Omri and Bright Star are reluctant to do so.*)

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important, and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

#### Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Why does Patrick move out into the country?  
(*Patrick's father is abusive towards both Patrick and his mother. After the divorce of his parents, Patrick, his brother, and mother move into the countryside.*)
2. Why does Omri use the magic key again?  
(*Omri wins a creative writing contest after having written a*

story based on his adventures with Little Bear and Boone. He is tempted to tell Little Bear about his achievement. Although he had promised himself never to use the magic key again, he succumbs to temptation and brings Little Bear back to life. Thus, another adventure begins.)

3. Why does Tommy the medical orderly not come back?  
(Omri tries to make Tommy come alive but his body does not reappear. Omri immediately concludes that Tommy died in World War One. After talking to Patrick, they think that the blast they heard the last time they placed Tommy back into the cupboard may have killed him.)
4. Why does Omri feel ashamed of being British after his encounter with the eighteenth-century British troops?  
(Omri decides to use eighteenth-century British troops to help Little Bear fight the French. However, the British officer turns against Little Bear, ordering his men to kill the Indian. Omri and Little Bear conclude that the British are no better than the French in their attitudes towards the Indians. The Europeans are willing to use the Indians to fight their wars but see them as expendable. Because of the attitude of the British, Omri feels ashamed.)
5. How does Omri eventually defeat the skinheads in his house?  
(The skinheads break into Omri's house to steal things while his parents are gone. Patrick and Omri gather the British marines and instruct them to fire on the skinheads. Collectively their tiny weapons inflict much damage to the burglars. In a panic, the skinheads run out of the house. Omri feels that he need never be afraid of them again.)

#### Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. Why does Patrick choose to "forget" about Boone and Little Bear?  
(In the beginning, Omri still hangs on to fond memories of his adventures with Little Bear. Patrick on the other hand tries to completely forget about Boone and Little Bear, dismissing them as part of his childhood fantasies and the possibility of them coming alive as absurd. Patrick realizes that in the adult world, people think that only mad people would believe that toys can come alive. The author hints that as children grow up, they take a more realistic and unimaginative adult view of the world.)
7. Contrast Patrick with Omri.  
(While Patrick and Omri are both adventurous types, Omri is much more cautious than Patrick who is willing to try anything. Patrick is the first to be willing to go back in time. He urges Omri not to be so cautious and think all the time. In the beginning of the novel, Patrick dismisses the adventures with Boone and Little Bear as childhood fantasies. Evidently, Patrick is trying hard to grow up. Patrick also comes from a broken home, as his father used to hit him. Omri cannot imagine living without his father whom he adores.)
8. Why does the Matron feel uncomfortable about performing the surgery?  
(The Matron obviously comes from a society where social hierarchies are important. While she feels competent enough to perform the surgery, she feels that she would be violating hospital rules and stepping on a surgeon's job if she operates on Little Bear. However as this is an emer-

gency and there are no doctors available, she performs the job admirably and saves Little Bear's life.)

#### Questions 9-10 Critical Level

9. What is the author's view regarding war and violence?  
(Answers will vary. The Return of the Indian offers a much darker view of humanity than the first book, The Indian in the Cupboard. Omri and Patrick are no longer just playing with Little Bear and Boone. In The Return of the Indian, we are told that Patrick's father hits him. Little Bear is wounded by the French in a war. Tommy is killed in World War One. The British officer wants to kill Little Bear for no reason. Boone's horse is killed. The Iroquois Indians kill their own people by mistake when they use modern weapons. Omri is attacked almost daily on his way home from school. Lynne Reid Banks is concerned about the effects of war and violence on people, especially children; she shows the violence to be utterly senseless.)
10. What stereotypes does the author present in *The Return of the Indian*?  
(Stereotyping occurs when an author presents characters with typical features associated with such characters. There are several stereotypes presented in The Return of the Indian. Boone, the Texan, is a hard drinking seemingly illiterate cowboy. Little Bear is presented as a noble savage. Boone describes Little Bear's warlike characteristics as a part of his Indian nature. The Matron describes Little Bear's physique as a "superb specimen" [p. 116]. The Matron herself is a strictly no nonsense nurse and the British corporal is presented as someone from a working class background who can hardly speak the Queen's English. Such stereotyping presents one-dimensional characters and also a less critical and complex perspective of humanity.)

