



# *The Boy & the Ogre*

(A Story of Freedom)

## **An Individual Guide**

This story can be read in one sitting, or it can be read over the course of a few days if you wish. Read each section and answer the introspective questions before moving onto the next section.

### ***Preface***

#### **Questions to ponder after reading the *Preface***

What do you think the story is going to be about?

Do you know why you were given the name you have? Were you named after someone?

What is your favorite baked good to buy and eat at a bakery?

#### **A Little Something Extra**

- Visit a local bakery and enjoy your favorite item on the menu.
- Buy an extra item at the bakery and give it to a friend, family member, or coworker... just because.
- Joseppi Jr. told his “story” to the writer of the “The Boy and the Ogre.” Tell your “story” to a trusted friend or just write a short version of your “story.”



## ***White Stone Dwelling***

Have you ever swung in a tire swing? How did it make you feel?

Have you ever eaten porridge? What was it like?

What do you wonder about?

Can you remember a time when you caught fireflies? Think of that memory from beginning to end, what do you feel?

How do you feel when you are in the dark? (Physically and Emotionally)

What are your favorite kinds of books to read?

Think of a time when you felt nervous in your stomach. What made your stomach nervous?

### **A Little Something Extra**

- Make porridge. Do you like it?
- Experience the joy of going outside and catching fireflies.
- Even if you're not artistic, draw a picture of the ogre as he is described in the story
- Visit a bookstore and just wander through the aisles of different types of books



## *A Great and Daring Idea*

The ogre went to work on the grounds with his scythe and a basket of tools. Where do you think he is going, and what is he doing? What do you think his job is?

Have you ever made up a game? Describe the game.

The boy wanted to please the ogre. Who is someone you have wanted to please?

Do you think you're brave? Explain.

What are some of your favorite smells? Popcorn popping? Pizza? Flowers?

Tell something that you are cautious about.

Can you remember a time when you saw a new scene for the first time? Maybe when you saw the Grand Canyon or the Eiffel Tower or the castle at Magic Kingdom for the first time. Describe what was new and different. How did you feel?

Do you think the boy was fearful when he suddenly saw the girl's face through the fence? Would you have been frightened? What would you have feared?

What are some of the differences between the boy's dwelling place and the scene he saw through the fence?



Do you think the scene that the boy saw through the fence was as scary as what he had been taught it was?

Have you ever told someone what you thought they wanted to hear rather than the truth? How did that make you feel?

Have you ever been afraid of someone? Who was it? What was scary?

Have you ever reached for someone to hold their hand, pat them on the back or to hug them and felt them pull away? Did you feel that you had done something wrong or they didn't like you? Describe a time when this happened and how you felt.

Have you ever felt like the best way to care for someone was to tell them what made them happy/okay rather than to tell them the truth?

### **A Little Something Extra**

- Design an obstacle course for you and your family or friends. See if you can complete the course faster with fewer errors each time you do it. Make sure this is a fun activity, not comparing yourself to someone else.
- Plan a dinner menu of deliciously fragrant foods or visit a restaurant that is filled with new and delicious aromas.
- Take time to swing. If you don't have a swing set in your yard, go to a park and take time to swing or just sit in the swing and relax and ponder.



## ***“Through the Gate, Silly”***

When the girl found the boy again, what made the boy tell her that he was playing a hiding game?

Why do you think the ogre told the boy that the world outside the fence was awful and scary?

Why was the boy afraid to ask the girl what the sweet scent was coming from the bakery?

Think of a time when someone you loved and trusted lied to you. How did you feel?

Think of a time when you lied to someone you loved and trusted. How did you feel?

After the boy told the ogre the truth, he began to feel himself get bigger. What made him feel bigger?

Why do you think the ogre began to shrink?

Why do you think the ogre had told him lies about the world outside their fence?

### **A Little Something Extra**

- Play a game of Hide-n-Seek.
- On a trip to the super market, buy an unfamiliar spice and prepare a dish using that new spice.
- Of all the spices in your cabinet, which one is your favorite? Why do you think it is your favorite?
- Make some simmering potpourri. Add several clove buds, an orange peel, a cinnamon stick and a bay leaf in 4 cups of water and simmer. Add more water as needed.
- Bake snickerdoodle cookies, cinnamon muffins, etc.



## ***Epilogue***

How do you think the boy felt to know that Joseppi had a tiny ogre, too?

The boy took the name Joseppi Jr. Do you think that is a good name for the boy?

Why do you think Esmerelda didn't have an ogre?

Why do you think the two little ogres disappeared?

Would you like to be friends with the boy? The ogre? Esmerelda? Joseppi? Tell me why.

If you could be any character in the book, who would you be and why?

