Comprehension Questions (Answer Key)

Chapters 1-4

1. How did Rob's dad rip his clothes? slapping Rob to make him stop crying  p.3
2. Name two of Rob's "not-thoughts". his mom's death, rash, the Threemonger brothers) p.3
3. Describe Billy and Norton. boys who ride the bus with Rob; they were bullies to Rob; had bad breath; p.5
4. What does Mr. Nelson, the bus driver, do as Billy and Norton bully Rob? nothing; whistles a tuneless song ignoring the situation p.6
5. What gives Rob the strength to not-cry when the boys bully him on the bus? He had the extra power of the tiger with him p.6
6. What did Rob think of Sistine? she's strange p.8
7. Where did the name "Sistine" come from? a chapel p.9
8. Describe Sistine. wore pink lacy dress; gravelly, deep, clipped, sharp voice; sharp nose and chin; black black eyes; didn't seem bothered by the boys; confident p.9
9. Why does Rob want to whittle the tiger? his mother taught him how to whittle and it makes stuff come alive p.12
10. What is Sistine's attitude to Robert? hate's him p.12
Comprehension Questions
Chapters 1-4

1. How did Rob's dad rip his clothes?

2. Name two of Rob's "not-thoughts".

3. Describe Billy and Norton Threemonger.

4. What does Mr. Nelson, the bus driver, do as Billy and Norton bully Rob?

5. What gives Rob the strength to not-cry when the boys bully him on the bus?

6. What did Rob think of Sistine?

7. Where did the name "Sistine" come from?

8. Describe Sistine.

9. Why does Rob want to whittle the tiger?

10. What is Sistine's attitude toward Robert?
Comprehension Questions (Answer Key)

Chapters 5-9

1. Why is Mr. Phelmer, the principal, worried about Rob's legs? Parents of the other students think his rash might be contagious p. 15
2. Why is Rob's heart singing when the principal tells him he should stay home for a few days for the medicine to work? He doesn't have to go to school; he can see the tiger; he can begin to whittle the tiger into wood p.17
3. Why didn't Rob yell at Sistine to run when kids were throwing objects at her? he knew if he did he would get bullied as well p.19
4. Why did Rob feel a thrill when the children were chasing him after he stopped them from ganging up on Sistine? he was saving Sistine p.21
5. What type of figurative language is this an example of? "He opened his mouth and the words fell out, one on top of the other, like gold coins." simile p.23
6. Why did Sistine put her hand on Rob's leg, then rub her hand up and down her own legs? she would get the rash and not have to go to school p.24
7. Will anyone catch Rob's sickness? no p.26
8. What will Rob do when he is out of school? work with his dad p.27
9. How did Rob's dad feel about him missing school? he was ok with it; thought a break from the bullies would do him good; though it would be good to have Rob help him around the motel p.27
10. Why does Rob not like sunshine? it reminds him of his mom's funeral p.33
Comprehension Questions

Chapters 5-9

1. Why is Mr. Phelmer, the principal, worried about Rob's legs?

2. Why is Rob's heart singing when the principal tells him he should stay home for a few days for the medicine to work?

3. Why didn't Rob yell at Sistine to run when kids were throwing objects at her?

4. Why did Rob feel a thrill when the children were chasing him after he stopped them from ganging up on Sistine?

5. What type of figurative language is this an example of: "He opened his mouth and the words fell out, one on top of the other, like gold coins."

6. Why did Sistine put her hand on Rob's leg, then rub her hand up and down her own legs?

7. Will anyone catch Rob's sickness?

8. What will Rob do when he is out of school?

9. How did Rob's dad feel about him missing school?

10. Why does Rob not like sunshine?
Comprehension Questions (Answer Key)

Chapters 10-14

1. What did Willie May say to Rob that would help him be cured of his rashes? Let the sadness from his mom's death rise up to his heart, not go down to his legs. p.37
2. What certificate does Rob's principle not have? Sense certificate. p.37
3. When Sistine had brought Rob his homework the first time, why were her clothes dirty and her knuckles bloody? She'd been fighting at school. p.40
4. When Rob told Sistine about the tiger, how did he know he told the right person? The only question she asked was, "where?" p.41
5. Who was the sculptor that painted the Sistine Chapel? Michelangelo. p.43
6. How did Rob feel when Sistine called him an artist? Joyful and embarrassed. p.43
7. How does Sistine get Rob to tell her about his mother? Starts to leave and walks away from him. p.48
8. Why is Sistine upset about the tiger being caged in Florida? It was not running free. p.50-51
9. Why didn't Rob want to agree with Sistine and let the tiger free? It wasn't his tiger to let go. p.51
10. What emotion did Rob feel when he grabbed Sistine's hand and ran away from the car approaching them and the tiger? Happiness. p.52
11. Why had Rob started to feel happiness again? He had a friend. p.52
The Tiger Rising

