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# Sample

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**Response Journal**

Reflections: A Student Response Journal



*The Indian in the Cupboard*  
Lynne Reid Banks

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## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

## **Chapter 1 – Birthday Presents**

1. Patrick gives Omri a plastic Indian figure for his birthday. Omri is not happy with this present, but he tries to hide his feelings because he does not want to hurt his friend. Do you understand how Omri is feeling? Have you ever had a similar experience? If so, relate the experience.
2. Omri's brother gives Omri the white cupboard as a gift. Omri knows that his brother found the cupboard in the alley, but Omri is pleased with it anyway. Think about your best friend, your brother or sister, or anyone who is close to you. If you wanted to give them a gift but did not have any money, what might that gift be? Why do you think the other person would like your gift?
3. Omri makes a wish when he blows out the candles on his birthday cake. He wishes that he will pass his spelling test. Later he regrets this wish, so he changes it. He wishes that his birthday present will become a "secret cupboard" when he puts the key into the lock. What kinds of things do you wish for when you blow out your birthday candles? Do any of your wishes come true?
4. If you had a cupboard with a lock, similar to Omri's, what do you think you might put into it?
5. The key is a very special family heirloom that fits into the lock on a jewelry box. The only gift his deceased great-grandmother left to his mother. What kinds of family heirlooms do you have in your family? Is there one that is special to you in some way? What is it?

## **Chapter 2 – The Door Is Shut**

14. Breakfast in Omri's house is rushed and hectic. We all have experienced hectic mornings. Describe a difficult morning at your house. Be sure to include how you feel about everything you describe.
15. Omri forgets his swimming clothes and blames his brother Adiel for his own forgetfulness. Write a letter of apology from Omri to Adiel.
16. Patrick is surprised that Omri does not bring his new skateboard to school. He knows that Omri has been wishing for a skateboard to skate with the other boys. Have you ever wished for some item, like a skateboard, because having it will help you to be more accepted by other children? If so, describe the experience.
17. At the end of the school day, Omri begins to worry that he may have harmed the Indian by leaving him locked in the cupboard all day without any food, water, or fresh air. He has a terrible, sick feeling of dread. Can you understand how he feels? Write about a time in your life when you felt this way about something you may have done or may have forgotten to do.
18. When Omri discovers that the Indian is once again plastic, he wonders if he imagined the whole incident. Did this thought occur to you as you read the story? What evidence is there in the story supporting the idea that Omri's experiences are only a dream?

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42. Foreshadowing is defined as the use of hints and clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense. Most critics believe that the appearance of Tommy Atkins in this chapter is an example of foreshadowing. What future events do you think it might be suggesting? Write a dialogue between two students discussing this idea. The dialogue might begin as follows:

**First Student:** Ok, what future event do you think Tommy might be in?

**Second Student:** Well, he is a medic.

**First Student:**

## **Chapter 8 – Cowboy!**

51. Patrick is unable to resist the temptation of having a small person of his own. While Omri is out of the room, he places the cowboy and the horse into the cupboard. Why do you suppose Patrick decides to change the cowboy, instead of one of Omri's other plastic figures, into a real person?
52. When the cowboy first sees Patrick's huge face, he takes out his pistol and shoots Patrick. In what sense is Patrick a very lucky boy?
53. Some critics believe that Patrick and Little Bear share some of the same personality traits. Consider how each character behaves and how each character interacts with Omri. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the critics?
54. Omri does not want Patrick to bring the cowboy to life; yet, Omri willingly agrees to get Little Bear a wife. Why do you suppose he does this?
55. Patrick uses blackmail to force Omri to agree to bring the cowboy and horse to school. If you were Patrick, how would you have handled the situation?
56. If you were Omri and your best friend was blackmailing you, how would you respond?