

ESL Book Club 2023 – December Discussion Questions

The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford

Discussion Date: Dec 1, 2023, at 10:30 am via Zoom

1. The author writes about the connection and loyalty of Bodger, Luath, and Tao to their original family. Who do the three animals belong to? How did they come to live with Longridge?
2. What happens when the cat knocks over the paperweight? What significance will this have on the animal's journey?
3. What is an Indian summer?
4. What leads Mrs. Oakes to believe that Longridge changed his mind and decided to take the animals with him to Heron Lake?
5. Why does the mother bear try to attack the animals?
6. Why did the terrier decide to approach the people?
7. How does the author explain that winter is approaching?
8. Describe the characters that the cat encounters.
9. What difficulties/injuries does the young Labrador endure? How did he get injured?
10. Why was the forester surprised to see the three animals?
11. How do the humans react to the old dog? How does the old dog seem to feel about this?

12. The author does not go into detail explaining whether Mrs. Oakes and Mr. Longridge feel guilty or responsible for the disappearance of the three animals. Do you think they feel responsible? What could they have done differently to prevent something from happening to the trio?
13. Does the family feel hopeful about the possible return of the animals? Describe how each of the characters feels about the situation.
14. How do the three enjoy the journey?
15. The four seasons are described in the beginning of the book. How do the seasons described compare with the seasons in your community?
16. Which character would you most like to meet in real life?
17. Have you ever challenged yourself to do something you didn't think you could do? What was the result?
18. What do you think will happen next to the main characters?