

Tofu Ling Sets Sail

Written by Rosanna I. Porter & Illustrated by Lynda C. Porter

Story Discussion Questions and Answers

Discussing the Story:

The discussion ideas are meant to encourage the child/student to use higher order thinking skills to compare, contrast, explain, describe, identify, summarize, discuss, relate how, analyze, draw conclusions, evaluate, and interpret. They are not designed to have a child respond with only one answer or response. It is important to stimulate as much creativity with responses as possible. The depth and breadth to which a child will respond will depend on their individual abilities and experiences. It is the author's intent to teach this skill not only to the child, but also the teacher or parent. Long gone is the idea that there is only one response possible. As long as the child can justify their response with thoughtful or logical reasoning, the answer should be accepted. We need to teach our children how to think and not just what to think. Foundations need to be established and nurtured. Please note: Possible discussion responses are provided in italics after the discussion idea. If needed, use them as springboards to guide the discussion; however, do not use them as the only possible response.

Discussion Leads:

Name some clues that indicate Tofu was happy to visit his Uncle Hiroshi.

When Tofu heard that he was invited to visit his Uncle Hiroshi, he jumped up and down with excitement and he was eager to pack for the trip.

Discuss why Tofu was not happy to see his cousin, Kenji, at his Uncle's cabin. Discuss some possible reasons his uncle would have invited the boys to visit at the same time.

Tofu and his cousin, Kenji, had fought last spring and they had not spoken since. Perhaps their uncle wanted the boys to mend their friendship and he thought if they spent some time together, they would remember why they were friends.

Name some possible reasons their uncle gave them the little skiff.

Their uncle suggested the boys work on repairing the little skiff together so that they would learn teamwork. He may have thought that while they repaired the little skiff, they could repair their friendship.

Describe how the boys worked together.

At first, the boys worked very well together, but when they started to get tired the old argument surfaced. When their uncle heard them fighting, he suggested they work together to learn the song. Their uncle distracted them and they were back to singing and having a good time.

Describe how the boys felt about their little skiff and how they felt about taking it out on the water.

The boys were very proud of their hard work in repairing the little skiff. They were excited to go out on the little skiff and wanted to spend the night onboard. They wanted to set sail early in the morning and have the whole day to sail around the islands.

When the boys woke up and discovered that they had drifted out to sea, describe how they felt.

They were both shocked and scared.

Describe how the boys found their way back to Uncle Hiroshi's dock.

They remembered the song their uncle taught them and began to sing it. While they were singing it, Tofu saw the first clue -- flowers blooming on the water. He then realized the song offered clues to find their way back to the dock. Each verse was a different clue. All they needed to do was to look for the clue and sail towards it.

List the clues in the correct order.

Flowers blooming on the water, barking seals, and the dreaded Dragon.

Tell what they named their ship and why. Suggest some other names for their little skiff..

They named their boat "The Friendship" because they renewed their friendship while working and sailing around the islands.