

Book Club Discussion Questions

*Time Traveling Through the Great Smoky Mountains:
The Adventures of Bubba Jones (1)*
By Jeff Alt, Illustrated by Hannah Tuohy

Chapter 1: The Secret Family Legend

1. Who were Lewis and Clark and what are they famous for?
2. What does Bubba Jones's family use their time traveling skills for?
3. Why does Papa Lewis make Bubba and his family take an oath of secrecy? What happened during the T-Rex Incident?

Chapter 2: The Adventure Begins!

1. Name five items on Bubba Jones, Papa Lewis, and Hug-a-Bug's Backpacking Gear List.
2. In this chapter, Bubba Jones and Hug-a-Bug have their first-time traveling adventure. What are some of the differences between Elkmont in 1906 and the present day Elkmont campground?

Chapter 3: The Fall of the Giants

1. What is the difference between a national forest and a national park? What might have happened to the Great Smoky Mountains if they had been turned into a national forest?
2. What happened to the American Chestnut Trees?

Chapter 4: The Legend Unfolds With Sparkles in the Night

1. How is a synchronized firefly different than other fireflies?
2. Why did Papa Lewis hand over his powers to Bubba Jones, and not keep them?
3. What are possible consequences of someone else finding out about Bubba's family's time traveling ability?
4. What is a cipher code?

Chapter 5: The Original Great Smoky Mountain Inhabitants

1. What was the Trail of Tears?
2. What was Hug-a-bug afraid that could happen when Bubba got his time travel powers?

Chapter 6: One Big Mountain

1. Why is Bubba able to see a spruce-fir forest at Clingmans Dome? Where do these trees mainly grow?
2. Were the Smokies taller than they are now?
3. At the end of this chapter, Bubba and Hug-a-Bug tell their parents about all of the time traveling adventures they have had so far. If you could travel back in time with them, on which of these adventures would you go? Why?

Chapter 7: Celebrity Sightings at Newfound Gap

1. What is a thru-hiker? Do you think you could thru-hike the way Grandma Gatewood did, or would you need more resources? What else would you bring with you?
2. What were Earl Shaffer and Grandma Gatewood famous for?

Chapter 8: The Other Side of the Mountain

1. What is a trail name and what are some of the trail names that Bubba Jones and his family use?
2. Bubba says that all of his family members have trail names, “based on each one’s unique love of adventure and exploring.” What would you choose as your own trail name? Why?

Chapter 9: A Big Surprise

1. Can you name at least three animals that used to call the Great Smoky Mountains home?
2. Why is the elk herd in Cataloochee Valley and not the rest of the park?

Chapter 10: As Real as it Gets

1. What is found at the Oconaluftee Village?
2. Name at least 3 facts about the Cherokee.

Chapter 11: The Wild Goose Chase

1. How does bartering work? What sorts of items were used in bartering? Do you think bartering would still work today? Why or why not?

2. Imagine that you have traveled back with Bubba and his family to Mingus Mill. What sorts of jobs would you have been made to do as a miller back then?

Chapter 12: Away From It All

1. Who were the Olivers? What does Bubba learn about them when he time travels?
2. After seeing how the first Smokies settlers lived in 1825, Bubba's mom says that the settlers "worked so hard just to eat and stay alive." What are some ways that the settlers found food? How did they keep it from spoiling?
3. How can you protect yourself from a black bear?

Chapter 13: The Smoky Mountain Biathlon!

1. What is Horace Kephart known for?

Chapter 14: Over the Hills and Through the Woods

1. Where do Appalachian Trail thru-hikers stay while hiking through the Smokies?
2. What makes the wild boar different than most of the other animals living in the Smokies?

Chapter 15: You Can Hike But You Cannot Hide!

1. Why doesn't Wild Bill want to interact with Horace Kephart? What does he think might happen?
2. Where are some of the places Wild Bill visited in the Smokies?
3. What are the names of the two poisonous snakes found in the Great Smoky Mountains?
4. The Smokies is known as Capitol of the World for what species?
5. What did the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) do in the Smokies?