

THE OXHERD BOY BY REGINA LINKE

Discussion Questions

1. There are many valuable lessons throughout *The Oxherd Boy*. Which ones stood out to you?
2. Discuss the illustrations. What do you think about the gongbi style and how they convey the story? Do you have a favorite?
3. “Small” is a recurring theme in the book. What does “small” mean? How can small be powerful?
4. The story highlighted ideas from Taoism through the boy’s love of nature, Buddhism through the ox’s compassion for others, and Confucianism through the rabbit’s practice of mutual respect and care for her community. Is there one philosophy among the three that resonates with you most? How might all three work well together?
5. Are there moments in your life when you applied one or more of the philosophies shared in the xbook to your own life decisions?
6. Discuss author and illustrator Regina Linke’s process of writing the story—as told in the introduction. What themes found in *The Oxherd Boy* appeared in her own experience of creating it?
7. The author reveals that a teacher suggested she give up on becoming a traditional artist and finding her own voice. Has there been a time in your life where you were told no, and it turned out to be the right thing? Or were they wrong?
8. What is the purpose of allegories? Why might it be easier to convey deep philosophical ideas and concepts through narratives and/or illustrations?
9. Where do you think wisdom comes from? What are some ways you share or demonstrate wisdom in everyday life?
10. How did you feel after reading it? Would you read it again?

