



The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle



*Retold from the Hugh Lofting original
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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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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 the butcher suggest that Doctor Dolittle become an animal doctor? Did you agree that this was a good idea? What do you want to be when you grow up?

2. Why does Sarah insist that Doctor Dolittle get rid of the crocodile? How does the doctor respond? What would you have done in his position?

3. How do Doctor Dolittle's animals pitch in around the house? Do you think the chores are properly assigned? What sort of chores do you have to do?

4. How does Doctor Dolittle learn of the monkeys' illness? What is the strangest message you've ever received?

5. Why does the little mouse hide away in Doctor Dolittle's luggage? Have you ever been on a voyage? Where would you most like to go?

6. How does Chee-Chee keep everyone amused while they are looking for the monkeys? Why does he know so many stories? How would you entertain the group?

7. Why do the monkeys decide to give Doctor Dolittle a going-away present? Do you think they decided on a good gift? What would you have given to the doctor?

8. How does Doctor Dolittle convince the prince that he has been transformed? Do you agree that you only need to believe in something for it to feel true? Have you ever believed in something enough to make it feel real?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

9. How does Doctor Dolittle manage to get the pirate ship? Do you think it is right of him to take the boat? Have you ever taken something that didn't belong to you?

10. Doctor Dolittle says that there are all kinds of heroes. Do you agree? Is Doctor Dolittle a hero?