#### Questions 11-12 Creative Level

11. Create a new scene for *The Return of the Indian* in which you introduce a new toy figure/character into the story. Would this new character create problems? How would Omri and Patrick resolve any problems which may arise? How would the other toy figures react to the new arrival?
12. Explain how a writer would go about describing a time or place he or she has never been to. What kind of research would the writer need to conduct in order to create an authentic setting? How can he or she use imagination to describe a situation? What special precautions must the writer take?

#### LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of *The Return of the Indian*, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

**Historic milieu** is the setting of fictional events in an actual historical period. Because the novel involves some kind of time travel, Reid Banks uses a few historical periods, of which the primary one is the French and Indian War. This war was the American phase of the Seven Years War, a larger war between Britain and France that lasted from 1756 to 1763. In America, the war began two years earlier with the French and British fighting for control over the upper Ohio River valley. At first the French, who were allied with different Indian nations, held the upper hand.

Gradually, because of the superior British economy and navy, the French in North America began losing the war. On September 13, 1759, the British forces defeated the French in Quebec, leading eventually to the Treaty of Paris of 1763 and the withdrawal of all French forces from continental North America.

**Flashback** is a cinematic term often used in literature. It involves the interrupting of a narrative with the telling of events which occurred earlier but which are of relevance to the present plot. Flashbacks seem necessary in this novel because it is a sequel to a previous novel. Retelling of events in *The Indian in the Cupboard* make the present plot more coherent. For example, flashbacks of Tommy are needed to let the reader know how much Omri misses Tommy.

### ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

#### Science and Health

1. Describe how a surgeon would operate on a gunshot wound in a hospital. How would a doctor treat such a wound in more primitive conditions such as on a battlefield?
2. What were medical practices like during World War One? Describe the duties Tommy the medical orderly would have performed on the battlefield.
3. Research childbirth in rural areas without access to modern medicine.
4. Describe why Patrick, in the beginning, may have repressed the memories of his previous adventures with Boone and Little Bear. Investigate the controversy in the medical community regarding repressed memory.

#### Social Studies and History

1. Study the history of American pioneers in Texas. Examine the history of Spaniards and Indians in Texas and their conflicts with Americans. How did Texas become a part of the United States?
2. What was the attitude of pioneers like Boone towards Indians? How have the attitudes regarding Native Americans changed through the years? Are there still some stereotypes we hold regarding Indians? If so, are these stereotypes reflected in *The Return of the Indian*?
3. Examine the conflicts the British had with the French in eighteenth-century North America. How did the French and Indian War affect the American War of Independence? Describe the different alliances the British and the French had with different Indian nations. How did these alliances work out?

#### Language Arts

1. Examine different kinds of time travel novels for children and adults. Are there similarities between works such as *A Wrinkle in Time* and *The Time Machine*? Do authors explain how time travel might be possible? (Extra credit **Science** question: how do some physicists explain that time travel may be possible? Hint: look up the principles of the theory of relativity.)
2. Create a new scene in which Corporal Fickits and other British marines are sent back to eighteenth-century upstate New York. What kind of havoc would they create? What troubles would they have?
3. Create a new chapter showing how Omri would deal with

the skinheads the next day. Would Omri be afraid of them again?

#### Math

1. Eight out of forty Iroquois Indians were killed in their battle with the Algonquins. In percentage terms, what is the chance that an Iroquois would be killed in that battle? What is rate of casualty?
2. Omri won three hundred pounds in the writing contest. What is that in dollars today? What can you buy with three hundred pounds in Britain today? What was the exchange rate in 1986 (when this story was published)?

#### Art

1. Research the clothing of eighteenth-century Iroquois Indians. Draw a picture of Little Bear. Do the illustrations of Little Bear within the book and on the cover depict accurately what an Iroquois would look like? (also **History**)
2. Draw a picture of the battle between the Algonquins and the Iroquois.
3. Create papier mache objects such as the magic key, musket, and horse.
4. Create a mural showing a time line of the historical events mentioned in the novel such as the French and Indian war, World War One and Two, the American entry into Texas, and the British army involvement in Northern Ireland in the second half of the twentieth-century. Draw a picture of each of these events on the time line.

#### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. View a movie such as *The Last of the Mohicans* or *Drums Along the Mohawk* which depict Indians in eighteenth-century upstate New York. Compare the movies with *The Return of the Indian*. Does the book have any cinematic qualities? Do the movies depict accurately the history of European involvement in eighteenth-century New York and Canada?
2. View the movie *The Indian in the Cupboard*. Does your perception of the movie change after having read *The Return of the Indian*?
3. Set up a debate with students arguing whether Omri should have or should not have interfered in the battles between the Indians by providing Little Bear with modern weapons.
4. Draw a cause-and-effect diagram illustrating how Omri winning a writing competition creates a chain of events leading to the confrontation with the skinheads in the house.
5. Examine a map of New York, New England and Eastern Canada. What are the different Indian nations living in these areas? Describe how the different nations reacted to the arrival of Europeans.
6. Compare the different weapons the British, French, and Indians used in eighteenth-century America. Create illustrations of some of these weapons.
7. Research how the British eventually drove the French out of Canada. Present an oral report about the conflict between the English and the French in Canada.
8. Write a report discussing the reasons why Omri's parents choose to live in a bad neighborhood. Discuss their move

as an example of urban gentrification and renewal.

9. Write a report contrasting the personality of Little Bear with Boone's temperament. Would you say that they are realistic characters?
10. Create a skit showing how Omri and Patrick would explain to adults how they defeated the skinhead burglars. Videotape this skit. Read *The Secret of the Indian*, the next volume in this trilogy, to see how the author has the boys explain the situation.

#### ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Create a list of adjectives describing some of the characters in this novel such as Patrick, Omri, Little Bear, Boone, Fickits, Matron, and Bright Star. Would you be able to predict the reaction of each character by knowing his or her personality? Why or why not?
2. Compose brief definitions of courage, compassion, enthusiasm, and cautiousness, as they apply to Patrick, Omri, Little Bear, and Boone.
3. Create a skit depicting how the skinheads would react if they were sent back in time using the large chest and the magic key. To what period in history would you send them?
4. Work in small groups with each group examining different chapters. Create a list of English slang words used in the novel. How were you able to guess the meaning of these words by understanding the context?

#### OTHER BOOKS BY LYNN REID BANKS

*The Adventures of King Midas* (1976)  
*The Backward Shadow* (1972)  
*Broken Bridge* (1996)  
*Casualties: a Novel* (1986)  
*Children at the Gate; a Novel* (1968)  
*Dark Quartet: the Story of the Brontes* (1976)  
*Defy the Wilderness* (1981)  
*The Fairy Rebel* (1993)  
*The Farthest-Away Mountain* (1991)  
*I, Houdini: the Autobiography of a Self-educated Hamster* (1978)  
*The Indian in the Cupboard* (1980)  
*The L-shaped Room* (1961)  
*Letters to My Israeli Sons: the Story of Jewish Survival* (1971)  
*The Magic Hare* (1993)  
*Maura's Angel* (1985)  
*Melusine* (1985)  
*My Darling Villain* (1977)  
*One More River* (1993)  
*Path to the Silent Country: Charlotte Bronte's Years of Fame* (1977)  
*Sarah and After: Five Women Who Founded a Nation* (1975)  
*The Secret of the Indian* (1989)  
*Torn Country: An Oral History of the Israeli War of Independence* (1982)  
*Two is Lonely* (1974)  
*The Warning Bell* (1984)  
*The Writing on the Wall* (1981)

#### RELATED READING

Jan Adkins's *A Storm without Rain*  
Sally Keehn's *I Am Regina*  
Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* and *An Acceptable Time*  
H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*  
Richard Peck's *Voices After Midnight*

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## VOCABULARY TEST

Complete each sentence using the terms that follow. You may use each term more than once.

aghast	enigmatic	magnanimous	poignantly	slum
agitated	gibbering	mingling	prying	spiel
conservatory	imperious	moccasins	rapture	trance
crude	interlude	pell-mell	reluctance	vacated

