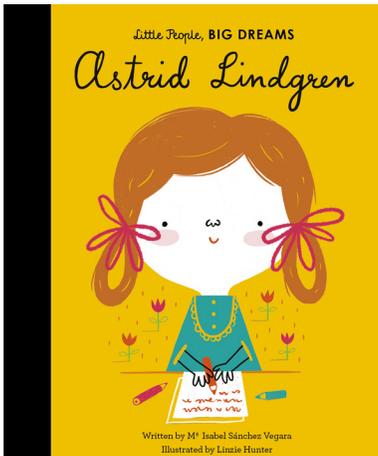


Little People, BIG DREAMS™

TEACHERS' GUIDE



Astrid Lindgren

Little People, BIG DREAMS™

Written by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara

Illustrated by Linzie Hunter

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LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Astrid Lindgren's childhood was filled with wonder and magic, due in no small part to her experiences with books where unforgettable characters leapt off the pages and fueled her imagination. As she grew up, Astrid began to create her own stories, including those about a free-spirited girl named Pippi Longstocking. Astrid's stories were so popular that they became bestsellers soon after being published. Although Astrid wrote her stories more than fifty years ago, their timeless appeal still delivers her special kind of magic to children around the world today.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS IN THIS UNIT

1. What is Astrid Lindgren famous for doing?
2. As a child, why didn't Astrid want to grow up?
3. How did Astrid feel when she realized she was growing up?
4. Who came up with the name Pippi Longstocking?
5. What did Astrid use as inspiration for her stories?
6. Why are Astrid's stories still meaningful today?

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. When she was a child, Astrid was so happy that "she never wanted to grow up." Ask the students if they ever feel that way. What would be fun about not growing up? What might not be so fun? Have them talk to some of the adults in their lives about this, too, to hear how their

perspectives have changed since they've grown up.

2. Astrid identified strongly with her most popular character, Pippi Longstocking, a character who "was everything a child wanted to be." What does the class think this phrase means? Do they agree with what the book lists as "remarkable"? Would they add anything?
3. As a young adult, Astrid realized that she could be a "rebel." Why do they think Astrid felt the need to go against the mainstream of "what a girl should be"? Can they name ways in which they think Astrid's rebellion led to Pippi Longstocking, a character who also disregards how girls *should* act?
4. The first *Pippi Longstocking* story was written more than seventy-five years ago. Why do the students think it became so popular when it first published? Why do they think it remains so popular today?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Have students read a few of the *Pippi Longstocking* stories – you can either read them aloud during circle time or have them do independent reading outside of class time. Discuss the stories as a class.
2. In the *Pippi Longstocking* stories, Pippi loves to make up new words for things. Have each of the students make up a new word – the sillier, the better! – and then define what their word means. Post the new words in the classroom and challenge students to try to use them in everyday speech!
3. Ask the class to write a short story featuring a unique character. How can they make their character memorable? Could they turn their story into a series featuring the same character? Is it hard to create many stories for one character? Have volunteers read their stories to the class.
4. Astrid became so popular and beloved that a Russian astronomer named Planet 3204 Lindgren after her! Ask students what they would choose to have named after them. It could be a planet, or it could be a lake, a park, a building, or an ice skating rink! Have them create a drawing of their eponym, and post in the class to compare.

