



The Elephant's Girl

Celesta Rimington

Tome Society It List Discussion Guide

September 2022 Book of the Month



Pre-reading questions

1. The main characters of *The Elephant's Girl* live inside a zoo. If you lived in a zoo, where would be your favorite place to stay?
2. Storm chasers are scientists that study big storms such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and rain storms. Do some quick research. What makes each of these storms different? How are they measured? What should you do if you are ever in one of these storms?
3. Elephants are fascinating animals. What are some facts you know about them? Can you think of any questions or wonders you have about elephants? With a parent or teacher's help, look up the answers to some of your questions.

Post-reading questions

1. There is a saying, "Elephants never forget". What do you think it would be like to never forget? Could there ever be something worth forgetting?
2. Did you know Miss Amanda was a ghost? When did you figure it out?
3. Why do you think the wind was always trying to keep Lex from discovering what happened on the night of the storm? Do you think the wind has Lex's best interests at heart? Or do you think the wind is trying to keep Lex all to itself?
4. What characteristics do you think make Fisher such a good friend to Lex? How is Lex a good friend to Fisher? By the end of the story, do the two friends learn something about being good friends to each other?
5. How should Lex have handled the situation in the gift shop with Roger? Do you think she hurt him by not trusting him with the truth? Is it still lying when you don't tell the whole truth?
6. Mrs. Leigh asks Lex to think about what it means to have a survivor's heart. What do you think of this? Is there anything you would add to what Lex discovers about herself throughout the book?
7. In the story, Lex overhears a discussion between some zoo patrons about whether animals should be in zoos or not. What do you think? Are there ways that zoos help animals? Are there ways that zoos could be improved?
8. If you found a treasure like Roger did, would you try to return it? Or would you say "finders keepers" the way Mr. Bixly tried to do?
9. What do you think makes a family? Do you have to be related to each other? How do you think Roger and Lex define what a family means?
10. What can we learn from this quote by Miss Amanda? "It's not what they call you, it's what you answer to." How can we apply this to our lives?

Post-reading activities

1. If you really enjoyed *The Elephant's Girl*, then create a video book trailer to get others to read the book too. Check out the competitions page on our website for more details and ask your advisor to submit your finished project to the It List Book Trailer competition.
2. Think about the different characters of the book. Write a poem from one of their perspectives about the zoo, family, friendship, or something else you think they would like to write a poem about. Ask your advisor to submit your finished poem to the It List Poetry competition.
3. Using your knowledge of the Lexington Zoo and your creativity, map out the zoo. Be sure to include important places such as the Elephant Barn, Lex's treehouse, the gift shop, and Miss Amanda's trailer. Don't forget to use the book to help you imagine where each spot of the zoo is located.
4. We learn in *The Elephant's Girl* that scientists have studied the way that elephants speak to each other. Can you think of another animal that communicates in a similar way to elephants? With the help of your teacher, research what those animals sound like.

More About This Book

Author's Website: <http://celestarington.com> - more resources available here!

Publisher's Discussion Guide:

<https://secureservercdn.net/192.169.221.188/opz.c9a.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Elephants-Girl-Curriculum-Guide-final.pdf>