



KIDS BOOK CLUB

September 2019 Selection

***The Isle of the Lost* by Melissa de la Cruz**

Twenty years ago, all the evil villains were banished from the kingdom of Auradon to the Isle of the Lost—a dark and dreary place protected by a force field that makes it impossible for them to leave. Stripped of their magical powers, the villains now live in total isolation, forgotten by the world.

Mal learns from her mother, Maleficent, that the key to true darkness, the Dragon's Eye, is located inside her scepter in the forbidden fortress on the far side of the island. The eye is cursed, and whoever retrieves it will be knocked into a deep sleep for a thousand years. But Mal has a plan to capture it. She'll just need a little help from her "friends."

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Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think it was right for King Beast to send all of the villains, minions, and their kids to the Isle of the Lost? Why or why not?
2. Dragon Hall has a list of interesting classes for its students to take like Wickedness, Advanced Vanities, Selfishness 101, Advanced Evil Schemes and Nasty Tricks, and Weird Science. If you could take a class on any subject, what would it be called and what would the students learn?
3. Throughout the novel, the characters Mal, Evie, Carlos, Jay, and Ben are told to follow in their parents' footsteps. How do they each deal with these high expectations? What would you tell them if you could talk to them?



4. Carlos makes an invention in the novel called the Broomba that completes his chore for him by sweeping the floor. If you could use science or magic to do one thing, what would that invention or spell do?
5. The sidekicks of Disney's fairytales have petitioned King Beast demanding compensation for all the free work they do for the kingdom. Do you think it's fair the sidekicks have to work for the royalty for the rest of their lives? Why or why not?
6. In the world of United States of Auradon and the Isle of the Lost, the parents think it is very clear who are the villains and who are the heroes. What makes a person good and what makes a person evil? Are Mal, Evie, Carlos, and Jay truly villains? Why or why not?
7. On page 216, Queen Belle talks about books, saying "these aren't just stories. They're whole kingdoms. They're worlds. They're perspectives and opinions you can't offer, from lives you haven't lived." What does she mean when she says this? Do you agree?
8. At the beginning of the novel, Mal, Evie, Jay, and Carlos don't like each other. How did their feelings about each other change throughout the novel? Did you ever have a time where your first impression of someone was wrong? What happened?
9. The Isle of the Lost is a prequel to the Disney Channel Original Movie, the Descendants. How does the novel set up the characters Mal, Evie, Carlos, and Jay to enter the world of Auradon?
10. At the end of the novel, the author notes "even though the four of them weren't quite friends yet, they were the closest things they had to it." Do you think the four of them are friends? What makes a person your friend?

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