1. On hearing the good news about winning a competition, Omri is so happy he appears to be in a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. "The Iroquois were a tribe ferocious in war, stalwart in alliance, \_\_\_\_\_ in victory."
3. Omri keeps some of his toys hidden, away from \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.
4. Omri deeply and \_\_\_\_\_ misses the absence of Tommy.
5. Under heavy attack from the British marines, the skinheads flee through an exit, \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Omri's new house is located in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Matron gives Omri a cryptic and \_\_\_\_\_ look.
8. Patrick tells Omri to lock him in the chest and Omri appears worried and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Omri went into his \_\_\_\_\_, telling the confused corporal how he is now in a world of giants.
10. Omri took Bright Star's \_\_\_\_\_ to Patrick in order to show him that the Indians were real.
11. Then she hurried away, \_\_\_\_\_ with the knot of other Indians in the center of the village.
12. There was a pleasant \_\_\_\_\_ while they fed the Indians.
13. Omri and Patrick fell to their knees on the spot Kitsa had so hastily \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Several times he demanded that one of them be brought and laid before him for closer inspection. Some he discarded with an \_\_\_\_\_ wave of his hand.
15. Boone received his drink back with \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Patrick was standing \_\_\_\_\_, too stunned, it seemed, to do anything.
17. He was sitting on the floor beside the chest, gazing in \_\_\_\_\_ at his little Indian, restored to him, and, almost, to health.
18. Almost \_\_\_\_\_ with excitement and relief—he felt as if he were looking into Aladdin's cave—Omri peered closer.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ as his old-fashioned methods were, they had worked.
20. Omri reluctantly went in search of his mother, and found her in the \_\_\_\_\_ at the back of the house watering her plants.

## COMPREHENSION TEST A

### Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following description with characters. Choose your answers from the list of characters below. You may use some of the answers more than once and some not at all.

- |          |                  |                |                  |              |
|----------|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| A. Boone | D. Tamsin        | G. Little Bear | J. Fickits       | M. Kitsa     |
| B. Omri  | E. Patrick       | H. Bright Star | K. Omri's mother | N. Algonquin |
| C. Adiel | F. The Skinheads | I. Matron      | L. Tommy         | O. Iroquois  |

- \_\_\_ 1. sometimes wears a key around her neck.
- \_\_\_ 2. is the family cat.
- \_\_\_ 3. are Indians who are enemies of Little Bear.
- \_\_\_ 4. is Little Bear's wife.
- \_\_\_ 5. break into Omri's house at night.
- \_\_\_ 6. is the nurse who operates on Little Bear
- \_\_\_ 7. is a medical orderly who was in World War I.
- \_\_\_ 8. is a Texan.
- \_\_\_ 9. is Patrick's cousin.
- \_\_\_ 10. helps Omri with writing the story.
- \_\_\_ 11. is the owner of the plastic cowboy.
- \_\_\_ 12. is the owner of the plastic Indian.
- \_\_\_ 13. is a corporal in the British Marines.
- \_\_\_ 14. is the Indian nation to which Little Bear belongs.
- \_\_\_ 15. gets shot by French soldiers.

### Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Write a word or phrase to complete each statement.

1. The story opens with Omri \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Omri finds out he won a competition for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Omri and Patrick find out that Bright Star will give \_\_\_\_\_.
4. On the streets, the skinheads attack \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Matron operates on Little Bear to remove \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Tommy dies in a battle in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Fickits leads the British Marines against \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In eighteenth-century New York, the French fought the Iroquois as well as the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Patrick and Omri try to steal toys from \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Patrick says he carries the plastic cowboy in his pocket for \_\_\_\_\_.



**Part III: True/False (20 points)**

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- 1. Patrick tempts Omri to use the magic key again.
- 2. Little Bear does not want to fight the French.
- 3. Boone is from eighteenth-century New York.
- 4. Omri transports an Algonquin Indian back into his time.
- 5. Omri's mother left the magic key in the bathroom.
- 6. Omri lives in a bad neighborhood.
- 7. Patrick at first tries to forget all about Little Bear and Boone.
- 8. Kitsa wounds Boone's horse.
- 9. Boone is a cowboy.
- 10. Tommy is one of the skinheads.

**Part IV: Essay (30 points)**

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Contrast Omri and Patrick in the way they make decisions.
- 2. What does Boone say about the "nature" of an Indian? Do you agree with his assessment? Why or why not?
- 3. Explain how Omri manages to defeat the skinheads.

## COMPREHENSION TEST B

### Part I: Short Answer (20 points)

Use a word or phrase from the lettered list to identify each of the people referred to in the underlined words below.

