



# ***The Boy & the Ogre***

(A Story of Freedom)

## **A Guide for Parents**

I want to encourage you to read the story aloud to your child or children. I've included questions below to spark conversations for each section in the story. These questions are intended to be answered at the end of each section. I hope these questions will open some great conversations between you and your children. Following the questions, I've added some activities that I hope you will find fun and insightful.

*Chip*



## ***Preface***

### **Questions** to discuss 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 a bakery? What kinds of things would you find there?
- Have you ever been to a bakery? What was your favorite baked item to eat?
- Do you know what ogres are? What do they look like?
- Do you think ogres are scary?

### **Family Activities**

- Draw pictures of what you think ogres look like.
- Visit a nearby bakery and sit and enjoy your favorite baked goods.
- Spend a fun family evening baking a few of your favorite baked goods. Examples: brownies, cookies, muffins, etc.

## ***White Stone Dwelling***

### **Questions**

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

### **Family Activities**

- Make porridge and share it with your family. Would you want to eat this every day?
- If it is summertime, go outside and catch fireflies together.
- Using a dictionary, learn the definitions to five new words.
- Draw a picture of the ogre as he is described in the story.
- Take a trip to the library and check out some interesting books.
- Visit a bookstore and wander through the aisles of different types of books.



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

### **Questions**

- 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?
- Have you ever made up a game? What did you name the game? Tell me about it.
- The boy wanted to please the ogre. Who is someone you have wanted to please?
- Do you think you're brave? Tell me about a time you were brave.
- What are some of your favorite smells? Popcorn popping? Pizza? Flowers?
- Tell me something that you are cautious about.
- Tell me all the places you can think of where you would find a fence.
- 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 you felt.
- Do you think the boy was fearful when he suddenly saw the girl's face through the fence? Would you have been frightened?
- Tell me some of the differences between the boy's dwelling and homeplace 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 you feel afterwards?
- 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 think that you had done something wrong or they didn't like you? Tell me about 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 or okay rather than to tell them the truth?

### **Family Activities**

- Design an obstacle course for you and your family. Challenge each family member to complete the course within a certain time or making fewer than 3 mistakes.
- Plan a dinner menu of deliciously fragrant foods.
- Draw pictures of different types of dwellings. Examples: tree house, teepee, cave, etc.
- 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.



## ***“Through the Gate, Silly”***

### **Questions**

- When the girl found the boy again, what made the boy tell her that he was playing a hiding game?
- What do you think made the ogre tell the boy that the world outside the fence was awful and scary?
- What was the boy drawn to even though he was told it was dangerous?
- 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?

### **Family Activities**

- Play a family game of Hide-n-Seek.
- On a trip to the supermarket, look at and talk about the spices in the baking aisle.
- Take the spices out of your spice cabinet and sniff them all. Which one 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***

### **Questions**

- 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?
- What do you think the two little ogres talked about?
- Why did the two little ogres disappear? Where did they go?

### **Family Activities**

- Take part acting out your favorite part of the closing scene.
- Draw a picture of what you think Esmerelda looked like on her wedding day.
- Design a menu for JOSEPPI'S BAKERY.



## *Culminating Discussion Questions*

- Would you like to be friends with the boy? The ogre? Esmeralda? Joseppi? Tell me why.
- If you could be any character in the book, who would you be? Explain.
- What was your favorite part of this story?
- Both Joseppis had ogres. Do you have an ogre in your life?
- Conduct a family ogre inventory to see who in your family has an ogre, how big it is, and what it looks like.

