

Chapter 1:

1. What did they name their alleyway? Why?
2. Who decided to capture and keep the stray cat? Describe his relationship with the narrator.

Chapter 2:

3. The narrator's lease had a "no children/no pets" clause. How does the narrator feel about that?
4. What do we learn about the narrator's wife in this chapter?

Chapter 3:

5. What was the cat's name? What did it look like?
6. What did the cat like to play with? How did she try to engage the narrator into playing with her? What was the result of that behavior?

Chapter 4:

7. Machiavelli claimed that our lives are dominated by *fortuna* (fortune) and *virtu* (competence). What did fortune bring to the narrator? Which do you give most credit for your successes?
8. Machiavelli described fate as being like a river? How are they similar?

Chapter 5:

9. This chapter includes a lot of description of their house. Which feature appeals most to you?
10. What disease attacked the narrator? What decision did it prompt him to make?

Chapter 6:

11. What news did the narrator receive soon after he resigned his job?
12. What was the strange optical phenomenon in their house?

Chapter 7:

13. What happened if someone tried to hold Chibi?
14. What events occurred in the first week of the New Year?

Chapter 8:

15. What accommodations did they make for Chibi?
16. What did the narrator's wife write about in her notebook? What new freedoms did she allow Chibi?

Chapter 9:

17. How did Chibi make herself unwelcome in their house?

Chapter 10:

18. What changed at their house?
19. What new "friend" did the narrator find in the garden?

Chapter 11:

20. What new responsibilities and freedoms did the narrator gain in this chapter?

Chapter 12:

21. How did Chibi's behavior change?
22. As the narrator starts looking for a new house to rent, what does his wife think is strange about his relationship with Chibi?

Chapter 13:

23. What was Chibi's daily routine?
24. What confusion did the narrator and his wife feel about Chibi?

Chapter 14:

25. What was the occasion at which the narrator's wife heard Chibi's voice?
26. How have the relationships between Chibi, the calico cat and Mrs. Muddy developed?

Chapter 15:

27. How was Chibi like lightning? How was she different?
28. The narrator called Chibi "Lightning Catcher," which reminded him of a series of paintings. The title of the paintings could be read as either "a process which catches lightning" or "the capture of something quickly." How do those descriptions apply to Chibi?