

GSCNC Book Club
Meeting Guide

Pippi Longstocking

By Astrid Lindgren



**Best for
Brownies**

Introduction

Book Summary

Pippi Longstocking is a nine year old girl who lives in an old house with a pet monkey and a horse. Pippi is no ordinary girl- she has bright red pigtails, she can carry a horse with one hand, and she is not afraid of anything! After her father is lost at sea, Pippi returns home to Villa Villekulla and goes on lots of adventures with her new neighbors, Tommy and Annika. Although Tommy and Annika find Pippi strange, they learn that it is okay to be different and they teach Pippi the importance of friendship.

Meeting 1

Setting up your Book Club

This meeting guide provides a basic outline for hosting three or four 60-minute Book Club meetings. You are welcome to incorporate as much or as little of this meeting guide into your meetings. This guide can also be used as the basis for a sampler troop. Consider asking a local book club to host the meetings! Please refer to the "Setting up your Book Club Guide" for more information.

Meeting 2

Discussion Questions (chapters 1-6)

Discover

Pippi lived all by herself. Would you want to live alone? Would you still need to go to school? Would you need to clean your bedroom? Why is it important to go to school and clean your room? How old do you think you need to be to live by yourself? The author describes many differences between Pippi and the other children like how her strength and the funny way she dresses. Is it okay that Pippi is different? What makes you different from your friends?

Connect

Pippi has a pet monkey and a pet horse. How does she take care of her pets? Do you have any pets? How do you take care of them? Why is it important that you help take care of them?

Take Action

When Pippi sees a boy being bullied she hangs the bullies over a tree. Is this the right way to deal with bullies? If you see someone picking on a friend what can you do to help? What are the different ways you can deal with a bully? What do you do when you are feeling scared? Who do you tell if you are in trouble? Do you tell your parents, a teacher, your troop leader?

Activity: *Tell a Story like Pippi*

Supplies:

- A large bag or hat
- Paper and pencils for each group
- Write story prompts on a slip of paper and place in bag or hat. Some story ideas: a person who lives in the desert, a cat that likes to wear clothes, what people in Australia do with kangaroos, how some people catch fish, etc.

Divide girls into groups of two or three. Explain that they are going to tell a story the way Pippi does. Each group will pick an idea from the bag. The groups will have two minutes to discuss story ideas. Then, without talking, each girl should take a turn writing one line of the story before passing it to the next group member. Repeat several times. Girls will need to improvise based on what the last person wrote.

Have each group present their story to the other girls. The girls should begin by reading what their story idea or theme was to the group. Each member of the group should only read what they wrote.

Closing

Ask girls to consider choices for their final activity (see Meeting 4 suggestions). Remind girls to read the second half of the book for the next meeting.

Meeting 3

Discussion Questions (chapters 7-end)

Discover

Pippi lived all by herself. Would you want to live alone? Would you still need to go to school? Would you need to clean your bedroom? Why is it important to go to school and clean your room? How old do you think you need to be to live by yourself? The author describes many differences between Pippi and the other children like how her strength and the funny way she dresses. Is it okay that Pippi is different? What is something that makes you different from your friends?

Connect

Pippi has a pet monkey and a pet horse. How does she take care of her pets? Do you have any pets? How do you take care of them? Why is it important that you help take care of them?

Take Action

When Pippi sees a boy being bullied she hangs the bullies over a tree. Is this the right way to deal with bullies? If you see someone picking on a friend what can you do to help? What are the different ways you can deal with a bully? What do you do when you are feeling scared? Who do you tell if you are in trouble? Do you tell your parents, a teacher, your troop leader?

Activity: Make a Thing-Finder Box

Supplies:

- Blank Chinese take-out boxes with handles (one for every girl)
- Markers, crayons, color pencils, glue, tape
- Decorations: glitter, ribbons, stickers, confetti, feathers, pom-poms, etc.



Have each girl decorate her Thing-Finder box- be creative!

Closing

Have each girl write her name on a sheet of large paper. Hang the sheets around the room. Have all of the girls go around and write one things that make that person a good friend.

Meeting 4

Extension Activities

Can be real or virtual! These are just suggestions; please feel free to brainstorm with your troop to come up with other ideas as well.

- Astrid Lindgren Reading Room, Washington, DC (http://www.swedenabroad.se/Page_65014.aspx): Learn about the author and discover her other fun-filled stories!
- Visit a local zoo: Learn all about Mr. Nilsson!
- The U.S. Navy Museum, Washington, DC (<http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg8.htm>): Pippi's father was a sea captain. How do you become a sea captain? How do sea captains navigate the ocean? What do naval uniforms mean? How is a naval ship different from other ships? Are they the same?
- American Red Cross Museum, Washington, DC (<http://redcross.org>): Why is it important to be prepared for emergency situations like Pippi is? What can you do to prepare? How can you help other people who have been hurt or are in danger?

Additional Resources

Activities

- Make Pippi's favorite cookie, Swedish Pepparkakor (recipes available online)
- Watch the *Pippi Longstocking* movie
- Draw Pippi- be creative!
- Flat Juliette (<http://www.flatstanley.com/girl-scouts.htm>): Flat Juliette can check out a place before we visit or go places we can't visit. Have your troop make Flat Juliette's and send them to family, friends, or troops elsewhere in the world.
- Write an adventure story.
- Make a map of your neighborhood or meeting place.
- Grow Strong Kit, available upon request from <http://www.gscnc.org/program/growstrong.php>

Recognitions

- Safety Award (page 11-12 of Safety-Wise)
- Together We Prepare (<http://www.gscnc.org/pdf/patches/togetherweprepare.pdf>)

Other Resources

- Astrid Lindgren's website: http://www.astridlindgren.se/eng/index_800.htm