***The Lady, or the Tiger?* Discussion Questions**

*EQ: What is the author’s purpose of writing this story with no real ending?*

*EQ: Which door do you think the princess pointed to and what does that say about you?*

1. Some stories don’t follow a nice plot diagram. This one ends at the climax. How did you feel when the story ended without its problem being solved?
2. Since the king loved his daughter dearly, why do you think he threw her lover in prison?
3. Do you think the king’s system of justice is fair? Why or why not?
4. The end of “The Lady, or the Tiger?” is about the princess’s decision: whether to send her lover to the lady or to the tiger. But doesn’t the lover, too, have a decision to make? With a movement of her hand, the princess has told him to open the door on the right. This leads us to the final question. Remember, the lover knows that the princess knows which door hides the lady, and which door hides the tiger. How well does the lover know the princess? Will he open the door she has chosen? Or, believing it hides the tiger, will he open the other one? Why, finally, did he open the door on the right?
5. Do you think people are less barbaric now than they were hundreds of years ago? In what ways? Are they more barbaric? In what ways? Are they exactly the same? Give specific examples to help others understand your thoughts.
6. In the story, if an accused person opened the door with a maiden behind it, he would immediately marry her whether or not he already had a girlfriend, wife, and/or family. Apart from whether or not this is a just reward for the man, what about the women involved? How just is it to break up a family or force a woman into marriage?
7. In the story, the tiger is described as the most savage and relentless of beasts. In your opinion and using evidence from the text, explain which character is most like the tiger in his/her savage nature?
8. “Which came out of the opened door-the lady, or the tiger?” What do you think? Did the princess send her lover to the lady or the tiger? Why?