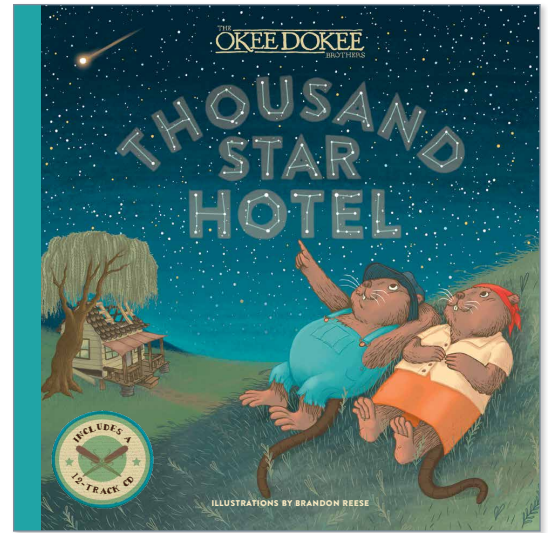


LET'S DISCUSS . . .

STERLING
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS

THOUSAND STAR HOTEL

This discussion guide is designed for parents, teachers, librarians, and booksellers to explore the story's ideas, themes, and meaning with young readers.



Questions to Ask Before You Read

- Do you know what a five star hotel is? What would a thousand star hotel look like?
- What are muskrats? In what sort of habitat do you think you would find a muskrat?
- If someone granted you one wish, what would it be?

Questions to Ask After You Read

- At the very beginning of the story, how did the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Muskrat seem to you?
- Why do you think Mr. Muskrat wanted all those fancy houses?
- Why do you think Mrs. Muskrat only wished for small things?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you thought someone else was making an unwise choice?
- What did you think Mr. and Mrs. Muskrat would find when they arrived back at their house? How did you feel when you discovered that the willow tree had blown over?
- Why do you think Mr. Muskrat went from being mad to being amazed?
- Do you think Mr. Muskrat's final wish came true? How?
- There are three puns in the lyrics of the "Thousand Star Hotel" song. Can you find them?
- Listen to the audiobook on track 1 of the CD. Do the characters sound like you imagined while you read the book?
- How about the fish? Does it sound magical? Why or why not?
- Listen to "Gone Wishin'" on track 2 of the CD. Can you make any connections between the verses and the book? What other songs on the CD fit with themes in the story?
- Take a look at the dedication in the front of the book. Do you think Mr. and Mrs. Muskrat exist in real life?

Activity

Draw what your thousand star hotel would look like.

End note for teachers: This story is set in swamps near the Mississippi River, but magical fish and wishes appear in many folktales set all around the world. Other great books to read alongside THE THOUSAND STAR HOTEL:

- THE FISHERMAN AND HIS WIFE by Rachel Isadora
- THE MAGIC FISH by Freya Littledale, with illustrations by Winslow Pinney Pels