

When You Trap a Tiger

Tae Keller

1. What does QAG stand for?
It stands for Quiet Asian Girl.
2. What was Lily's favorite thing she learned in an astronomy unit in fifth grade?
She learned about Supernova.
3. What phrase starts all of Halmoni's stories?
"Long, long ago when tiger walked like man...)
4. What is the most distinctive feature of Halmoni's house?
It sits atop a hill in Sunbeam, Washington.
5. At the beginning of the story, how does Lily know her mother is not attentive to her?
Joan forgets that Lily is afraid of the library across the street.
6. How did Lily and Sam's father die?
He died in a car accident.
7. Why does Halmoni think the tiger is searching for her?
She says the Tiger is looking for her since she stole stories from the tiger long ago.
8. What does Lily catch her grandmother doing that upsets her?
She catches her getting sick (throwing up).
9. What is one hallucination Halmoni has had for sure as a result of her illness?
She imagined the flood in her basement.
10. What is wrong with Halmoni?
Halmoni is ill. She has a brain tumor that is causing her to act differently and she is slowly dying.
11. Why is Halmoni been taking mugwort?
It is an herbal remedy to help with nausea (feeling sick to your stomach).
12. Where is the Tiger's favorite place?
The tiger's favorite place is the library.

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13. What does Ricky like to read?

He likes to read graphic novels. He was reading about Superman. He likes superheroes.

14. What was Ricky's grandfather's job?

He was a tiger hunter in the wilderness of Siberia.

15. Why does Sam resent her mother more and more as the days go by?

She blames her for not helping Halmoni sooner.

16. What does Halmoni give to Lily that was important to her?

She gives Lily her pearl pendant.

17. What does Ricky's father do that prompts intervention by Halmoni?

He yells at him when they are in the grocery store. Ricky's father loses patience with him.

18. What is Lily surprised to discover that Joe is very good at?

She discovers he is good at baking cupcakes.

19. What is the deal that Lily makes with the Tiger?

Lily will give the Tiger the stories to help her Halmoni get better, but she must listen to these stories she is returning to the Tiger.

20. What does Lily see Sam doing in the middle of the night?

She sees her sneaking out the window of Halmoni's house using a rope.

21. What does Lily learn while cooking with Ricky?

She learns that everything does not need to be perfect to be good. They do not know how to make rice cakes and do not have all the ingredients, but they make different but tasty rice cakes.

22. What does Lily do the same night after hearing the second story from the tiger?

She eats kimchi with her mother right from the jar.

23. Who is Sam most shocked to see in the library when they go to make signs?

She is surprised to see Jensen.

24. Why does Lily feed Ricky mud?

She is upset about him not defending Halmoni and so she puts mud in his pudding.

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25. What is Ricky deeply insecure about?
He feels that he is not intelligent.
26. What happened to Ricky's mom?
She left last year and they haven't seen her since.
27. What does Halmoni accuse Lily of during her lapse in memory?
She accuses her of stealing the pearl pendant that Halmoni had actually given her.
28. Why did Halmoni feed Lily's father mud?
She said that he needed to be kept grounded.
29. Where did Halmoni say that she got the jars?
She said she got them at the "fly" market (flea market).
30. What does Halmoni believe is the right thing to do with the collective traumas and sad stories?
She says that you should share these stories with people.
31. What did Lily do with the jars when she got mad?
She threw them against the wall and they shattered.
32. Who was helping Sam scatter the rice?
Jensen was helping.
33. What books does Lily remember her Dad reading to her?
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Where the Wild Things Are, and Goodnight Moon
34. What happens when Halmoni heads upstairs to see where the sound of glass breaking came from?
She collapses and they have to call 911 to take her to the hospital.
35. Why is it such a big deal that Sam wants to drive her and Lily to the hospital?
Sam is typically terrified of driving a car. She always remembers what happened with her father and freezes when she drives a car.
36. How does the tiger help Lily and Sam on their way to the hospital?
She creates a clear path through the rain for them using magic, since Sam does not like to drive in the rain.

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37. What do Lily, Sam, and her mother decide to prepare after Halmoni's passing?
They make rice cakes for Halmoni's kosa.

38. What does Lily learn about "healing at the end of the book?"
She learns that it does not always mean curing an illness.

39. Who does Lily think the tiger is?
She thinks it is Halmoni's Mom.

40. What did Halmoni do for the library?
She painted it bright colors and added the cheesy posters.

41. How did Joe know Lily broke into the library?
She left kid-sized muddy footprints everywhere.

42. What was wrong with Ricky's muffins?
He must have mixed up the salt and the sugar because they were salty.

43. What is Kosa?
When they lay food out for spirits and ancestors to eat first.

44. Where did Halmoni grow up?
She grew up in Korea.