

*When You Trap a Tiger*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades 3-7

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Do you live near family? How would you feel if you had to move to live near family?
- What does it mean to be brave? Describe a time when you have had to be brave.
- What does it mean to “pick sides”? Describe a time when you have had to be pick sides.
- Should sad stories be told? Why or why not?
- Frontload vocabulary for chapters 1-3 (see vocabulary guide)

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections. Prompt students to provide support for their answers from the text.**

- How are Lily and Sam alike? How are they different? (Ch .1, Ch. 38)
- How would you describe Halmoni? (Ch. 3)
- How is Lily and Sam’s relationship to their mom similar to and different from their mom’s relationship to Halmoni? (Ch. 4)
- Why did Halmoni steal the story stars? Do you think she did the right thing? Why or why not? (Ch. 8)
- How does Lily try to change or be different? (Ch. 9, Ch. 10, Ch. 16, Ch. 32)
- Lily describes some people as “sticky.” What does that mean? How can you tell if someone is “sticky”? (Ch. 11)
- What are some ways Halmoni protects people? (Ch. 12)
- How do the characters have to play unexpected roles? (Ch. 13)
- Why does Lily take the tiger’s deal? Would you have taken the tiger’s deal? Why or why not?(Ch. 14)
- How are Ricky and Lily similar? How are they different? Give examples.(Ch. 18)
- How did Lily and Ricky help each other? (Ch. 25, Ch. 34)
- What do Ricky and Lily’s houses tell you about their families and their characters? (Ch. 25)
- How do the tiger’s stories match Lily’s family? (Ch. 28)
- What are the consequences of Lily returning the stories to the tiger? (Ch. 29)
- How do Lily’s feelings about the library and about Ricky change? Why do they change? (Ch. 30)
- The tiger tells Lily there’s a little bit of tiger in her. Lily thinks that means she’s a villain, not a hero. Do you think this is what the tiger means? (Ch. 31)
- How are Lily and Sam good sisters to each other? (Ch. 40)
- How does Lily feel about the stories? How can you tell? (Ch. 41)
- Who is the tiger? (Ch. 41)
- How do Halmoni’s feelings about the tigers change? (Ch. 42)
- What ending does Lily choose for her story and her family’s story? (Ch. 43)
- How do Lily and her family honor Halmoni? (Ch. 45)
- What role does the library play in Lily, Sam, and Halmoni’s stories? (Ch. 45)

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**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

Lily talks a lot about superpowers like being invisible and running away. What do you think her superpower is? What is your superpower?

Make a Venn diagram to compare and contrast how Lily is at the beginning of the story and how she is at the end. What changed about her and what stayed the same?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.