

LYNNE REID BANKS

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD



THE ACTIVITY GUIDE

The curriculum objectives for these activity sheets are:

1. Maintain positive attitudes to reading and deeper understanding of what students read by:

- reading and discussing an increasingly wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
- reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
- increasing familiarity with a wide range of contents, including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and books from other cultures and traditions

2. Exploring students' understanding of the book by:

- checking that the book makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and exploring the meaning of words in context
- drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
- summarising the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas



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TO TELL OR NOT TO TELL?

‘Patrick heaved a deep, deep sigh and put the cowboy back in his pocket. He’d been friends with Omri for years, ever since they’d started primary school. They knew each other very well. Just as Patrick knew when Omri was lying, he also knew when he wasn’t. The only trouble was that this was a non-lie he couldn’t believe.

“I want to see him,” he said.

Omri debated with himself. He somehow felt that if he didn’t share his secret with Patrick, their friendship would be over. He didn’t want that. And besides, the thrill of showing his Indian to someone else was something that he could not do without for much longer.’ (page 83)

READ CHAPTER 7 – UNINVITED BROTHERS

TASK: Think about the reasons why Omri should show the Indian to Patrick, and the reasons he shouldn’t. List your reasons they try to come up with a conclusion by giving advice to Omri.

IDEAS TO INCLUDE:

- **RISKS** – What could happen if Patrick tells other people? What if someone steals the Indian? What if adults find out?
- **BENEFITS** – Will Patrick be able to share in the fun? Will their friendship be stronger? Might Patrick share his secrets too?

Reasons Omri SHOULD show Patrick	Reasons Omri SHOULD NOT

IN CONCLUSION I WOULD TELL OMRI...

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CROSSWORD

Solve the clues to complete the crossword:

1.	4.		5.		6.								
												9.	
					2.		7.		8.				
					3.								

CLUES:

Across

- 1) This person gave Omri the plastic Indian as a present (7)
- 2) The special occasion Omri was celebrating when he received the present (8)
- 3) Little Bull and Boone liked to get into situations of grave d _ _ _ _ _ (6)

Down

- 4) One of Omri's brothers (5)
- 5) The key was hung on some red r _ _ _ _ _ (6)
- 6) For the magic to happen, Omri put the plastic figures inside this (8)
- 7) The type of Indian Little Bull is (3)
- 8) Little Bull liked to ride this without a saddle (5)
- 9) Without this, the cupboard couldn't be opened (3)

Answers: Across: 1. Patrick 2. Birthday 3. Danger Down: 4. Adiel 5. Ribbon 6. Cupboard 7. Red 8. Horse 9. Key

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DESIGN A MINI-HOME

“I can’t get over it,” Adiel went on. “How on earth did you do it, without using any Airfix glue or anything? It’s all done with tiny little threads, and pegs, and – look, Gillon! It’s all made of real twigs and bark. It’s absolutely terrific,” he said with such awe-struck admiration in his voice that Omri felt ashamed.” (page 86)

READ CHAPTER 7 – UNINVITED BROTHERS

TASK: Design your own mini- home and landscape that either Little Bull or Boone could live in. Draw and label the features you would include.

IDEAS TO INCLUDE:

- Where will they sleep?
- How much space would they need?
- What household items could you use?
- Would they be able to cook, clean, wash in their home?
- Would they be able to keep animals there?

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THANK YOU LETTER

'It was not that Omri didn't appreciate Patrick's birthday present to him. Far from it. He was really very grateful – sort of. It was, without a doubt, very kind of Patrick to give Omri anything at all, let alone a secondhand plastic Red Indian which he himself had finished with.

The trouble was, though, that Omri was getting a little fed up with small plastic figures, of which he had loads. Biscuit-tinsful, probably three or four if they were all put away at the same time, which they never were because most of the time they were scattered about in the bathroom, the loft, the kitchen, the breakfast-room, not to mention Omri's bedroom and the garden. The compost heap was full of soldiers which, over several autumns, had been raked up with the leaves by Omri's mother, who was rather careless about such things.' (page 9)

READ CHAPTER 1 – BIRTHDAY PRESENTS

TASK: Imagine you are Omri. Write a letter to Patrick to thank him for the birthday present.
Use information from the chapter as well as your own imagination

IDEAS TO INCLUDE:

- The reason you are writing ('...to say thank you for...')
- How you will play with the Red Indian ('...I will set up a game with the soldiers...')
- That you appreciate the present ('...you didn't need to...')
- Details about your party ('...I'll be having a party and you're invited...')
- Details about other gifts you received ('...Mother got me a sweater...')

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A large, blank, lined page for writing, featuring a red vertical margin line on the left and horizontal blue lines. There are two grey circular punch holes on the left side of the page.

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IN THE NEWS

‘Omri and Patrick decided they must take it in turns to sit up all night with Boone. This was going to be tricky because of light showing under the door, but Omri unearthed the lumpy remains of a candle he had made himself from a candle-making kit.

"We can put it behind the dressing-up crate. Then the light won't show."

They got into their pyjamas. Patrick was supposed to be sleeping on a folding-bed, so they got it ready to avoid arousing suspicion.

When Omri's mother came in to kiss them goodnight, they were both in bed, apparently reading.' (page 189)

READ CHAPTER 15 – UNDERFLOOR ADVENTURE

TASK: Pretend that Omri's parents have found out about Boone and Little Bull – and now the story is on the front page of every newspaper! Use your imagination as well as information from the story to create a newspaper article about the amazing discovery of the little people.

IDEAS TO INCLUDE:

- Catchy heading
- What, Where, When, Who, Why details
- A picture with caption
- Quotes from witnesses

MAKE NOTES HERE

COLLIN

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THE DAILY NEWS

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