Comprehension Questions

Chapters 10-14

1. What did Willie May say to Rob that would help him be cured of his rashes?

2. What type of certificate does Rob's principal not have?

3. When Sistine had brought Rob his homework the first time, why were her clothes dirty and her knuckles bloody?

4. When Rob told Sistine about the tiger, how did he know he told the right person?

5. Who was the sculptor that painted the Sistine Chapel?

6. How did Rob feel when Sistine called him an artist?

7. How does Sistine get Rob to tell her about his mother?

8. Why is Sistine upset about the tiger being caged in Florida?

9. Why didn't Rob want to do what Sistine wanted to do and let the tiger free?

10. What emotion did Rob feel when he grabbed Sistine's hand and ran away from the car approaching them and the tiger?

11. Why had Rob started to feel happiness again?
Comprehension Questions (Answer Key)

Chapters 15-19

1. Why was Rob scolding himself for leaving open his "suitcase"?  
   now his words, feelings and emotions were out  p.55

2. How did Sistine's parents meet?  
   they were both looking up at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and ran into each other.  p.57

3. Why doesn't Sistine listen to, or respect her mother?  she feels like she's a liar  p.60

4. What is Willie May's opinion on caged animals?  she wants to let them go p.64

5. Tell me about the parakeet Willie May got for her birthday.  called him Cricket because he sang all the time; could feel his heart beating in her hand when she held him; let him go since she couldn't stand him being locked up; her dad beat her  p.62

6. What special job does Beauchamp want to give Rob?  taking care of the tiger  p.67

7. What do you think the bloody meat in Beachamp's jeep is for?  to feed the tiger  p.68

8. How did Beauchamp come into possession of the tiger?  a fellow owed him some money and paid him with a tiger  p.70

9. Why did Beauchamp give the entire set of keys to the tiger cage to Rob?  Beauchamp trusted him not to open the door  p.71

10. What does Rob have that will set the tiger free?  the keys p.73
Comprehension Questions
Chapters 15-19

1. Why was Rob scolding himself for leaving open his "suitcase"?

2. How did Sistine's parents meet?

3. Why doesn't Sistine listen to, or respect her mother?

4. What is Willie May's opinion on caged animals

5. Tell me about the parakeet Willie May got for her birthday.

6. What special job does Beauchamp want to give Rob?

7. What do you think the bloody meat in Beachamp's jeep is for?

8. How did Beauchamp come into possession of the tiger?

9. Why did Beauchamp give the entire set of keys to the tiger cage to Rob?

10. What does Rob have that will set the tiger free?
Comprehension Questions (Answer Key)

Chapters 20-22

1. When Sistine presses Rob into letting the tiger go, why does he resist? the tiger won't be safe  p.76
2. Why does Sistine break down crying when Rob won't let the tiger go? she wants to go live with her dad; she hates it in Florida; she wants to let the tiger go  p.77
3. How does Rob comfort Sistine when she breaks down crying? put his hand on her neck like his mother used to do to him; told her to cry and that he had a good hold on her  p.77
4. What does Willie May compare Sistine's anger to? lightning that was snapping out of her  p.81
5. What was the advice that Willie May gave to Sistine? no one was going to rescue her; she had to rescue herself  p.82
6. When Rob's dad found the rotten meat under his bed, what's a word that would describe how his dad felt? inadequate; frustrated; angry  p.83
7. Why did Rob's father stare at the gun and crack his knuckles after finding the meat? he was thinking about using it on Beauchamp  p.84
8. What did Rob carve? Willie May's bird, Cricket  p.85
Comprehension Questions

Chapters 20-22

1. When Sistine presses Rob into letting the tiger go, why does he resist?

2. Why does Sistine break down crying when Rob won't let the tiger go?

3. How does Rob comfort Sistine when she breaks down crying?

4. What does Willie May compare Sistine's anger to?

5. What was the advice that Willie May gave to Sistine?

6. When Rob's dad found the meat under his bed, what's a word that would describe how his dad felt?

7. Why did Rob's father stare at the gun and crack his knuckles after finding the meat?

8. What did Rob carve?
Comprehension Questions (Answer Key)

Chapters 23-27

1. When Rob put the wooden carving into Willie May's hand, what was her response? she didn't want to open her eyes for fear she would frighten the wooden bird away; she knew what it was with her eyes closed; soothed her heart  p.88

