



Junior Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

1. Discuss the connection between Peter and Pax. How did that connection develop over the years? Why must Peter release Pax? What makes Peter leave to look for Pax after he arrives at his grandfather's home?
2. What is the importance of the toy soldier in the game Peter plays with Pax? Why is Peter surprised to find a box of toy soldiers at his grandfather's house?
3. Why is it so important to Vola to live alone? What does she mean when she says, "The plain truth can be the hardest thing to see when it's about yourself". How does that phrase pertain to Vola? How does it pertain to Peter and Peter's father?
4. Discuss the concept of "nonduality," or "two but not two," that Viola explains to Peter. How does this concept help Peter understand his connection to Pax? What does it mean to Viola?
5. Describe the steps in Peter's journey that help him to understand that, when he finally finds Pax, he must let him go. Describe the steps in Pax's journey that lead him to stay with his new family in the wild.
6. Why do you think the author decided to tell the story from dual points of view with alternating chapters describing the separate adventures of Peter and Pax?
7. What do you think Peter and Pax do in the moments after the story ends and in the weeks that follow? What clues in the book support your guesses?
8. Discuss the meaning of the final words in the book: "Sometimes the apple rolls very far from the tree". What do these words mean for Peter?

The above questions were taken from
<https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/PAX-discussion-questions-branded-1.pdf> to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Sara Pennypacker is a *New York Times* bestselling American author of children's literature, including *Pax, Pax*, *Journey Home*, *Summer of the Gypsy Moths*, and the *Clementine* series. Her books have won numerous awards and have appeared on many 'Best Books' lists. She splits her time between Florida and Massachusetts, and spends her time writing, bird watching, and raising orchids.

<http://sarapennypacker.com/pennypacker-bio.htm>

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