



The Adventures of Rumi & Bixby Bear

WORKBOOK

A discussion guide for
parents, teachers, and children

By
Yehuda Rothstein

Based on the poetry of
Jalāl ad-Dīn Rūmī

The Adventures of Rumi & Bixby Bear

Guide Questions

Answer the following questions about the book cover.

1. Who is the author of the book?

2. Why do you think the author gave the book this title?

3. What title would you like to give the book?

4. The author gives credit to Jalal ad-Din Rumi. Why?

Part I. Answer the following questions about the book.

1. Who is Rumi? What questions does she have in her heart?

2. Think of three words that best describe Bixby Bear. Why?

3. How do we know that Grandfather wasn't happy about the way Rumi's mother answered when Rumi didn't want to go to school?

4. How did Grandfather want Mother to treat Rumi?

5. What piece of advice did Mother give Rumi when she was afraid and sad?

6. Rumi asked her grandparents about friendship. What did they tell her?

7. Rumi and Bixby Bear walk onto the road called *Life*. What are they looking for?

8. Rumi had more questions than answers. This made her doubt that she took the right path. What did Bixby want her to do?

9. What did Rumi do, together with her family and friends, as they went on a journey across the lands?

10. Fill in the missing blanks. Bixby replied, "Brighter days do not always to you, sometimes you must to them. In a night full of , be like the sun who its light to others._____

Part II. Reflect and answer the following questions.

1. Rumi's teacher told her this: "Who you are, the friends you will make, and the job you will choose are all different things." What does this mean?

2. Bixby Bear tells Rumi to learn from others, but she shouldn't blindly follow the stories that came before her. What does this mean?

3. Why do you think Rumi wants someone to walk the path with her?

4. Bixby Bear tells Rumi to be patient while they are travelling. Why is this important?

5. What are some things that Rumi did to experience different kinds of people?

6. Why do you think the author had Rumi stutter? How does this make Rumi feel?

7. Why is Rumi the main character in the book?

8. Rumi learned to love the questions about her life. Why?

9. Why does the author compare questions to “stories hidden in secret rooms”?

10. Why did Rumi go on a journey?

11. What were the “problem” and the “solution” in the story?

12. At the end of the story, how did Rumi’s classmates know that she had changed?

13. Why did Rumi said goodbye to Bixby Bear?

14. Rumi never gave up. She kept going. Why is this important in her journey?

15. What did you like best about this book?

Part III. Think of your life experiences that relate to Rumi's journey as you answer the following questions.

1. What makes a friend?

2. How can someone be a good friend to you?

3. Do you know someone that is like Rumi? How?

4. Do you know someone that is like Bixby Bear? How?

5. Why do you think the author wrote this book?

6. What are some things that you can do to experience different kinds of people?

7. Did you have an experience that seemed too hard for you? How did it make you feel?

8. Was there a time that you gave up on something? What happened?

9. Was there a time that you wanted to quit on something, but you didn't? Were you glad that you kept going?

10. What made you keep going during the hard experiences in life?

11. Was there a time when you weren't patient about what's happening in your life?

12. Was there a time when you were patient for something to happen? What difference did it make?

13. What did you learn from this book?

14. If you told someone else about this book, what would you say it is about?

15. If you could go on a journey like Rumi, who would you like to come along? Why?

Activity

Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks with the correct words to complete the following quotes from the book:

1. It is _____ that grows flowers, not _____.
2. Do not follow the stories that came before you. You must _____ your _____ path.
3. Others may walk the journey with you, but _____ cannot walk it _____ you.
4. _____ is the water of life.
5. Who you _____, the friends you will make, and the job you will _____ are all different things.
6. Rumi kept searching for answers. Rumi kept going, and _____, and _____.
7. Do not seek the _____ from me, for I cannot give them to you. Because then, you would not be able to _____ your own _____.
8. Live the _____ in the now. Then one day, maybe without even knowing it, your _____ will live its way into the _____.
9. They _____ others. They _____ others, they _____, and they loved. And together, they lived out the questions of the human _____.

Activity
Scrambled Words



Unscramble the letters to spell words that describe Rumi and Bixby. (The first letter of each word is capitalized.)

Rumi

aSlml

yhS

ursCiuo

aSd

ueQtsoiinng

isLentre

raetGulf

spiinrgln

rDiFenyl

oLvde

Small

Bixby

neUrtdtsdnangi

elHfpul

ienFrldy

omCorfngit

iWes

Activity

Fill in the Story Map

Story Map

(Fill in the elements about the story)