2. Why doesn't Willie May have to dream of Cricket anymore? now she had Rob's carving of her Cricket  p.88

3. Why does Rob like Sistine so much? her voice changes when she sees something beautiful  p.92

4. When Rob and Sistine first told Willie May about the tiger, what was her reaction? surprised; shocked; wanted to see the tiger  p.93

5. What does Sistine always say when she gets sad, frustrated or doesn't get her way? she can't wait until her father comes to get her and that he'll set the tiger free; puts the blame on other people by calling them liars  p.95

6. After Willie May told Rob that she would like to see the tiger "rise on up out of his cage", Rob realized what he had to do. What do you predict he'll do?  p.97

7. When Beauchamp drives up in his jeep toward Sistine and Rob, what does Sistine do that surprises Rob? smile and sweetly say "Sissy" to Beauchamp  p.100

8. What is the truth that Rob and Sistine learn about Beauchamp and the tiger? Beauchamp is scared of the tiger  p.101

9. When Rob unlocks the tiger cage, why do they rock it? so the tiger will leave  p.103

10. What did the author compare the tiger running away from Rob and Sistine to? he looked like the sun, rising, setting again and again
Comprehension Questions

Chapters 23-27

1. When Rob put the wooden carving into Willie May's hand, what was her response?

2. Why doesn't Willie May have to dream of Cricket anymore?

3. Why does Rob like Sistine so much?

4. When Rob and Sistine first told Willie May about the tiger, what was her reaction?

5. What does Sistine always say when she gets sad, frustrated or doesn't get her way?

6. After Willie May told Rob that she would like to see the tiger "rise on up out of his cage", Rob realized what he had to do. What do you predict he'll do?

7. When Beauchamp drives up in his jeep toward Sistine and Rob, what does Sistine do that surprises Rob?

8. What is the truth that Rob and Sistine learn about Beauchamp and the tiger?

9. When Rob unlocks the tiger cage, why do they rock it?

10. What did the author compare the tiger running away from Rob and Sistine to?
Comprehension Questions (Answer Key)

Chapters 28-30

1. What happens to the tiger after the kids let him go? Rob's dad shoots it p.106
2. What was a positive outcome to Rob's dad shooting the tiger? Rob was able to finally tell his father how he feels about his mother being gone and they could talk and cry together p.106
3. Why do you think it was important to touch the tiger after Rob's dad had shot it? helps you mourn, say good-bye and accept what has happened p.109
4. What attended both Rob's mother's and the tiger's funeral? the sun p.111
5. On the way back to the motel after the funeral, Rob felt lighter, as if he had put something heavy down and walked away from it. Why was he feeling lighter? he and his dad had talked; he was able to cry; he felt good about his decision to let the tiger go p.112
6. Why does Rob feel all right about going to school now? Sistine is there p.114
7. What will Rob carve for Sistine? a tiger p.116
Comprehension Questions
Chapters 28-30

1. What happens to the tiger after the kids let him go?

2. What was a positive outcome to Rob's dad shooting the tiger?

3. Why do you think it was important to touch the tiger after Rob's dad had shot it?

4. What attended both Rob's mother's and the tiger's funeral?

5. On the way back to the motel after the funeral, Rob felt lighter, as if he had put something heavy down and walked away from it. Why was he feeling lighter?

6. Why does Rob feel all right about going to school now?

7. What will Rob carve for Sistine?
Vocabulary Chapters 1-30

1. Harbored (p.1) – verb To keep or hold in the mind; maintain; entertain
2. Abiding (p.1) – adjective Continuing without change; enduring; steadfast
3. Astounded (p.2) – verb to overwhelm with amazement; astonish greatly; shock with wonder or surprise
4. Defiantly (p.12) – adjective boldly resistant or challenging
5. Buoyed (p.18) – verb felt encouraged
6. Sneered (p.23) – verb to smile, laugh or contort the face in a manner that shows scorn or contempt
7. Frescoes (p.23) – noun the art or technique of painting on a moist, plaster surface with colors ground up in water or a limewater mixture
8. Leprosy (p.39) – noun a chronic, infectious disease where sores appear on the skin and numbness occurs, causing amputation
9. Evaporated (p.55) – verb disappear; vanish; fade
10. Scolded (p.55) – verb to get angry at; find fault with; reprimand
11. Hobo (p.59) – noun a homeless person; vagrant
12. Billowed (p.63) – verb to swell out, puff up
13. Fervently (p.67) – adjective having or showing great warmth or intensity of spirit, feeling, or enthusiasm
14. Materialized (p.79) – verb to appear
15. Prophetess (p.82) – noun a woman who speaks for God or a deity; foretells future events
16. Conjured (p.99) – verb to effect, produce, bring as by magic
17. Emancipators (p.102) – verb to free something from bondage
18. Oblivious (p.103) – adjective unmindful; unaware; unconscious
19. Lurched (p.107) – verb swaying abruptly
20. Turpentine (p.107) – noun a type of oil and resin that comes from coniferous trees
21. Symmetry (p.110) – noun excellence in proportion
Writing Prompts

