



COMMISSIONER'S

BOOK OF THE MONTH

GUIDING QUESTIONS | MARCH 2023

GRADES K-2

The Lion and the Mouse
by Aesop

- This fable describes the lion as giant, but not cruel. What can we learn from the lion about being kind?
- At the end of this fable, the lion thanks the mouse with a mighty roar heard by all the animals in the jungle. If you were the lion, how else would you have thanked the mouse?

GRADES 3-5

Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates
by Jonah Winter

- “If you don’t try as hard as you can, you are wasting your life” is a quote that captures Roberto Clemente’s hard-working, goal-driven spirit, on and off the baseball field. How does his determined spirit inspire you to accomplish your goals?
- A guava tree branch became a bat; a coffee bean sack became a glove to play with during Roberto Clemente’s first baseball games. How did Roberto’s optimistic and resourceful attitude help him overcome the many challenges he faced during his years playing baseball?

GRADES 6-8

Lifeboat 12
by Susan Hood

- How does young Ken, the main character, use Auntie Mary’s stories to help the survivors on Lifeboat 12 overcome their dark, dreadful experiences, while lost at sea?
- How do Ramjan Buxoo and Auntie Mary help young Ken stay steadfast and true in the most scary, life-threatening moments of this survival story? What can you learn from their acts of bravery?

GRADES 9-12

The Raft
by S.A. Bodeen

- The main character, Robie, uses an unconventional survival tactic to stay alive. Take a moment to visualize yourself, lost at sea. Do you think this was the best strategy to use in a difficult situation?
- When Robie is rescued, it is not until later that she fully grasps the magnitude of Max’s self-sacrifice, although he only spoke a few words in the whole story. What life lesson did you learn from Max? What would you have done differently, if you were in Robie’s exact same position?