

Discussion Questions for Old Mother West Wind

Chapter 1

- Why is Old Mother West Wind in a hurry?
- What is “mischief”?
- How would the Merry Little Breezes help Johnny Chuck?
- Why did Tommy Brown want to steal Mrs. Redwing’s eggs?
- How did the Merry Little Breezes help Mrs. Redwing?

Chapter 2

- How is Grandfather Frog described at the beginning of the chapter?
- Why wouldn’t we recognize Grandfather Frog’s grandchildren?
- What is a “pollywog”?
- What does “every day the King grew more vain” mean?
- How did the Frog King lose his long tail?

Chapter 3

- Why would Johnny Chuck sometimes wander too far from home?
- Why did Johnny Chuck ignore Old Mother West Wind and the Merry Little Breezes?
- What mistake did Johnny Chuck make?
- How do you think he felt when he woke up?
- How did Reddy Fox scare Johnny Chuck?
- How did Johnny Chuck find his way home?
- Have you ever been lost? How did you feel?
- How does/would it feel if someone made fun or played tricks on you?

Chapter 4

- Before the Skunk family wore a white stripe, how did they behave?
- What is a grouse?
- How did the other animals treat Mrs. Grouse?
- What happened to her eggs?
- How did Peter stop to help Mrs. Grouse?
- Why did everyone gather at the Great Pine?
- Describe what happened there.
- Why was Jimmy Skunk given a striped coat?

Chapter 5

- Why was Old Mother West Wind tired?
- Why did she go home without the Wilful Little Breeze?
- Once she had gone, how did the Wilful Little Breeze feel?
- What did the Wilful Little Breeze overhear?
- How did she help?

Chapter 6

- Why was Johnny Chuck not allowed to play with Reddy Fox?
- What was different about the way Billy Mink went fishing?
- What was Reddy Fox's dream?
- Why did Reddy Fox feel ashamed walking home?
- How can disobedience lead to trouble?

Chapter 7

- What was Jimmy Skunk looking for?
- Was Jimmy Skunk being careful while looking for beetles? How wasn't he?
- What tricks does Peter Rabbit play on Jimmy Skunk?
- How was Jimmy Skunk rewarded for his determination?
- What kinds of things have you had to work hard for?

Chapter 8

- Why did Billy Mink feel so good?
- What game did Billy Mink and his friends play?
- What are some of your favorite water games?

Chapter 9

- What joke does Happy Jack Squirrel play on Johnny Chuck?
- How are Peter Rabbit and Johnny Chuck different?
- What trick does Peter Rabbit play on Johnny Chuck?
- Why does Reddy Fox chase Peter Rabbit?
- What seems to happen when Peter Rabbit plays tricks on others?

Chapter 10

- What does "idle" mean?
- How can being idle lead to mischief?
- What made Old Mother West Wind suspicious of Sammy Jay?
- What was Sammy Jay doing?
- How did Happy Jack feel when he discovered the nuts were gone?
- Why do you think Sammy Jay offered to help Happy Jack search for the nuts?
- How did Old Mother West Wind find the stolen nuts?
- Do you think Happy Jack would have shared his nuts if Sammy Jay would have asked?
- How does lying and stealing hurt others?

Chapter 11

- Why were some of the animals bored at Jerry Muskrat's party?
- How did this make Jerry Muskrat feel?
- What did the swimming animals do to make the party fun for the others?
- Has there ever been a time when you felt left out? How did it feel?
- What are ways we can include others in our play?

Chapter 12

- Why are Bobby Coon, Jimmy Skunk, and Reddy Fox out at night?
- What joke did Bobby Coon and Reddy Fox plan to make on Johnny Chuck?
- How does Jimmy Skunk help Johnny Chuck?
- What does Jimmy Skunk proceed to do?

Chapter 13

- Why did each animal think "the Best Thing in the World" was something different?
- Why did Johnny Chuck stay behind?
- How did the animals feel after their long search for the Best Thing in the World?
- What is contentment?
- How can constant want make you feel angry or "cross"?

Chapter 14

- What is Little Joe Otter's idea?
- What happened to Peter Rabbit?
- How did the other friends help?
- What kinds of fun things do you do with your friends?
- How do you help each other?

Chapter 15

- What was the problem with Tommy Trout?
- Why did Tommy Trout disobey?
- What happened to Tommy?
- How do you think the story would have ended if Tommy had obeyed?

Chapter 16

- What were Peter Rabbit, Reddy Fox, and Billy Mink all good at doing?
- What was Grandfather Frog's decision?
- Why does Spotty the Turtle enter the race?
- What does "those who run fastest do not always reach a place first" mean?
- What does Spotty do when the race starts?
- Why does Billy Mink slow down? How about Peter Rabbit and Reddy Fox?
- What does Spotty do once reaching the pond?
- How did Spotty win the race?
- What was your favorite part of this book?