

1988

Banks, Lynne Reid. *The Indian in the Cupboard*. Doubleday, 1980.

SUMMARY:

On Omri's ninth birthday, he receives a plastic Indian from his best friend, Patrick, and a cupboard from his brother, Gillon. What Patrick never dreams is that when put in the cupboard, the Indian would be brought to life! On this amazing adventure, Omri assumes the responsibility for another human being. Aside from providing his Indian, Little Bear, with food, clothing and shelter, Omri also wrestles with moral decisions, including whether or not "possessing" another person can ever be right!

QUESTIONS:

What is Omri's first impression of his birthday gift from Patrick?
If you had been Omri, would you have told your parents about the cupboard?
Are Patrick and Omri good friends to each other?
By the end of the novel, what is the relationship between Boone and Little Bear?
What has been the main source of Omri's information about Native Americans?
Do you think this book gives an accurate portrait of Native Americans?

JOURNAL STARTER:

When I turned the key to open the cupboard.....

ACTIVITIES:

Research the Iroquois tribe.
Build a model longhouse for Little Bear.
Create and decorate a cupboard for one special belonging of yours.

INTEREST LEVELS: Grades 4-6

BOOK TALK:

It isn't much of a birthday gift, only a plastic Indian. A second gift, a cupboard from his brother Gillon, is only interesting because it was found in the alley. BUT, when Omri opens the cupboard with a key that had once belonged to his great-grandmother---everything changes. The Indian comes to life and after the first rush of excitement wears off, Patrick must decide what comes next. What do you think happens to *The Indian in the Cupboard*?

READ-ALIKES:

Banks, Lynne Reid. *The Indian in the Cupboard Series* (5 volumes) Doubleday, 1980-1998.
Griffith, Helen. *Caitlin's Holiday*. Greenwillow, 1990.
Martin, Ann M. *The Doll People Series* (3 volumes) Hyperion, 1998-2003.
Waugh, Sylvia. *The Mennyns Series* (5 volumes).
Winthrop, Elizabeth. *The Castle in the Attic*. Holiday House, 1985.
Winthrop, Elizabeth. *The Battle for the Castle*. Holiday House, 1993.

RELATED WEB SITES:

Lynne Reid Banks: <http://www.lynnereidbanks.com>

Lesson Plans: <http://www.catawba.k12.nc.us/pages/techtrac/techtrac9/harriet/acmyweb.htm>

Indian and the Cupboard Discussion Guide:

http://content.scholastic.com/browse/collateral.jsp?id=1341_type=Book_typeId=886

Indian in the Cupboard Novel Study:

<http://www.mhcbe.ab.ca/ict/Projects/CupboardBook/cupboard.htm>

Indian in the Cupboard Trivia Game: <http://www.kidsreads.com/funstuff/trivia/indian01.asp>

Oyate: Avoid the Indian in the Cupboard: [://www.oyate.org/books-to-avoid/indianCupboard.html](http://www.oyate.org/books-to-avoid/indianCupboard.html)

OTHER RECOGNITION:

Winner of a Children's Choice Award in each of the following states and region:
Arizona, 1989; Massachusetts, 1988; Michigan, 1991; Pacific Northwest, 1984;
Virginia, 1988.

MOVIE TIE-IN: *The Indian in the Cupboard*. Columbia Tri-Star, 1995.