

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *HONESTLY, RED RIDING HOOD WAS ROTTEN!*

In this document, you'll find many potential discussion questions that you might ask students as you read aloud the book *Honestly, Red Riding Hood Was Rotten!* by Trisha Speed Shaskan.

Page 1

1. The wolf is talking with food in his mouth, he has his elbows on the table, and he is using the knife instead of the fork. What does this say about his manners? Do you eat this way?
2. Is eating like something you see commonly when you eat at a restaurant or in your own home?
3. The wolf seems cranky about everyone having heard and passed along the story already. People share stories like this all the time. What is a reaction you might see from a classmate if someone were telling a story about them without them being there?
4. Do you think your classmate might be cranky like the wolf, too?

Page 2

1. You don't have to raise your hands, but is there anyone here who has been so hungry that you couldn't even think straight?
2. Have you heard the word "hangry?" (This word is an American pop culture reference that describes the mood people are in when they are hungry, and it makes them angry (hence h-angry), so they take out their anger on others.)
3. Have you ever been "hangry" before?
4. How is the wolf talking during this? What is his tone? (The language and tone he uses seem condescending when speaking about not eating meat like other wolves. When people's cultural views differ from those of others, they tend to speak differently about or to them.)
5. Do you know what a vegetarian is? Do you know people who are vegetarians? (The way people view food is becoming more and more of a cultural phenomenon.)

Page 3

1. What are some things that you notice in this picture?
2. Do you notice the comments that the wolf makes about food?
3. Do you notice the size of the characters in the story?
4. What about the characters' appearance mirrors the appearance of people in the United States?

Page 4

1. Again, here we see that the wolf is extremely hungry - so much so that he can't focus. Have you ever been this hungry before?
2. Why do you think Little Red Riding Hood doesn't even notice the wolf?

Page 5

1. Have you ever shared personal information with a stranger?
2. Do you play online games with people you don't know? (Pop culture makes talking to strangers appear to be okay, as long as it is through an online role-playing game. Is this really okay, or should kids be thinking twice about who they're talking to, even in the virtual world?)
3. What does it mean to be "Instagram-ready" or have a photo be "Instagram-worthy?" (These pop culture references are often used to describe how someone looks if they have their makeup done, their clothes are nice, and their hair looks good.)
4. I noticed the wolf said at the beginning of the book that he is a vegetarian, but now, he's ready to eat the grandmother and Little Red Riding Hood. Have you ever met someone or been in a situation when someone said one thing and did another? What did you think when they did this?
5. Is it normal for people to constantly change their beliefs just based on how they are feeling at the moment?
6. The family is held in high regard in this story. The grandmother is looked at as someone Little Red Riding Hood wants to visit, wants to bring food to, and wants to care for. Family is an important part of American culture. How does your family view family?

Page 6

1. What are some skills that make someone good at a sport or game?
2. Does being the "prettiest" make someone good at a game?
3. Why do you think Little Red Riding Hood believes that being the "prettiest and the fastest" makes her awesome at games?

Page 7

1. When you're walking around the store, how often do you see people looking down at their phones? (Granny isn't looking up from her mirror. If she did, she'd notice that the wolf is right there outside of her window, but she isn't paying attention.)
2. When you think of a house in the woods, do you think of a nice big house that's clean with a manicured lawn?

Page 8

1. Walking through someone's home, do you typically see photos hanging?
2. Do you see a lot of photos hanging that are of just the one person who lives in the home? (The walls in Granny's house look like the wall of her Instagram feed with a bunch of selfies.)
3. Granny is so focused on her mirror that she doesn't even realize she's talking to a wolf. Have you ever seen someone have a conversation while looking down at their phone?
4. Do you have a family member who you look and act a lot like?
5. Do you spend a lot of time with that family member?

Page 9

1. What do you notice about the wolf's appearance that has changed?
2. Are there instances when you change your appearance to fit in to your surroundings?
3. When might you change your appearance, and why would you?

Page 10

1. Do we place a lot of attention on what others think of us or how we look?

Page 11

1. What does the wolf mean when he says, "In fact, to be honest, she was a bit rotten"?
2. How do you think our culture changes or shapes our behavior?
3. Do you think our culture makes us "rotten"?
4. What does the American version, written from the point of view of the wolf, say about American culture?