

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Summer Reading Discussion Questions for *The Incredible Journey*

After reading *The Incredible Journey*, answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper. You may either submit a typed or handwritten assignment. While there is not a certain length required for each answer, remember that quality is more important than quantity, and it is important to answer each question completely.

The completed summer reading assignment should be turned in to your theology teacher by Monday, August 19.

Also, be sure to avoid plagiarism of any kind. Answers which are found on the internet, in other publications, or in other students' work will receive no credit.

This summer reading assignment will be awarded a grade in your theology, English, and social studies classes, so be sure to submit quality work.

### Summer Reading Discussion Questions:

#### Chapter 1

1. Who is John Longridge?
2. What are the primary industries in Northwestern Ontario?
3. What are some of the wild animals that can be found in northwestern Ontario?
4. Choose any two animals that can be found in northwestern Ontario to research. Describe their habitat, appearance, behavior, and eating habits.
5. Who are the Oakes?
6. The four seasons are described on page 2. How do the seasons described compare with the seasons in your community? Write your answer using complete sentences or use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast northwestern Ontario with your community.
7. On page 6 the author states that the dogs "ears pricked in interest" when Longridge "broke" the gun. Predict why you think the dog's ears pricked.
8. Longridge plans to go to Heron Lake. Locate Heron Lake on a map. Burnford states that Longridge's home is approximately 200 miles from Heron Lake. Given this information, where do you think Longridge's home is? Circle the location of both Heron Lake and his home on a map.
9. The author writes about the connection and loyalty of Bodger, Luath, and Tao to their original family. Who do the three animals belong to? How did they come to live with Longridge?
10. Do you think animals have feelings? Do they miss their family? Give three reasons to support your answer.
11. In what month does the incredible journey take place?

12. What happens when the cat knocks over the paperweight? What significance will this have on the animal's journey?

## **Chapter 2**

1. What is an Indian summer?
2. Why does Mr. Longridge feel he can trust the animals to stay alone outside?
3. Predict where you think the three animals might be going.
4. The young Labrador decides to travel westward. How do they know which direction to go in?
5. What leads Mrs. Oakes to believe that Longridge changed his mind and decided to take the animals with him to Heron Lake?
6. Why does the young Labrador decide to run on the left shoulder of the bull terrier?
7. Which animal (dog or cat) do you think is best suited for life in the wilderness? Write a brief paragraph outlining the animal you chose and why you think it would be most likely to survive.

## **Chapter 3**

1. What sound does the old dog hear in the morning?
2. What sorts of animals does the cat survive on?
3. Why would the Labrador have to be close to starvation before he would actually kill for food?
4. When the old dog collapses, the young dog and the cat seem to abandon him. Why do you think they decide to do this?
5. What does the cat do to rescue Bodger from the bear cub?
6. Why does the mother bear try to attack the animals?
7. Do you think the animals have a sense of family and loyalty with each other? Explain.

## **Chapter 4**

1. What was the first thing the Labrador tried to eat?
2. Why did the terrier decide to approach the people?
3. How many fires did the animals spot in the clearing?
4. Describe how the old woman used the cattail roots to assist the old dog?
5. What do the Ojibway's believe is symbolized by the visit from the white dog? Explain.

## **Chapter 5**

1. How does the author explain that winter is approaching?
2. How far do the animals typically travel each day?
3. How do the three enjoy the journey? Create a table to compare the effect on the three animals' appetite, physique, coat, etc.
4. What happened when the two dogs tried to take the lid of the garbage can at the cookhouse?

5. What appears to be wrong with the old man?
6. How do the old dog and cat overcome their fears?
7. Have you ever challenged yourself to do something you didn't think you could do? What was the result?
8. What happens to the cat while he tries to cross the river?
9. What evidence is there that demonstrates that the old dog misses the cat?

## **Chapter 6**

1. How does the cat get rescued?
2. Describe the characters that the cat encounters.
3. How does Reino know the cat is deaf?
4. What books does Helvi borrow from the library?
5. In your own words, retell the story of how Siamese cats got a crooked tail.
6. What makes Helvi realize the cat no longer needs her?

## **Chapter 7**

1. What animal attacks the two dogs?
2. Why does this animal chase after Luath?
3. How does this fight compare to when the young dog rescued the old dog from the bear cub attack?
4. What difficulties/injuries does the young Labrador endure? How did he get injured?
5. Where did the two dogs stop for the night?

## **Chapter 8**

1. How does the cat do on his solo journey?
2. What do the men find humorous and peculiar about the cat?
3. Describe the scene between the lynx and the cat.
4. How does the cat escape from the lynx?
5. How does Tao show his dislike for the lynx?
6. How do the dogs respond to seeing the cat again?

## **Chapter 9**

1. Why was the forester surprised to see the three animals?
2. Why did the young dog leave the bush for a quiet country road?
3. How do the humans react to the old dog? How does the old dog seem to feel about this?
4. How do the Mackenzie's show kindness to the old dog?
5. How does he show kindness to the young dog?
6. How did the dogs get out of the stable?

## **Chapter 10**

1. Which characters are making a journey across the ocean?
2. Where are the characters sailing from? Where will they land?
3. What are the characters most excited for when they return home?
4. What present did Elizabeth bring for Tao?
5. Why did Mrs. Oakes think it impossible for them to make the journey?
6. The author does not go into detail explaining whether or not Mrs. Oakes and Mr. Longridge feel guilty or responsible for the disappearance of the three animals. Do you think they feel responsible? What could they have done differently to prevent something from happening to the trio?
7. Do you think the Hunters family feels negatively towards Longridge and Oakes for their disappearance?
8. Who does Longridge contact while trying to find the three pets?

## **Chapter 11**

1. Does the family feel hopeful about the possible return of the animals? Describe how each of the characters feels about the situation.
2. What story makes Peter smile?
3. Why does Longridge decide to go visit the Hunters?
4. Why was Elizabeth reluctant to go to the cottage?
5. Which character is the first to hear the sound of a dog barking?
6. Which of the three animals is the last to show himself?
7. What alternate name is given for Bodger?
8. Which of the two animals join each other at the end of the story?