- A. Little Bear      C. Tamsin      E. Bright Star      G. Gillon  
B. Fickits      D. Matron      F. Omri

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. "Omri good," he said loudly. "Give *orenda* back to Little Bear!"  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Orders the soldiers to shoot at the Skinheads.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Names his baby after Omri.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. "You're stealing my presents!" she said, slowly and menacingly.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. "He must be taken at once to the nearest hospital. I recommend my own—St. Thomas's."  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6. "I shall need an assistant," she said briskly. "What about the Indian girl?"  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7. "You're always thinking!" he said disgustedly. "Why don't you just try it?"  
\_\_\_\_\_ 8. The chief of his people.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 9. He didn't like the idea of playing God. But it was too late to back out now.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Broke a swimming record at his school.

### Part II: Multiple Choice (20 Points)

Underline an answer to complete each statement below.

1. Omri sends (Algonquin Indians, Patrick, Iroquois Indians, skinheads) back in time to help Little Bear.
2. Corporal Fickits is a soldier in the (British air force, French army, First World War, British marines).
3. Omri goes to school by (bicycle, train, his father's car, sharing a ride with Patrick).
4. Little Bear is shot by (the French, the British, Corporal Fickits, Kitsa).
5. Patrick lives with his (mother, father, parents, aunt) in the country.
6. The Matron works in (eighteenth-century America, a wartime hospital, France, a modern English hospital).
7. Patrick persuades (Boone, Little Bear, Adiel, Omri) to send him back in time.
8. Omri sleeping on the living room sofa, is awoken by (skinhead burglars, the toy soldiers, Patrick, his parents).
9. Little Bear is sad because he (won't see his son, shot his own people by accident, won't see Omri again, cannot fight anymore).
10. Omri's parents are proud that he (won a writing competition, saved the Iroquois Indians, saved Little Bear's life, won an athletic competition).

**Part III: Identification (20 points)**

Place an **X** by any statement that is true of Omri.

- 1. confronts the skinheads almost every day coming back from school.
- 2. helps his brothers at school.
- 3. has a cat called Kitsa.
- 4. lives in a bad neighborhood.
- 5. has a father who hits him.
- 6. sees the Algonquins plunder the Iroquois village.
- 7. has a plastic cowboy called Boone.
- 8. gets the Matron to save Tommy's life.
- 9. saves Boone's horse from getting hurt by Kitsa.
- 10. gets Boone to fight the skinheads.

**Part IV: Essay (40 points)**

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Omri and Patrick considered the ethics of helping the Iroquois with modern weapons. If you could go back in time once to change history, what would you like to change?
2. Explain why Patrick might have wanted to forget about his previous adventures with Boone and Little Bear. Tell why Omri felt all alone when Patrick would not talk about it anymore.
3. In what ways are the characters in this novel realistic and credible? In what ways are they not?

## ANSWER KEY

### VOCABULARY TEST

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. trance      | 11. mingling     |
| 2. magnanimous | 12. interlude    |
| 3. prying      | 13. vacated      |
| 4. poignantly  | 14. imperious    |
| 5. pell-mell   | 15. reluctance   |
| 6. slum        | 16. aghast       |
| 7. enigmatic   | 17. rapture      |
| 8. agitated    | 18. gibbering    |
| 9. spiel       | 19. crude        |
| 10. moccasins  | 20. conservatory |

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. K | 6. I  | 11. E |
| 2. M | 7. L  | 12. B |
| 3. N | 8. A  | 13. J |
| 4. H | 9. D  | 14. O |
| 5. F | 10. C | 15. G |

#### Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

- walking home from the train station
- a creative writing contest
- birth to a baby
- Omri
- a musket ball
- World War One
- the skinheads
- British
- Tamsin
- good luck

#### Part III: True/False (20 points)

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

#### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. E  |
| 2. B | 7. F  |
| 3. A | 8. A  |
| 4. C | 9. F  |
| 5. D | 10. G |

#### Part II: Multiple Choice (20 Points)

- Iroquois Indians
- British Marines
- train
- the French
- mother
- a modern English hospital
- Omri
- skinhead burglars
- shot his own people by accident
- won a writing competition

#### Part III: Identification (20 points)

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

#### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.



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