



Tress of the Emerald Sea

Brandon Sanderson

Tome Society Book Award

Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. In the novel, *Tress of the Emerald Sea*, Tress collects cups for fun. Why do you think people collect things? Do you collect anything as a hobby?
2. Do you like the cover? Why or why not?
3. Brandon Sanderson is the author of *Tress of the Emerald Sea* as well as two other Tome Book Award winning novels: *Steelheart* and *Skyward*. Have you read any of his other books? If so, which was your favorite and why?

Post-reading questions

1. Discuss Charlie's relationship with his father. What is Charlie's plan for remaining unmarried throughout his father's search for his bride? Why does the Duke decide to force Charlie to sail the Midnight Sea and marry the Sorceress?
2. What is Tress's main motivation for leaving the island? Is she moved by love or something more?
3. What did Tress find in the false bottom of the blue spore barrel on *The Crow's Song*? What did this discovery mean for the intentions of Captain Crow?
4. Who is the narrator of this story? Their vocabulary is quite unique and they often use little known words. Define these words used by the narrator - Loquacious, gestate, odoriferous, effervescence, foolhardiness, and lethargy.
5. What is different about midnight spores? How do they react when they come in contact with water? How does the author reveal this to the reader without explicitly saying what the spores true nature is?
6. Reread page 226. Fort tells Tress that he comes from a society of hunters, even though he does not hunt in the traditional manner. What is his form of hunt? If you came from the same society as Fort, what would your hunt be?
7. According to Hoid, the narrator, what makes a person a hero and what inspires them to do heroic things? Who do you think qualifies as a hero in this story? Use specific examples from the book.
8. How does Tress change throughout the book? Would you say she changes for the better? Did you ever doubt her or worry for how she was changing to achieve her mission?

Post-reading activities

1. In honor of Hoid's adaptation to the Sorceress's curse, write a poem from the perspective of a character in *Tress of the Emerald Sea* about their journey across the spore seas and their reasons for doing so. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org/competitions and submit your completed poem to the Tome Book Award poetry competition.
2. How do you think ships were able to float on the spore oceans? Watch this video on fluidization: <https://youtu.be/My4RA5IoFKs?si=cYsYZKc3tlELwySk>. Now consider the research Sanderson had to do in order to create a world where such things as seas made of spores could exist. Did he succeed in creating a believable, yet fictional universe?
3. Choose a character or a scene from *Tress of the Emerald Sea* and create a piece of fan art. Follow the Fan Art competition guidelines and enter your final work into the competition.

More About This Book

Author's Website: www.brandonsanderson.com