

## Literature Circle Questions

Use the questions and activities that follow to get more out of the experience of reading *The Tiger Rising*.

1. This story takes place in and around a motel in Lister, Florida. Describe the setting and what Rob Horton and his father are doing there.
2. Does Rob think things through? How does he do this? Does his way of thinking affect his actions toward his father, the Threemonger brothers, and his school situation?
3. Where was Rob's first meeting with Sistine? What happened during this first meeting?
4. Why was the discovery of the caged tiger so extraordinary to Rob? How did its discovery help him at the beginning of the story? At the end of the story?
5. When Rob first tells Sistine about the tiger, her answer is "Where?" Rob feels that he picked the right person to tell about the tiger. What do you think Sistine's answer reveals about her?
6. It is clear from the beginning of the story that Rob doesn't relate to other kids in or out of school. Why do you think "words fall out of his mouth" when he is with Sistine? Why do you think that he and Sistine become friends?
7. Think about the actions of the bus driver, Mr. Nelson, the school principal, Mr. Philter, and the owner of the motel, Beauchamp. Did they act as responsible adults toward Rob? Explain.
8. Rob asks Willie May if she thought it was bad to keep animals locked up. What was her opinion? Would you agree or disagree? Why?
9. In what ways does Willie May play a key role in the lives of Rob and Sistine?
10. Rob changes greatly from the beginning of the story to the end. Give three specific examples of those changes.
11. Did the tiger have to be killed? If so, why or why not?
12. When Rob looks at his father's hands, he calls them "complicated hands." What does he mean by this? Do you think most parents' hands are complicated? Explain.
13. If you asked Rob at the end of the story what happiness is, how would he answer you?
14. Would you say that *The Tiger Rising* is an appropriate title for this story? Why or why not?

*Note: The following questions are keyed to Bloom's Taxonomy as follows: Knowledge: 1-3; Comprehension: 4-6; Application: 7-8; Analysis: 9-10; Synthesis: 11-12; Evaluation: 13-14.*

## Activities

1. Sistine says that looking at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel is like looking at fireworks. What in your life makes you think of fireworks? It might be a painting, an object, a scene in nature, or an event. Share your thoughts with

classmates by giving an oral written description, or showing a drawing or photograph.

2. The tiger is a strong, beautiful animal that is endangered. Find out more about tigers and the efforts to save them. Create a poster about this powerful animal.