

ROBERT THE POLAR BEAR.

Discussion questions to encourage critical thinking.



Enjoy having a wee chat about my story.

These questions and any others you can think of can be discussed after reading the story together. Don't ask them all at once. The experience of reading is supposed to be enjoyable and not an inquisition.

Many questions can be asked as you are reading the story, like, what do you think it would be like playing basketball on ice? What do you think will happen next?

The answers I have provided are a guide only and I have not addressed all issues otherwise we could have a new novel on our hands.

Your child may think up some amazing responses, reasons and opinions.

Encourage unusual, creative or original ideas.

Robert was not like the other polar bears.

What do you think the other bears thought about this?

They seemed to accept that Robert was different. They encouraged him (come on Robert) to try to be like them, in a friendly way. They remained his friend and helped him build Robert's World.

Why do you think Robert's dad was so worried that Robert was not like the other bears?

Perhaps he was worried that Robert would have no friends or that the other bears would make fun of him.

Do you think it is okay to be different or unique like Vera says on the back cover of the book. Why do you think this way?

It would be boring if we were all the same. Creative folk, the dreamers and thinkers are often/usually somewhat different. Said to be on another planet..or iceberg!

If folk or polar bears are different from most others, do you think they might encounter problems. What might they be?

They could be bullied or picked on by others. They might have difficulty finding friends. Mind you the friends they will have will be really, really true ones who value them for who they are.

What qualities do you think someone who is different would need?

They would need to be strong and confident. Not worry too much about what others think and say. Be happy in themselves how they do and see things.

In this story it is Robert who is supposed to be different. Are there any other examples of other bears not being normal?

Well, let's look at his mum and dad for a start – practicing golf, vacuuming and reading newspapers. A fireplace and television in their home - hardly a normal polar bear dwelling. And then there is the crowd looking at Robert's Island – polar bears selling fish. A lady polar bear wandering by wearing pearls and carrying a handbag.

Why do you think at the end Robert's dad stops calling him Bob?

He is very proud of his son and his creation of Robert's World.

Which Polar Bear fact did you like the most and why?

Why do you think Mr Heff put in his made-up polar bear facts?

Just for a bit of fun and to make you laugh. Perhaps as a result, some readers might to look up true facts about polar bears.

Do you think Robert should have been sent away from home to live alone on an iceberg?

Answers will vary..it is certainly a bit hard on Robert. He was unhappy and lonely on the iceberg. Maybe spending time alone on the iceberg made him sort out what he wanted to do with his life and realise that he didn't have to be like everyone else.

Creative activities & Imagination Boosters

Maybe it would be nice for Robert to have a girlfriend or one good friend.

Roberta or Roger. Sebastian and Priscilla.

You could do a drawing of them by following the 'how to draw Robert' pages at the back of the book or below.

You might like to write and illustrate your own short story. Maybe you could send a copy to Mr Heff.

*Make up a polar bear dance routine to some **cool** rock n roll music.*

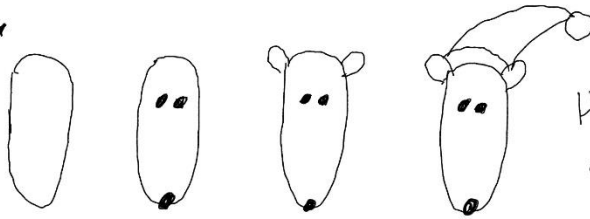
Mr Heff with his wacky sense of humour has made up a many polar bear facts and showing how he thinks they live. You might like to do some further reading to see just how polar bears do live and survive in their cold environment.

No KFC for them!

*Make a drawing or model of your own Robert's World. Maybe you could use ice cubes from the fridge. **Just joking!***

Draw Robert

Start here



Head, eyes, nose
and hat.
Easy-Peasy!