Title: _____

Author: _____

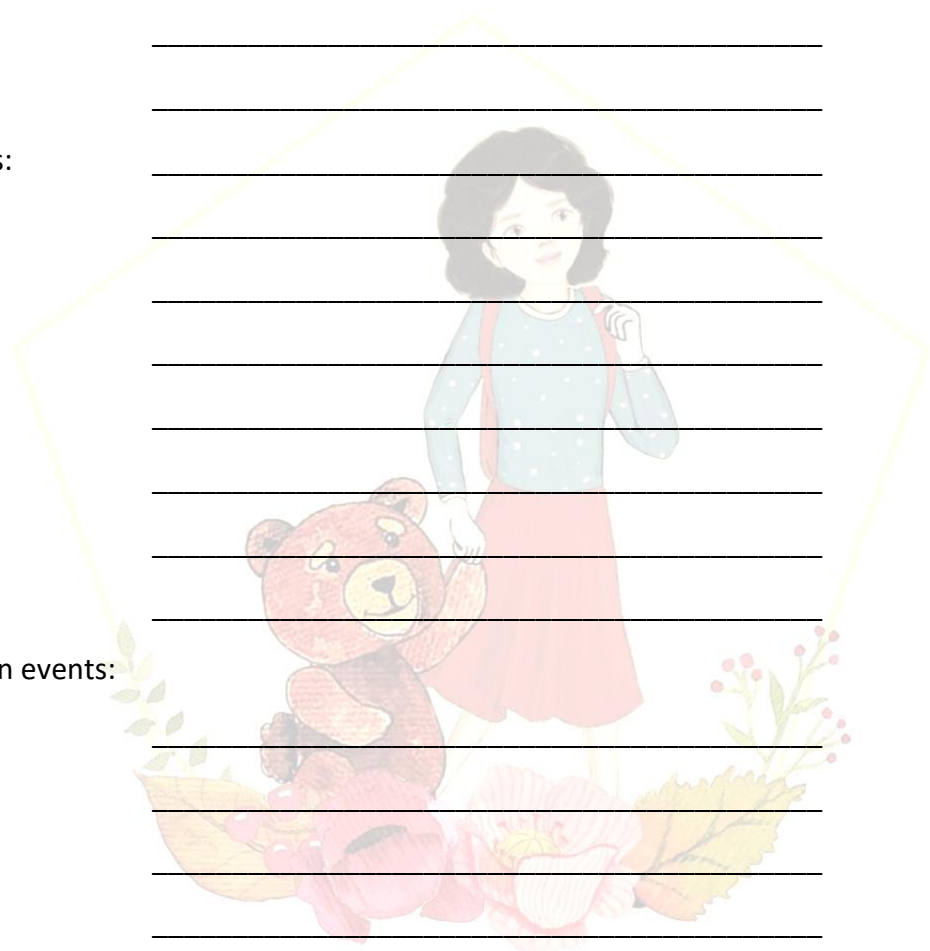
Characters: _____

Setting: _____

Problem: _____

Three Main events: _____

Solution (resolution): _____



Activity

Similarities and Differences

Thinking: Make a list of how you and Rumi are alike and how you are different. Try to think of 3 things for each.

