

1. Name the different colors you can find on the cover and in the pages of the book.
2. Tell which is your favorite color and why. Where do you find your favorite colors?
3. The author attended several schools which have school colors: cardinal and gold, maroon and orange, blue and gold. Where do you find these colors together?
4. Read the numbers on the pages. Which is your favorite page? Why?
5. Tell which is your favorite picture and why.
6. {Point out the various patterns on the socks, drapes, wall coverings) Find the pages where you find these: stripes, dots, hearts, diamonds, and other patterns.
7. What are polka dots? What's a polka? Where does this word come from? Do you know how to do it? What instruments are used in playing polka music?
8. Draw your favorite socks and patterns.
9. Name as many different kinds of socks as you can. (anklet, knee, toe, tube, tabi, etc.)
10. From what materials are socks made today? What new uses can you think of for single socks?
11. Which part of the book did you like the best? Tell why.
12. What's peeking out from under the bed? Draw the rest of whom or what you think is there. What do you have hiding under your bed?
13. Who do you know people who looks like those faces on pages 4-6? Are you there? Draw yourself! (Ms. Wong's husband laughed when he saw himself on page 28!)
14. Ms. Wong's family came from China. To the Chinese, the number eight is very lucky. Where do you see this number?
15. From what country did your family come from originally? What do different colors and numbers mean in your home country or culture?
16. When several words start with the same sound, it is called alliteration. We know them as tongue twisters. Find and try to say them in the book. (Lots of lost socks; beetles, bats and bunnies)
17. Why was the monster cranky? What happened to make the monster feel better? When do you feel fussy and cranky?
18. What do you think the S and W letters mean on the characters' clothing? [Superman, Wonder Woman, and also the names of two of the author's children: Steve & Wendy who want to do things to help save the world.]
19. What colors do fruits and vegetables come in? Make a list and then match the colors and then alphabetize the list. What are your favorites? Which are your least favorite?
20. Draw your favorite cookie. What shapes do cookies come in? What kinds? (baklava, cruella, etc.)
21. In what forms does bread come? (rolls, loaves, baguettes, etc.) How many different kinds of breads can you name? (tortillas, naan, halla, pita, raisin, rye, pumpernickel, etc.)
22. Why is the girl crying when she sees the pink water in the washer? (Now she doesn't have white socks to wear. The boy can't wear pink socks with his sports uniforms that require only white colored socks, i.e., tennis and which other sports?)
23. Ms. Wong drew 10 different pictures of the Monster before she decided on the one in the book. Change the face of the monster as its feelings change by drawing different eyes and mouths on it.
24. Where is the monster that eats socks in your life? (home, apartment laundry room laundromat, etc.)
25. The author loves to watch the football games of her alma maters: USC, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, UCLA and Cal State, Long Beach) that have their school colors as : cardinal and gold, maroon and orange, black and gold, blue and gold, respectively. What other schools do you know have these combinations as their school colors? What are your school colors?
26. How many words, boys' and girls' names that start with each letter can you list?
27. What does the bleeding mean? How do white clothes become pink (or grey)?
28. What are primary colors and how are they mixed to create every other color you could ever imagine? What's a tint? (New color you get when you add white to a color) A shade? (New color you get when you add black)
29. What do bats eat and where do they live? How did bats become a symbol for Halloween?
30. In the Chinese culture, bats symbolize happiness in marriage and for married people. What are other animal symbols you know or can learn about?
31. Who does the laundry in your family? (Angi Ma Wong's Golden Rule of Family Harmony: Do not co-mingle your family's laundry; teach your children to be in charge and responsible for sorting washing, drying and hanging up their own wardrobe. Many early Chinese immigrants to the United States worked long and hard to afford good educations for their children so they would not need to work in their family's laundry businesses. What was working in a laundry like?
32. What is a polka? Do you know someone who can do it? What's your favorite music or dance?
32. Ms. Wong used something called water color as well as colored pencils, pens, ink and markers to do her illustrations. What's your favorite medium for drawing and doing and viewing artwork?
33. Ms. Wong's cat Yogi who was the model for the one on page 13, stepped into a wet paint palette and then onto one of the completed pages. The author decided to leave in Yogi's contribution to the book's illustrations. Can you find Yogi's pawprint cleverly disguised in the book? (flower on corner of page 7)
34. What is a school logo? Where do you see one and what does it represent? (page 31, VT on sock)
35. The Chinese made paper thousands years ago from pulverized fabric and natural fibers from tree bark and plants, just as the Egyptians made papyrus. (Save and use the lint from a clothes dryer. Mix 2 tablespoons in a 1-1/2 cup of water until the particles are suspended and pour the mixture onto a piece of flat window screening. Put out to dry. Gently peel your home-made dried paper from the screen. Experiment with different amounts and colors of lint to create different papers.
36. The S and W letters represent on the characters' clothing? [Superman, Wonder Woman, and also the names of two of the author's children: Steve and Wendy, who want to make a difference and Save the World.] What is an acronym?
37. Near the beginning of the book is the expression "missing in action." (acronym MIA) In what context does this usually appear? From where did this term originate?
38. Ms. Wong is a Los Angeles Lakers fan. What are this team's colors? Where are they in the book?
39. What is the origin of socks? What is hosiery and its history? Why do people wear socks?
40. During World War II, there was a protest involving hosiery. When and what was it? (U.S. women stopped buying silk stockings from Japan. Why?) How did this boycott affect the invention of new products such as nylon?
41. What is a boycott? How and when in contemporary history has it been used? What impact did it have on domestic and world events?
42. Technically, how do socks get lost in the washing machine? (They get sucked out the drain with the dirty water after the rinse and during the spin-drying cycles.)
43. In which sport are argyle-patterned socks worn? From what part of the world did this pattern originate? (Golf)
44. Is there a national or worldwide day set aside to celebrate socks and hosiery? (Please let the author know if you find the answer to this one!)
45. How did the Chinese in America get involved in the laundry business? (Women were scarce in the Intercontinental railroad camps and the cooks doubled as laundrymen during the day, providing workers with clean sets of clothes each evening.) Describe life like in the railroad camps. Chinese workers earned a dollar a day. What can you buy with a dollar in the 1860s and today?
46. From where did the word coolie originate? (East India) What two Chinese words does it represent? (Literally: bitter strength)
47. When was the iron invented? What did it look like before electric irons were invented? How were they heated up?
48. What is the connection between washing machines and the expression "put through a wringer?" What's a wringer? Who do you know who has seen or used one? (Ms. Wong's home in Wellington, New Zealand, had a cylindrical tub washer with the hand-cranked wringer on top.)
49. Ms. Wong started reading and writing stories as a child and started keeping diaries and journals in the 7th grade. Start keeping a diary or journal to help you express your feelings about your life. Write about what you know, have lived and felt. Then add drawings to your own book!
50. Create a play from Who Ate My Socks? and perform it for your class, family or friends.

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