



Journey of the Pale Bear

By Susan Fletcher

Club Tome It List Discussion Guide



Pre-Reading Questions

1. Many things have happened in the care and treatment of wild animals in the past that we as a society feel should be done differently now. Can you think of an example? Compare and Contrast how it was before and how it should be or is now.
2. America is known for being founded by immigrants. Many of whom spoke different languages when they arrived. Have you ever been to another country where you could not speak or understand the language? Do you know anyone who can speak more than one language? What would be some of the challenges you would face if you did not understand the language or could not communicate with others?
3. We all have gifts. Some people are naturally athletic. Some learn to read more quickly or do math problems easier than others. Would you consider having a natural ability to get along with animals a gift? Why would this be something to admire in others? What kind of jobs might benefit from someone who has this gift?
4. Attending school has not always been a requirement throughout history. Hundreds of years ago, learning to read and write was a privilege only for the royal or wealthy. Can you imagine being twelve years old and never having attended school? Or at a very young age having to work in the gardens, fields or tending to the animals every day? Thinking of this, what do you consider the best thing about going to school for which you are most grateful?

Post-Reading Questions

1. The first time Arthur was in the cage with the bear was the result of being pushed. What do you think Hauk hoped would happen to Arthur?
2. When Arthur's mother received the letter from England, why did she not want Arthur's step-brother Edvin to take it from her?
3. What was Arthur's first job on the ship? **Remember it wasn't pleasant.** Why was the task so difficult?
4. When the doctor called Arthur "son", what did that mean to Arthur? Did he want it to mean more than he should?
5. When the bear and Arthur were alone on the island, Arthur still kept a safe distance from the bear at times. Do you think he should have just accepted that the bear would not hurt him and that they were friends? Why would it be smart to continue to be cautious?
6. Why would something as simple as going for a swim every day help the bear? He still had to go back to the cage. Do you think Arthur had a good idea? Why or why not?

Post-Reading Activities

1. Journey of the Pale Bear is an easy read and would appeal to many age groups. Create an IT List Book Promotional Flyer to highlight the features of this book and share who you think might enjoy it.
2. Are you artistic? Do you like to draw or paint? The book Journey of the Pale Bear has so many vivid images described in the book. Put your talents to work and sketch a character or a scene from the book that could be submitted in the IT List Fan Art Competition.

3. The friendship between Arthur and the bear is very special. They can't speak to each other, but they seem to have this connection that is unbreakable. Poems are a great way to express love and friendship. Write a poem for the IT List Poetry Competition about this very special relationship.

More about this book

- Author's website: <https://www.susanfletcher.com/books/bk-journey.html>
- Publisher's Information & Reading group guide: <https://www.simonandschuster.net/books/Journey-of-the-Pale-Bear/Susan-Fletcher/9781534420779#reading-group-guide>
- Flipgrid Topic Link: <https://flipgrid.com/e5ca2553>