

**TEEN BOOK CLUB**

*August 2018 Selection*

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***The Book Jumper* by Mechthild Glaser**

Amy Lennox doesn't know quite what to expect when she and her mother pick up and leave Germany for Scotland, heading to her mother's childhood home of Lennox House on the island of Stormsay.

Amy's grandmother, Lady Mairead, insists that Amy must read while she resides at Lennox House but not in the usual way. It turns out that Amy is a book jumper, able to leap into a story and interact with the world inside. As thrilling as Amy's new power is, it also brings danger: someone is stealing from the books she visits, and that person may be after her life. Teaming up with fellow book jumper Will, Amy vows to get to the bottom of the thefts at whatever cost.

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. As a book jumper, Amy is able to enter fictional worlds—*The Jungle Book*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Pride and Prejudice*, to name a few. If you had Amy's power, what book would you explore and why?
2. Amy moves to Scotland in part because she was bullied at her previous school. Discuss the effect of this experience on Amy and on the trajectory of the story.



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3. Interspersed between chapters are passages about “the monster,” written in a different style from the rest of the book. What is the significance of these passages? Why do you think the author chose this story-within-a-story approach?
4. The main antagonist in *The Book Jumper* is a princess from a Medieval fairy tale. Her story was destroyed hundreds of years ago, leaving her without a home. Do you consider the princess a sympathetic villain? Why or why not?
5. One of the big reveals in *The Book Jumper* is the identity of Amy’s father. Discuss Amy’s reaction. Why is she so angry? What are the implications of this discovery on Amy’s own sense of identity?
6. Book Jumpers are not allowed to interfere with the plot of a story. They must stick to the “margins”. What do you think of this rule? What would you do as a book jumper? Is the risk of irreversibly changing the plot too great?
7. Will’s parents moved to the mainland when he was five, leaving him behind. How do you think this has affected Will? Do you see the history come into play in any of the decisions he makes?
8. Most of the book is written from Amy’s point of view, with occasional shifts to Will’s. Amy’s sections are first-person, while Will’s are third-person. Why do you think the author did this? What can you get from first-person that you can’t get from third, and vice versa?
9. Book Jumpers lose their powers at age 25. Why might this be? What do you think this signifies about adulthood or growing up, if anything?
10. Werther becomes Amy’s constant companion as she wanders from book to book. If you could choose any character from literature to travel alongside you, who would it be and why?



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