

McGooster & McGyman Begin Their Adventures

Discussion Guide

Chapter One: The New Owners

McGooster is very worried about his new life. He thinks of all the things that can go wrong. McGyman, on the other hand, is not very worried. At least he doesn't seem to be worried. He believes they are well prepared for their new situation.

When we face a new situation do we think of all the things that can go wrong or of all the things that can go right? Why?

How do you think being prepared for a new situation makes you less worried about it?

Chapter Two: The First Night

McGooster and McGyman are on their own for the very first time in their lives. They are both curious and a little scared – especially of the strange noises. Each tries to hide the fact that he is scared from the other.

Do you think that loud unfamiliar noises can be scarier than something you can see? Why?

Do you think the situation would have been different if they had their yellow rope? Why?

Chapter Three: The First Day

McGooster and McGyman wake up to more noises and are feeling very homesick for their friends. They decide to trust Mizzz and crawl out from under the couch.

Why did Mizzz make McGooster and McGyman crawl out from under the couch for breakfast rather than bring it to them?

Why did McGooster & McGyman decide to trust Mizzz?

While you may not have a yellow rope, what makes you feel braver in a strange situation?

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Chapter Four: Exploring the House

McGooster and McGyman are free to explore the house. They find a lot of places to nap and play. They also learn what behavior is expected of them.

What is the difference between rules and good manners?

Do you think rules and the definition of good manners could be different in different homes? Why?

Chapter Five: Buzzie

McGooster and McGyman are trying to find animal friends. They meet Buzzie, a little honeybee, and save her when she is attacked by Phymatid.

Why do you think making new friends takes some patience?

Do you think Buzzie and the kittens would have become friends even without Phymatid's attack?

Chapter Six: Affection

McGooster and McGyman learn that they are jealous of each other's special talent. Lack of the other's special talent makes them sad. They work together to share their special skills.

Why do you think some people think affection is silly?

What are different ways to show affection?

What are the positive and negative things about sharing your special talents with others?

Chapter Seven: It's All Your Fault

Mizzz is very distracted and the cats are worried. At first, each blames himself for upsetting her. Then they begin to blame one another and get into a big fight. Soon they learn that Mizzz was upset about something that had nothing to do with them.

Chapter Seven Continued

Do you think you treat your friends and family differently when you are worried about something? Why?

How can you decide if someone is upset about something you have done or something else entirely?

Chapter Eight: McGyman is Sick

McGyman has the flu and Mizzz takes both cats to the doctor. They meet Joop in the waiting room and learn he is their neighbor.

Why do you think McGooster was able to communicate with Mizzz when they don't share a language?

Why do you think McGyman is so upset about his new "hair cut?"

Chapter Nine: Astray

McGooster and McGyman meet a little, outdoor kitten named Astray. Someone wants to adopt Astray and he comes to McGooster and McGyman for advice.

Why do you think McGooster and McGyman have different opinions about being an indoor cat?

Astray sought advice and considered the positive and negative aspects of being an indoor cat before making his decision. How do you make decisions?

Chapter Ten: Imagination

McGooster and McGyman make fun of each other's imaginings. When they discuss imagination with their friends, they find that Buzzie and Joop use their imaginations too and in very different ways.

Why was Joop hesitant to say he imagined being a giraffe?

What happens when people share the things they imagine?

Chapter Eleven: Squeak

McGyman explores the cellar and chases a little mouse. Squeak, the little mouse, doesn't realize that McGyman is only playing tag.

Do you think Squeak was right (or wrong) to be afraid of McGyman? Why?

Do you think McGyman should (or should not) apologize for scaring Squeak? Why?

Chapter Twelve: Flitter

Flitter flies into the window and stuns herself. McGooster and McGyman figure out a way, with Buzzie's help, to get Flitter back to her nest.

Flitter was in a hurry to return to her nest and took what she thought was a shortcut. What do you think Flitter should have done differently?

How did teamwork help to get Flitter safely back to her nest?

How have you used teamwork to solve a problem?

Chapter Thirteen: McGyman is Bored

McGyman is bored and tries to convince his brother to join him in escaping outdoors. McGooster says no and then teases McGyman about his plan. After several tries, McGyman escapes to the outside.

After failing to escape outside twice, do you think McGyman would have continued trying if McGooster had not teased him?

Why do you think McGyman wanted to go outside?

Chapter Fourteen: Meanwhile

McGyman continues his adventure outside eventually meeting Joop and following him through the woods. Inside, Mister, Mizzz and McGooster are very worried.

Did McGyman find the outside to be as much fun as he expected it to be? Why?

Do you think McGyman will try to go outside again?

How do you think McGooster felt about McGyman going outside?

Chapter Fifteen: The Birthday Party

While Mister and Mizzz are away, McGooster and McGyman invite all their friends to their birthday party. Everyone has a great time, but the inside of the house is a bit of a mess when Mister and Mizzz return.

Why do you think everyone had such fun when many of the animals had never met each other before?

Can you name several different kinds of sharing that happened in this story? (*NOTE: The sharing of a special occasion, the sharing of food, the sharing of toys, the sharing of games, the sharing of the invitation i.e. extending it to Squeak's family, Buzzle's work crew and Flitter's family are immediate examples.*)

Chapter Sixteen: Moving

McGooster and McGyman learn that they are moving to a new home far away. They are sad to say good-bye to their friends. Their friends bring them special gifts.

How would you describe McGooster's reaction to moving? McGyman's?

Do you think it will be easier for McGooster and McGyman to adjust to a new home now that they are older and wiser than it was when they first came to live with Mister and Mizzz? Why?