How Rumi and I are alike

1. _____

2. _____
3. _____

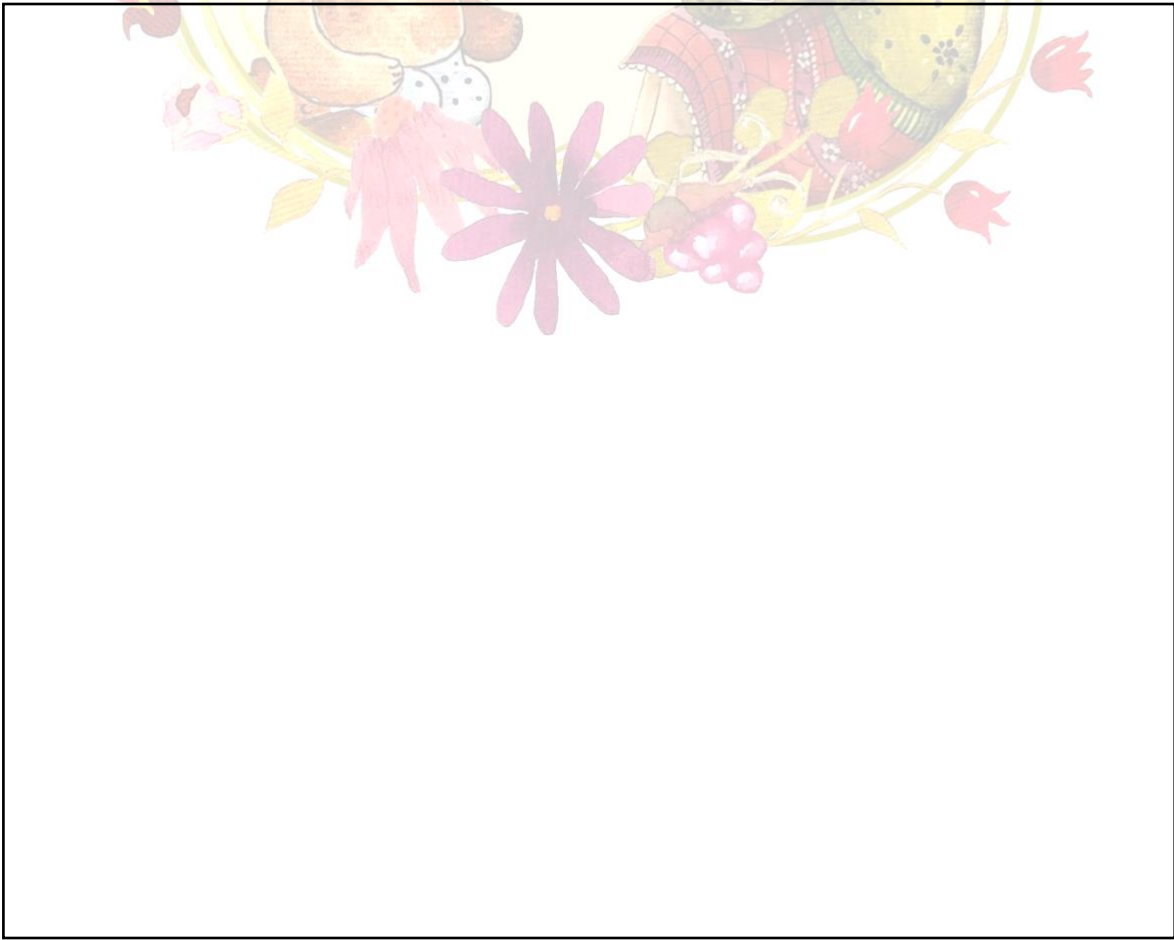
How Rumi and I are different

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Writing and Drawing

1. Pick one of the lessons that Rumi learned in the story and explain what it means. Draw a picture to go with your writing.

2. How can you inspire, make friends, and/or love? Write what you can do and draw a picture to go with your writing.



Activity

Word Search

Circle the following words you encountered in the book. The words can go across, down, and diagonally.

ADVENTURE, HEART, CURIOUS, WORLD, FRIEND, LOVE, HAPPINESS, DISCOVER,
JOURNEY, WISE, EXPERIENCE, QUESTIONS, ANSWERS.

Q	S	T	V	F	K	H	F	R	I	E	N	D	M	J
R	E	H	B	P	V	A	B	N	B	D	J	L	C	S
T	O	X	O	Y	L	P	B	E	J	S	W	X	R	X
E	M	M	D	R	L	P	I	T	V	K	M	E	H	M
A	A	C	E	V	C	I	W	C	N	X	W	Z	J	E
S	X	D	D	R	C	N	Q	V	Q	S	E	S	I	W
Y	U	I	V	D	T	E	A	U	N	H	Z	P	Y	S
E	N	O	Q	E	B	S	E	A	W	R	M	P	A	G
N	C	Z	I	Q	N	S	R	E	V	O	C	S	I	D
R	F	H	X	R	T	T	S	D	A	U	J	L	M	L
U	S	C	E	I	U	B	U	O	Z	W	A	J	O	S
O	P	E	O	A	C	C	G	R	Z	O	M	V	E	B
J	Q	N	H	P	R	P	Q	Q	E	R	E	W	C	R
J	S	I	W	Y	B	T	D	F	W	L	J	B	H	K
E	X	P	E	R	I	E	N	C	E	D	P	W	H	H

Other Extended Activities

1. Rumi experienced great joy in her adventures. Research two places mentioned in the book: The Great Wall of China (where she practiced yoga) and The Dead Sea in Israel and Jordan (where she floated on water at the lowest depths of the earth). Locate them on a map. Write three (3) facts about each.

The Great Wall of China

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

The Dead Sea in Israel and Jordan

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. Create a poster to how you can inspire others in your own ways, make friends, and/or express love. Hang/Display the poster at school or in your home.
3. Make a journal of “experiences.” Write down some things that you want to do in your life. Maybe it is to learn a language or to play an instrument. You might want to take a trip somewhere to see something special, read books by a certain author or a specific topic, or plant a vegetable garden. Add new ideas each day. Then, take a journey, like Rumi, and start on your list!
4. Go on a Treasure Hunt. Rumi loves STEM and studying science, technology, engineering, and math. Can you help find some of the objects in this book that are used in STEM that Rumi likes?



1. I am a book for general purpose programming language. (C++ computer language book)



2. I am a setting used to do research, experiments, and measurements. Hint: Rumi happens to be in this setting now. (science lab)



3. I am thin glass tubes closed at one end to hold amounts of material for testing or experiments. (test tubes)



4. I am mounted on a frame so you can use me without holding me in your hand; I produce a magnified image of an object. If I focus on light like the sun, I can create fire. (hand-free magnifying glass)



5. I am a spacecraft that uses thrust from an engine to soar into space. (rocket)



6. I am a knee-length overcoat worn in science labs to protect clothing. (lab coat)



7. I am substances (elements) or mixtures (solutions, compound, or gases) that are found naturally or can be created. (chemicals)



8. I am a well-known American astrophysicist, scientist, and author. (Neil deGrasse Tyson)



9. I am an instrument that has lens for enlarging images of very small objects; you need to look through me with one eye to see the objects! (microscope)



10. I am a “popular” magazine that has information about science and technology. (Popular Science magazine)



11. I am an electronic device used to store, retrieve, and process data. (computer)