



The Story About

PÍNG

Study Guide

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and illustrated by  
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## Synopsis

This is the delightful story of Ping the duck who lives on the Yangtze River with his family. One night, to avoid a spanking for being the last duck home to the boat, he hides and stays out all night. The next morning, he is lost upon the large river among many, many boats, none of them his. After he is caught by a little boy and locked under a basket, will he ever make it home again?

*The Story About Ping Study Guide*

10. Many writers use *repetition* to create a feeling or sense of danger or the need to hurry. Read the following sentences and underline every time the words or phrases keep repeating. There are four different words or phrases to find.

Swiftly Ping turned and swam, paddling toward the shore.  
Now Ping could see his uncles marching, one by one.

Paddle, paddle, Ping hurried toward the shore. Ping saw his  
cousins marching, one by one.

Paddle, paddle, Ping neared the shore, but—

As Ping reached the shore the last of Ping's forty-two  
cousins marched over the bridge, and Ping knew that he was  
LATE again!

Does this show that Ping is feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

- a. scared
- b. in a hurry
- c. determined
- d. all of the above

## Dig Deeper

1. Read Proverbs 4:6: “Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.” Was Ping’s decision to not get on the boat a wise decision? Why or why not?

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2. Use a dictionary and define *wisdom*.

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3. Read Colossians 3:20: “ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.” Ping has his parents and all his relatives to watch and learn from. What example did they show him about obeying the boat master?

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## Answer Key

*Note:* Most of the questions in Progeny Press study guides deal with students' understanding and interpretation of issues in the novel; therefore, most answers will be individual to the student. Progeny Press answer keys are designed to be as inclusive as possible for the teacher and/or parent, giving enough background and information to judge whether the student has grasped the essence of the issue and the question. We try to point out some directions students' answers might take, which directions might be best, and some errors that may appear. Students are not expected to answer as completely as the answers provided in the Answer Key.

### *Ideas for Prereading Activities*

2. a. God made birds on the fifth day. b. God made ducks to lay eggs that hatch into new baby ducks.
3. a. A large chicken egg weighs about 2 oz. A duck egg weighs about 3 oz. b. Wild baby ducks begin to swim around one week old. Their mother rubs oils from her oil glands on their feathers to waterproof them until their own oil glands begin working around four to eight weeks. c. Ducks are omnivorous birds, which means they eat a mixture of both plants and other animals. They eat aquatic plants and vegetation that they dive headfirst below the surface of the water to find. They will also eat seeds, grains, grasses, frogs, fish, algae, worms, and insects.

### *Vocabulary*

1. enjoyable, pleasing; 2. moved quickly with short steps, scuttled, scurried; 3. dim, faded, colorless, whitish; 4. put away, fit snugly; 5. dove, plunged; 6. paddles, poles with flat blades on one end used to row a boat through the water; 7. high speed, quickly, without delay; 8. b; 9. a; 10. b; 11. d

### *Looking at the Story*

1. Ping lives on a wise-eyed boat with all his relatives on the Yangtze River in China.
2. Ping and all his relatives walk down a little bridge to the bank of the river each morning and back up the bridge each evening as the sun is setting.
3. Snails, fish, and other pleasant things. He also eats rice cake crumbs.
4. The last duck to come up the bridge to get back on the boat each evening gets a spank across his back with a switch.
5. Ping is upside down trying to catch a fish and misses the call. When he sees everyone getting on the boat, he tries to hurry back, paddling quickly, but realizes he will be last. He did not want to be spanked so he stayed on shore.
6. Ping hides in the grasses near the bank of the river and sleeps with his head tucked under his wing.
7. The boy is wearing a barrel and is connected to the boat by a rope. The barrel makes him float and the rope keeps him from going too far from the boat and his family can pull him back in. They are both to keep him from drowning if he falls into the water.
8. They will cook him with rice at sunset tonight.
9. The little boy proclaims his nice duck is too beautiful to eat. Later, the boy quickly and quietly releases Ping and drops him over the side of the boat into the water.