



Lalani of the Distant Sea

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Club Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



August 2022 Book of the Month

Pre-reading questions

1. Look at the cover of the book, the map inside, and the drawing of Lalani. Write down what you expect this book to be about? What kind of person do you expect Lalani to be? After you've read the book, look back at your guess, how close were you to being correct?
2. Lalani of the Distant Sea is based on Filipino folklore. Do you know any folklore or fairy tales from where you are from? Why do you think it is important to pass on folklore from generation to generation?

Post-reading questions

1. Hetsbi tries his hardest to build a scouting boat. He says he "started building and discovered that his hands wouldn't do what he wanted them to do." Have you ever tried to do something and despite your best efforts just couldn't succeed? How did you handle this? Did you keep trying and finally succeed? What helped you keep trying despite failing to begin with?
2. Lalani's mom tells her "Sometimes, the only way out is through". What do you think she means by this? Do you think this is good advice? What are some challenges Lalani used this advice to overcome on Isa?
3. Ellseth tells Lalani that when he lived on the island of Isa, even though he had everything he could ever need, he still wanted more. Why do you think Ellseth was never satisfied with only having what he needed? Why did he need to have more than others?
4. There is an old saying, "Be careful what you wish for." How do you think the saying applies to Lalani and Ellseth's deal to bring rain to the village? Why do you think Ellseth twisted Lalani's wish into something hurtful instead of helpful?
5. Boys and girls are treated differently in Sanlagita. Can you give some examples of this? Some villagers treat girls poorly and some villagers treat the girls with respect. Which characters do you think belong in each category? Here are a few to get started with: Drum, Kul, Cade, Hetsbi
6. What characteristics of Taiting do you think make him a good teacher? Can you think of a few words to describe Taiting?
7. Why do you think Drum, Lalani's stepfather, wants to be the new menyoro of the village? Do you think the way the villagers chose their next leader was a good one? Why do you think Hetsbi voted the way that he did?
8. Hetsbi and Cade grow a lot throughout the story. What are some words that describe their character? What strengths and weaknesses do each of these boys have? How do they grow by the end of the book? Do you think one of them had more growing to do than the other? Who do you think their role models were? Explain your answers.
9. Lalani was amazed by the story of Ziva and her lost hair. Why do you think she loved this story so much? How did her promise to cherish Ziva's hair if she ever found it help her on her journey? What can we learn from Lalani's belief that she would have been Ziva's friend if she had the chance?

Post-reading activities

1. Throughout the magical story of *Lalani of the Distant Sea*, we learn about magical creatures that live on the island of Isa and get to see beautiful illustrations throughout the book to help us picture them. Use your imagination to create, draw, and color a creature that could exist in Lalani's world. Write a few sentences describing this creature and the characteristics you decided to give it. Ask your adviser to submit your finished work to the It List Fan Art competition.
2. Come up with a Like, Try, Why for this book. Tell the group another book they should try if they like this book, and why they are similar or would appeal to a reader who enjoyed this book.

More About This Book

Author's Website: www.erintradakelly.com

Official Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/Ew_KOcEt-FM

Publisher's Discussion Guide:

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