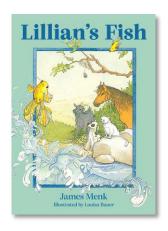


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Lillian's Fish

Written by James Menk Illustrated by Louisa Bauer

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Lillian turns six, her favorite gift is an extraordinary fish whose body shimmers with all the colors of the rainbow. But when the brand-new birthday fish disappears, Lillian is devastated.

While she and her brothers try to unravel the mystery, the other family pets—the horse, the goat, the dog, the cat, the turtle, the spider, and the bird—secretly band together to find out what has happened to the little fish. A trail of clues soon leads the animals on a fantastic adventure along the river and deep into the woods, where they encounter new places and strange creatures.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Lillian's family celebrates their 6th birthdays by giving a pet as a gift. Do you and your family have any birthday traditions?
- 2. If you could get a pet for your birthday, what animal would you choose?
- 3. Lillian has seven siblings. What do you think it would be like to be the youngest of eight children?
- 4. In Chapter 5, the animals bring the cat to trial for the disappearance of Lillian's fish. Do you think it's the cat's fault? Do you think having the cat wear a collar until they find the fish is a good decision?

- 5. Discuss the animals' motives for getting Lillian's fish back. Do you think their motives are selfish or not?
- 6. Before their trip downstream, the different animals make preparations. How do you prepare for a trip?
- 7. How would you feel if you were Lillian's brothers and saw that all of your pets were missing?
- 8. In Chapter 12, the narrator admits that the pine forest was a frightening place. Looking at Chapters 11 and 12, can you provide examples from the story that support this idea?
- 9. Throughout the story, the horse uses big words but is not always confident he knows what they mean. Pick a few unfamiliar words that the horse uses and look up their definitions. Is the horse using those words correctly?
- 10. What did you think of Turtle's reaction to almost getting eaten by the bear? How would you have reacted?
- 11. What are some ways the animals worked together to achieve their goal of finding the fish?
- 12. Can you think of a time when you worked together with someone or a group in order to achieve a specific goal? How did you work together?
- 13. Do you think they would have found the fish faster if the animals had worked together with the children? Why or why not?
- 14. Who is your favorite animal character?
- 15. Using the map at the beginning of the book, can you follow the animals' journey to find the fish?
- 16. What do you think of the book's ending?