



KIDS BOOK CLUB

November 2019 Selection

***Keeper of the Lost Cities* by Shannon Messenger**

Twelve-year-old Sophie has never quite fit into her life. She's skipped multiple grades and doesn't really connect with the older kids at school, but she's not comfortable with her family, either. The reason? Sophie's a Telepath, someone who can read minds. No one knows her secret—at least, that's what she thinks... The day Sophie meets Fitz, she learns she's not alone. He's a Telepath too, and it turns out the reason she has never felt at home is that, well...she isn't. Fitz opens Sophie's eyes to a shocking truth, and she is forced to leave behind her family for a new life in a place that is vastly different from what she has ever known.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to belong? Does belonging to a group or society require conformity? Can you belong and still maintain your individuality?
2. Compare the Forbidden Cities of Earth and how humans live there to the Lost Cities and how the elves and the other creatures live there. How are the two places and their inhabitants alike? How are they different?
3. Describe Foxfire, Sophie's new school. What does it look like? What are the grade levels? How do mentors and students interact? What classes does Sophie take? Compare Foxfire to your school, analyzing how they are similar and different.
4. Alden says of Grady and Edaline, "They run an animal preserve at Havenfield, so they always have all kinds of exciting things going on." Describe the preserve, some of the animals in it, and examples of the excitement. What does the preserve tell the reader about Grady and Edaline? What does it convey about the world of the Lost Cities?



5. The first chapter also introduces many of the book's themes and foreshadows plot and character. After finishing the novel, go back and look closely at pages 1 and 2. What do you learn about Sophie, her personality, and how she's treated by those around her? How are these elements developed later in the book?
6. Many chapters in this book end with cliff-hangers, that is, paragraphs or sentences that leave the reader hanging. Find some examples of cliff-hangers and analyze how they create suspense. For each cliff-hanger you consider, find where and how the suspense is resolved, either in the next chapter or later in the book. Why does the author use cliff-hangers?
7. What is Sophie's relationship to her human family? Give examples of how it is revealed in words and actions. How have her special abilities affected her family life? What is her relationship with her human family after she moves to the Lost Cities? How does it affect the plot?
8. In chapter 43, Stina tells Sophie something about Biana that hurts Sophie's feelings. What does Stina tell her and why? How does Biana's attitude toward Sophie change during the story? Give specific examples. Why does Biana's view change?
9. Compare Fitz and Dex. How are they similar? How are they different? How do the two boys feel about each other? How does each of them feel about Sophie? Compare their families, too. Give evidence for your answers.
10. Sophie has always felt different, like "a freak." Why did she feel that way when she lived among humans? Find places in the story where she struggles with feeling different and lonely. Fitz tells her that being with the elves is "where you belong." Discuss if she feels at home among the elves, and if so, how that is conveyed in the novel?

Review or Comment about this book:

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Recommendations:

- If you liked *Keeper of the Lost Cities*, you might like [*The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell*](#)
- You might also enjoy [*The School for Good and Evil*](#)