



# *The Boy & the Ogre*

(A Story of Freedom)

## **A Guide for Elementary School Teachers**

Read the story aloud in sections or have the students read it in sections. Following each section, engage the students in discussion using the questions in this guide. There are enrichment activities at the end of the study guide.

## ***Preface***

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

1. What do you think the story is going to be about?
2. Do you know why you were given the name you have? Were you named after someone?
3. What is a bakery? What kinds of things would you find there?
4. Have you ever been to a bakery? What was your favorite baked item to eat?
5. Do you know what an ogre is? What do they look like?
6. Do you think ogres are scary?

## ***White Stone Dwelling***

1. What is a dwelling? Name some different kinds of dwellings. (nests, caves, teepees, etc.)
2. Have you ever swung in a tire swing? What was it like? How did it make you feel?
3. What is porridge? Have you ever eaten it?
4. What do you wonder about?
5. What is another name for firefly? Have you ever caught a firefly?
6. What does hideous mean? What can you describe as hideous?
7. Are you afraid of the dark? What do you feel when it is dark?
8. Do you have any chores? What are they?
9. What are your favorite kinds of books to read?
10. Tell me about a time when you felt nervous in your stomach.

## ***A Great and Daring Idea***

1. 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?
2. Have you ever made up a game? What was the name of your game? Tell me about it.
3. The boy wanted to please the ogre. Who is someone you have wanted to please?

4. Do you think you're brave? Why?
5. What are some of your favorite smells? Popcorn popping? Pizza? Flowers?
6. Tell me something that you are cautious about.
7. Tell me all the places you can think of where you would find a fence.
8. Can you remember a time when you saw a new scene for the first time? Maybe when you saw the Grand Canyon or the beach or the castle at Magic Kingdom for the first time. Describe what was new and different. Tell me how it made you feel.
9. Do you think the boy was fearful when he suddenly saw the girl's face through the fence? Would you have been frightened?
10. Tell me some of the differences between the boy's dwelling and homeplace and the scene he saw through the fence.
11. Do you think the scene that the boy saw through the fence was as scary as what he had been taught it was?
12. Have you ever told someone what you thought they wanted to hear rather than the truth? How did that make you feel?
13. Have you ever been afraid of someone? Who was it? What was scary?
14. 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? Tell me about a time when this happened and how you felt.
15. Have you ever felt like the best way to care for someone was to tell them what made them happy or okay rather than to tell them the truth?

### **“Through the Gate, Silly”**

1. When the girl found the boy again, why did the boy tell the girl that he was playing a hiding game?
2. Why do you think the ogre told the boy that the world outside the fence was awful and scary?
3. Why was the boy afraid to ask the girl what the sweet scent was coming from the bakery?
4. Think of a time when someone you loved and trusted lied to you. How did that make you feel?
5. Think of a time when you lied to someone you loved and trusted. How did you feel?

6. After the boy told the ogre the truth, he began to feel himself get bigger. Why do you think he felt bigger?
7. Why do you think the ogre began to shrink?
8. Why do you think the ogre had told him lies about the world outside their fence?

## ***Epilogue***

1. How do you think it made the boy feel to know that Joseppi had a tiny ogre, too?
2. The boy took the name Joseppi Jr. Do you think that is a good name for the boy?
3. Why do you think Esmeralda didn't have an ogre?
4. Why do you think the two little ogres disappeared?
5. Compare and contrast the ogre and Joseppi.
6. Would you like to be friends with the boy? The ogre? Esmeralda? Joseppi? Tell me why.
7. If you could be any character in the book, who would you be and why?
8. What was your favorite part of this story?

## ***Enrichment***

- Draw pictures of what you think ogres look like.
- Bring your favorite baked goods to school to share with your students.
- Make porridge and share it with your classmates. Would you want to eat this every day?
- Using a dictionary, learn the definitions to five new words.
- Draw a picture of the ogre as he is described in the story.
- Design an obstacle course for your classmates or family. Challenge each family member to complete the course within a certain time or making fewer than 3 mistakes.
- Help your parents plan a dinner menu of deliciously fragrant foods.
- Draw pictures of different types of dwellings. Examples: tree house, teepee, cave.
- 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.
- Using sidewalk chalk, draw some of the scenes the boy saw when he peeked through the bushes by the fence.
- During recess, start or join a game of Hide-n-Seek.