

Discussion Questions

*For parents and care-givers to discuss with their young readers **after** reading the Vixen story. (Don't forget to look up any **new words** you came across while reading. That builds great vocabulary!)*

1. In chapter one, Vixen wants to do **something new** she has never done before. Did she jump right in? Or did she make a plan for how to accomplish her goal? Discuss the consequences of both options: jumping in or making a plan before starting something big.
2. Throughout the story, the concept of **perseverance** came up repeatedly. Why was perseverance important, on Vixen's part, to make it to the end of the competition? Discuss what would have happened if she didn't keep trying?
3. The idea of **integrity** was addressed and having good sportsman-like behavior. What were the consequences of reindeer #11 not being a good sport? What were the consequences of Vixen playing by the rules and being a good sport?
4. At the end of the story, Vixen wants to share her exciting news with her parents, but she is **afraid** they will be angry with her for not telling them that she was entering the competition. Discuss how could Vixen have handled that situation (entering the competition) better? (Parent or caregiver can share your perspective here.)
5. How did Thistle's treatment of Vixen throughout the competition help or hinder her progress toward reaching her dream? Discuss how *you* would have reacted if you were in that same situation.
6. Discuss other character qualities that you observed in Vixen from the story. Discuss how you can have/display any of the qualities from the story in your life?
7. Do you have stories in your family that have been passed down through the generations that you like to hear or tell? If so, think about with whom you can share your story.

Reindeer Fun Facts

To study more about real reindeer on your own, begin by visiting these informative sites*:

<http://www.findfast.org/animals-reindeer.htm>

[www.ultimateungulate.com/Artiodactyla/Rangifer tarandus.html](http://www.ultimateungulate.com/Artiodactyla/Rangifer_tarandus.html)

lifestyle.iloveindia.com/lounge/facts-about-reindeer-1365.html

These are just a few sites; I'm sure you'll find many more!

**(We'd like to gratefully thank the managers of the above sites for generously giving permission to reference their websites here.)*