



Heidi



*Retold from the Johanna Spyri original
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STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
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What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places,

and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. Why does Dete leave Heidi with her grandfather? Do you think she was right to do so? Who would you rather have stayed with—Dete or Grandfather?

2. Why do you suppose Dete was so angry at Heidi for removing her clothes on her way up the mountain? Have you ever gotten in trouble for something you didn't know you'd done wrong?

3. Why do you think Heidi and Grandmother enjoy each other's company so much? Is there anyone you love to spend time with?

4. One of the few things that makes Grandmother feel better is listening to someone read

from her prayer book. Why do you suppose this is? What makes you feel better when you're upset?

5. Why do you suppose Dete introduces Heidi as Adelheid? How do you think this makes Heidi feel? Do you have a nickname or a name that you prefer to be called?

6. When Clara sends a package to Heidi, she makes sure to include presents for everyone. What would you have included in the package? Has anyone ever sent you a package like this?

7. Why is Peter jealous of Clara? Do you think he is right to feel this way? Have you ever been jealous of someone?

8. Heidi is a curious girl. Everywhere she goes she asks questions. Have you ever met anyone like Heidi? What are you curious about?

9. Peter and Heidi have very different attitudes about going to school. Do you know

anyone who feels the same way as Heidi? As Peter? Who are you more like?

10. The last lines of the book say that Heidi knew deep down in her heart that everything always works out in the end. Do you agree with this statement?