

## *Discussion Questions*

*For parents and care-givers to discuss with their young readers after reading the Vixen story.*

1. In chapter one, Vixen wants to do something 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: jumping in and of making a plan before starting something big.
2. Throughout the story, the concept of perseverance came up repeatedly. Discuss why perseverance was 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 conduct. 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 that they will be angry with her for not telling them she was entering the competition. How could Vixen have handled that situation (entering the competition) better? How would you feel if you were Vixen's parents and found out from someone else that your child was doing something new and challenging?
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. How can you 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](http://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. At the time of this printing all sites were active.)

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