

**TEEN BOOK CLUB**

*July 2019 Selection*

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***The Hazel Wood* by Melissa Albert**

Seventeen-year-old Alice and her mother have spent most of Alice's life on the road, always a step ahead of the uncanny bad luck biting at their heels. But when Alice's grandmother, the reclusive author of a cult-classic book of pitch-dark fairy tales, dies alone on her estate, the Hazel Wood, Alice learns how bad her luck can really get: Her mother is stolen away—by a figure who claims to come from the Hinterland, the cruel supernatural world where her grandmother's stories are set. Alice's only lead is the message her mother left behind: "Stay away from the Hazel Wood." Alice has long steered clear of her grandmother's cultish fans. But now she has no choice but to ally with classmate Ellery Finch, a Hinterland superfan who may have his own reasons for wanting to help her. To retrieve her mother, Alice must venture first to the Hazel Wood, then into the world where her grandmother's tales began—and where she might find out how her own story went so wrong.

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**Discussion Questions:**

1. Consider Alice's narration. How would you describe Alice? What did you take away from Alice's experiences? What do you feel Alice has gained by the end of the novel?

2. What were some of the references you caught to classic children's literature in the novel? Were any of your own favorites mentioned? How do you think these references influence the story?
3. How are Finch and Alice different? How are they similar? Why do you think they bond so intensely when they're thrown together?
4. When did you first expect that the stories and characters from Althea's book might be real?
5. Ella keeps the secret of Alice's childhood a secret from her. What do you think of this choice? If you were Ella, would you have taken Alice from her story? Would you have told her the truth? When?
6. How would you describe the Spinner?
7. How did you feel when you finished the novel? Were you surprised? Satisfied?
8. What five words would you use to describe *The Hazel Wood*?
9. Would you want to read Althea's stories in *Tales from the Hinterland*?
10. What do you think happens next for Alice?

### **Review or Comment about this book:**

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### **Recommendations:**

- If you liked *The Hazel Wood*, you might like *Children of Blood and Bone* (<https://www.booksamillion.com/p/9781250170972>)
- You might also enjoy *The Wicked Deep* (<https://www.booksamillion.com/p/9781481497350>)