Chapters 1-7
In paragraph form, list three characters, describe them in your own words, and use at least one simile or metaphor included in each description. (using 35 words or more)

Chapters 8-16
We all have “suitcases” like Rob’s. Each are all different sizes and all contain different things. In at least three sentences, write about what you keep inside of your “suitcase”. (using 35 words or more)

Chapter 17-23
Pick a character in the story that feels like a “caged animal”. Using 3 examples in the story, explain why they feel this way. (using 35 words or more)

Chapter 24-30
Using examples from the book, find and explain in your own words why shooting the tiger a positive outcome for Rob and his father? (using 35 words or more)
Enrichment Activities

How to Make a Soap Carving

Objective: Help students understand and connect with Rob as he takes a skill he learns from his mom and shares it with others.

Steps

1. Ivory is the best and softest soap to use. Any soap will work however.
2. Plastic knives, spoons and popsicle sticks are good carving tool choices.
3. Decide what subject will be carved and sketch it out on scratch paper. Keep it simple. (if it’s too hard to draw, it will probably be too hard to carve).
4. Using a pencil or tool listed above, draw an outline of desired subject on the soap.
5. Carve away and remove the soap outside the outline first using small slivers or chips.
6. Add detail to the inside of the outline to refine the design further.
7. When the carving is finished, wet your finger and rub the surface of the soap to create a smooth finish.
8. Allow the soap to dry and harden before displaying it.

Painting a Fresco (resource found on Scholastic’s website)

At the beginning of Chapter 7, Rob proves to Sistine he knows about the Sistine Chapel by explaining that frescoes are painted on its ceiling. This is a fun project that teaches students what a fresco painting is and how Michelangelo used this painting style to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. This project can be done outside on the sidewalk or driveway, or put into containers for an indoor project.

Materials:

- 16 oz of corn startch
- 1 ½ cup water
- Food coloring or watercolor paints
- Toothpicks or small paintbrushes

Directions:

1. Measure ingredients into a large bowl and mix using hands until it looks like glue. If the corn starch goo is too dry and crumbly, add a little more water until the consistency is right. You can roll the goo into a ball, but it will drip like a liquid when it’s held still.
2. Pour some of the mixture onto a clean, flat area on a driveway or sidewalk. For indoor projects, you can use a paint tray or pie tin.
3. When the mixture has flattened out, let it sit for 5-10 minutes before painting on it.
4. Using toothpicks and paintbrushes, paint designs on the goo using food coloring or watercolor paints.
5. Let the frescoes dry and enjoy your artwork! If you did your project outside and you’re ready to clean up, wash frescoes off outside surfaces using a hose.
Similes & Metaphors are a type of figurative language used frequently in books to compare one object to another. Readers can visualize easier the writer’s ideas, characters, setting, etc when Help students develop their creativity in their writing and speech as they practice writing similes and metaphors.

Materials:

- Paint chips from the hardware store with at least 4 different shades of color on each (it is more fun if there are a variety of colors)

Directions:

- Students fold paint chips in between paint colors on the white line so it can be folded over and not seen if used
- Place students in groups of 4.
- Students then take the first colored section and write a simile of their choice that is associated with that color. (Ex. light blue: Her eyes were as blue as the sky; brown: his mood was as dull as the mud stuck to his shoe; green: smelled as fresh as the leaves covered in dew).
- Students fold over their color and pass it on to their neighbor and write a metaphor on the second section of the new paint chip. (Ex. Red: Apple of my eye; orange: eyes were fireflies; white: thin blanket of clouds)
- Students continue to pass around paint chips until all 4 sections are filled: two with similes and two with metaphors.
- Students read their examples to their group.

Figurative Language Power Up

Prompt: Rob was inspired by the tiger and instantly began to compare himself to it. What animal inspires you and how are you like that animal? Write 5 lines thinking of comparisons you can make between your animal and you using 3 of the following figurative language devices: imagery, onomatopoeia, alliteration, hyperbole, personification, idiom, etc.

Give students the example below and have them underline the literary speech throughout the paragraph.

Ex. Elephant

I am an elephant, keeping my chin up when I’m under the weather. My mom can hear me coming from a mile away as I stomp through the house. When I’m angry I spout terrifying trumpets to make sure my voice is heard. There are times I melt into my mom’s arms just as a calf cradles comfortably close in its mother’s trunk. I am as powerful as an elephant who strengthens, soothes, and serves those around me.