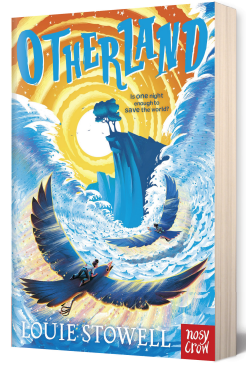


OTHERLAND

Discussion Notes



- What questions do you have about the story after reading the prologue? How does this section build tension/excitement?
- Make a list of Myra and Rohan's different personality traits. Do they seem as if they would be likely friends?
- When Myra overhears her mum talking about her with Rohan's parents, she gets upset. Do you think Myra's mum meant what she said? Why did she say it?
- Mab is a fairy with a unique appearance. How would you normally picture a fairy?
- Discuss how both Myra and Rohan react to being in Otherland. Why do you think they have such different reactions?
- When they arrive in Otherland, Myra and Rohan are overwhelmed by the smells and sights. Discuss all the things that are different about Otherland. What do you find the craziest about it?
- Myra and Rohan argue a lot during the first challenge. Do you think this will help them to win the Knight Game? Why do you think they get so frustrated with each other?
- Otherland can be quite scary but there are also some friendly characters like Tony – how do these characters help Myra and Rohan?
- How do you think Myra feels when the Queen tells them it's her fault that Shilpa was taken? Why does the Queen decide to tell them this at this moment?
- Why do you think Myra and Rohan decide to become friends whilst they are in Otherland?
- Mab has been on the Queen's side all along. Did you see this twist in the story coming?
- Why do you think Myra and Rohan had been so trusting of Mab?
- In the maze, Myra and Rohan's insecurities are revealed. Discuss what they are and why you think they have these worries.
- After they win the Knight Game, Myra and Rohan's excitement is crushed by another twist. How does this twist add to the tension of the book?
- Mab decides to help Myra and Rohan and she blames it on 'catching feelings'. Talk about how her discussion of feelings demonstrates the differences between humans and fairies. How do you think you would cope without your friends? Why are friendships important?
- When they return from Otherland, Myra's Mum has been crying. Why is Myra pleased about this?
- How do the characters change throughout their adventure in Otherland?



LOUIE STOWELL

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OTHERLAND

Activity Ideas



Draw Otherland

Otherland is a magical place full of different characters, landscapes and smells. Use the descriptions from the book (for example on pages 52, 56-58, 75-77) to draw Otherland. You could choose a specific scene from the book, or your overall idea of what Otherland looks like. Share your drawings with the class and see how different they all look. Is there a similar theme throughout the drawings? Have you used similar colours or focused on specific features/landscapes?

Describe your own fairy

The fairies in Otherland are all very unique. Write a paragraph describing your own fairy, focusing on their appearance, the way they smell and their personality. You can use descriptions from the book, such as the one below, to inspire your writing. Give your fairy a name and read your descriptions to the class. Are they easy to visualise?

*One had the head of a bull and the legs of an eagle,
with talons that looked as though they were made of glass.*

Write a diary entry from Mab

Mab is a very interesting character – she has a very big personality and an eye-catching appearance. But she also goes through an emotional journey in the book as she decides who's side she should be on. Write a diary entry from Mab, focusing on her relationship with Myra and Rohan and her conflicting emotions. Think about what language she might use, how she might be feeling and how you can portray her personality in your writing.

Story circle

A lot of magical, exciting events take place throughout the book and there are lots of twists in the story. Come up with your own version of *Otherland*. Everyone should sit in a circle and take it in turns adding a line or two to the story. You could start from when Myra and Rohan go through the mirror with Mab. What happens next in your version? Can you come up with a few different twists of your own?



LOUIE STOWELL

nosy
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