



Book Group Questions

For use with book groups, libraries and in lessons. Suitable for children age 9+

Some questions might not be right for all ages, so please read through all the questions before sharing with your book group

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Introduction

About the Series

*In the lakes, the wolf queen sharpens her spear.
In the mountains, the ancient girl opens an eye.
In the forest, an orphan is summoned by the trees.
Our story has begun . . .*

Ysolda has lived her life in the shadow of the wolf queen's tyrannical rule but, safe in her forest haven, she has never truly felt its threat.

Until one day when a mysterious earthquake shakes the land and her older sister Hari vanishes in its wake.

Accompanied by her loyal sea hawk, Nara, Ysolda embarks on a desperate rescue mission. But when she is forced to strike a bargain with the wolf queen herself, she soon finds herself embroiled in a quest for a magic more powerful – and more dangerous – than she could ever have imagined . . .



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Questions for discussion

1. The main characters in the story, Ysolda, Eira and the Wolf Queen, are all very different – which of them do you relate to most and why?
2. Every story has heroes and villains, who do you think are the heroes and villains of this story? Did your opinion change at all as you read the story? And if so, why?
3. *In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen* follows Ysolda on a quest to find her sister. What do you think she might be feeling when she begins this journey, and do you think her feelings change throughout the tale?
4. At the beginning of the story we discover that while Hari has a special gift, Ysolda doesn't. By the end of the book do you still agree with this statement? Explain your thoughts.
5. Ysolda is joined on her journey by trusty sea hawk Nara. If you had a companion like Nara, what animal or bird would it be and why?
6. *In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen* is set in Glaw Wood, which was inspired by the Welsh rainforests. Choose a real place as inspiration for a creative setting of your own. Try to focus on a place with distinctive natural elements, whether that's in your local area, a place you've visited on your holiday, or somewhere you've seen on TV or in photographs.
7. Reread the prologue of the book and have a think about the atmosphere Kiran Millwood Hargrave has created with the descriptions and words she's written. How would you describe the atmosphere of the book based on the extract?
8. 'Earth magic' is an important part of the world described in this book and Kiran has talked about how she wanted it to be magic that could exist and wasn't fantastical, like having a superpower. Can you think of any other kinds of magic that could exist if we were more attuned to nature?
9. Power, and the quest for it, is a motivator for a number of characters in *In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen*. Share examples from the story of when power motivated a character's actions. Can you think of any other characters, in either books or films, who have been motivated by power?



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Questions for discussion

10. What do the actions of Thane Boreal, and the 'happenings' in *The Storm and the Sea Hawk* tell us about looking after the environment?
11. Ysolda and Eira travel across the world, meeting people with different languages and cultures. How important do you think it is to interact with people from different backgrounds? Where is somewhere you might like to travel to that is different from your home country and why?



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