

Reader's questions for *The Turquoise Horse*
and other stories in **Turtle Dream**

For *The Turquoise Horse*:

1. In what parts of the story does Lisa trust herself? In what parts does she trust someone other than herself? Where does she doubt herself or someone else?
2. What does Lisa admire most about her father? Does she admire John Arrowsmith? If so, for what reason, or reasons.
3. Lisa's father tells her that it is bad to take something that does not belong to you. When he says, "Let the runner run, the walker walk, and the thief thief," what do you think he means? Why is it wrong to take the jewelry from the exposed gravesite?
4. Lisa's dream-animal is a horse. What dream-animal do you dream about, or think about? How does this creature communicate with you?
5. What does Lisa learn about sharing in this story?
6. What does Lisa learn about poetry and songs?
7. *The Turquoise Horse* is a true story. What elements seem "real" to you? What elements indicate that the story comes from another culture rather than the general culture?
8. What elements of about Navajo culture appeal to you as a reader? Is Lisa's relationship with her father one of the things you have cited? If so, tell why.
9. The song of the turquoise horse comes from a Navajo chant. Why is the song considered sacred? What is the meaning of the word "sacred" in this story?

10. Based on this story, why are horses sacred to the Navajo?

For Further Study

1. What does Jim learn about his past in the story *Havasu Sam*? What does Jim admire about Sam? In the end of the story, why are the waters “redeeming”? What does this word really mean? What does it mean to Jim at the end of the story? This story actually happened. What elements in the story make you think it is not a made-up tale? What have you learned in reading it – about yourself? And about the Havasupai?
2. Why does Running Girl give away her medal to a stranger? What things about the story make it “supernatural”? Is this the wrong word to describe the creatures, or beings, who assist Running Girl in her quest?
3. In the story *Jimmy Blue Eyes*, do you think Jimmy did the right thing by removing his grandfather from the hospital? Why does Jimmy’s grandfather say, “We never did catch Geronimo”?
4. In *Turtle Woman*, what does this story say about life after death? When Beth says, “I’m changing,” what does she mean? Does she change literally or figuratively? Who, or what, is “the voice from the water”?