



Penguin
Young
Readers

The Bookshop of Dust and Dreams

Discussion Guide



About the Book

It's 1944 Sutton, NY, and Poppy's family owns and runs, Rhyme and Reason, a magical bookshop that caters to people from all different places and time periods. Though her world is ravaged by World War II, customers hail from the past and the future, infusing the shop with a delightful mix of ideas and experiences.

Poppy dreams of someday becoming shopkeeper like her father, though her older brother, Al, is technically next in line for the job. She knows all of the rules handed down from one generation of Bookseller to the next, especially their most important one: shopkeepers must never use the magic for themselves.

But then Al's best friend is killed in the war and her brother wants to use the magic of the shop to save him. With her father in the hospital suffering from a mysterious illness, the only one standing between Al and the bookstore is Poppy. Caught between her love for her brother and loyalty to her family, she knows her brother's actions could have devastating consequences that reach far beyond the bookshop as an insidious, growing Darkness looms. This decision is bigger than Poppy ever dreamed, and the fate of the bookshops hangs in the balance.

About this Guide

This discussion guide is intended for use by book clubs, teachers, and librarians. The questions are designed to create a discussion about *The Bookshop of Dust and Dreams*. The activities are designed to be used as art or creative writing projects. The printables have been added as an aid to those projects and are fair use.





Discussion Questions:

1. Describe Poppy and Al's relationship in chapter one of the book. What does their relationship look like over the course of the story? How does Carl's death change things?
2. Rhyme and Reason has a personality of its own. What are some of its characteristics?
3. Magical bookshops bring in customers from different time periods. If you were a Shopkeeper, would you rather meet someone from the past or the future and why?
4. The rules for magic bookshops are listed on page 24. The Council Leader, Euphemia Adley, says on page 147, "We must follow the rules. Without order, without law, the results would be catastrophic." Is she right about the rules? Why or why not?
5. On page 59, Al tries to convince Poppy that the rules can be broken to save Carl. Poppy says, "I stare at my brother, at the choice he's asking me to make. Following Papa and the rules and the Council or trying to use the magic to save our friend." Poppy must decide whether or not to listen to her brother or her inner compass. Why does it take Poppy so long to decide what to do? How can you learn to follow your own heart and trust your gut when someone disagrees with you?
6. What are three words that describe Ollie? What are three words about Theo? What do they teach Poppy about friendship?





7. Poppy discovers the truth about the Light and the Dark on page 134. “As the magic was used for good, the Light began to grow, but as the Light grew, so too did the Dark. When a keeper decided to use it for his own selfishness and greed, he caused the Rift.” How does the Light function throughout the story? How does the Dark function? And what can we learn from both?

8. Poppy struggles to conquer her fear throughout the story. On page 97, Papa tells her, “Look at this war. The whole world is terrified. But we can’t let that stop us from living.” What would you tell Poppy about fear? What lesson does Poppy ultimately learn about overcoming it?

9. As Al breaks the rules and listens to the Dark, he begins to change. What could Al have done differently? What changes do you see in him during the book?

10. Theo writes Poppy a recipe for courage on page 196. What do you think of the ingredients? If you wrote your own recipe for courage, what would you include?

11. Whitney, Katherine, Bibine, Kosma, Prosper, and Anna Rose are all bookshop regulars. Which one is your favorite? On page 260, Poppy says, “Rhyme and Reason knew I would get this far, and that when I did, I would need their light to go the rest of the way. What do the regulars contribute to the ending, and what do they teach Poppy about depending on others? Was there a time when a friend helped you get through something difficult?

12. The Siegfried Line is mentioned in newspaper and radio headlines several times. How is it similar to the story about the Light and the Dark? What can you learn about dealing with barriers in your life?





13. How does Poppy's view of herself on page 15 differ from what she discovers about herself on 291? How does Poppy find the magic inside of herself, and how does it help her in the end?

14. On page 310, Theo says, "You reminded me once to look deeper for the good. Don't forget your own advice. It may not feel like it now, but things still shine, Poppy. Don't be afraid to see it." How do you find the good when you're going through a hard time in your life? What do you see around you that shines even when things are tough?

15. What does the book teach us about the power of stories? What is your favorite story, and how has it impacted your life?

Activities:

- 1 Create a bookshop, give it a name and a motto. Design a bookshop pin, and describe its personality.
- 2 Rhyme and Reason communicates with Poppy by writing quotes from books on the chalkboard behind the front counter. Write a letter to a friend using only quotes from books.
- 3 Use the attached recipe card to write your own recipe for courage. What ingredients do you need? How much of each?
- 4 Create a regular for Rhyme and Reason. Describe how they look and what time period they come from. Why did the bookshop appear to them? What kind of books do they read?





About the Author



Mindy Thompson writes fantastical stories for Middle Grade readers.

A graduate of Boise State University with a B.A. in creative writing, Mindy spent ten years working in public and middle school libraries. She began writing upper Middle Grade with her past students in mind and hopes to give them a place to find themselves in the books they read.

Mindy lives in Southern Idaho and spends far too much time watching historical hair and makeup tutorials online.

Visit her at: www.mindythompson.com
on on Instagram: @MindyThompson_





Other Resources

A brief book trailer and author talk can be found on youtube by searching_ "The Bookshop of Dust and Dreams Trailer"



The Bookshop of Dust and Dreams Trailer

113 views • 7 months ago



Mindy Thompson Author

This moving story about a magical bookstore explores the way war can shape a family and is perfect for book lovers everywhere,

3:21

Boise NPR Radio Interview

Boise author's new kids book sparkles as it travels through time

Published November 2, 2021 at 1:28 PM MDT

▶ LISTEN • 9:17

Interview about The Bookshop of Dust and Dreams with Mindy Thompson and A.B. Westrick:

abwestrick.com/2021/11/magic-historical-fiction-interview-and-giveaway/





Reference Resources:

Penguin Random House:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/624640/the-bookshop-of-dust-and-dreams-by-mindy-thompson/>



Available Wherever Books Are Sold.

ISBN: 9780593110379

Hardcover: 324 pages

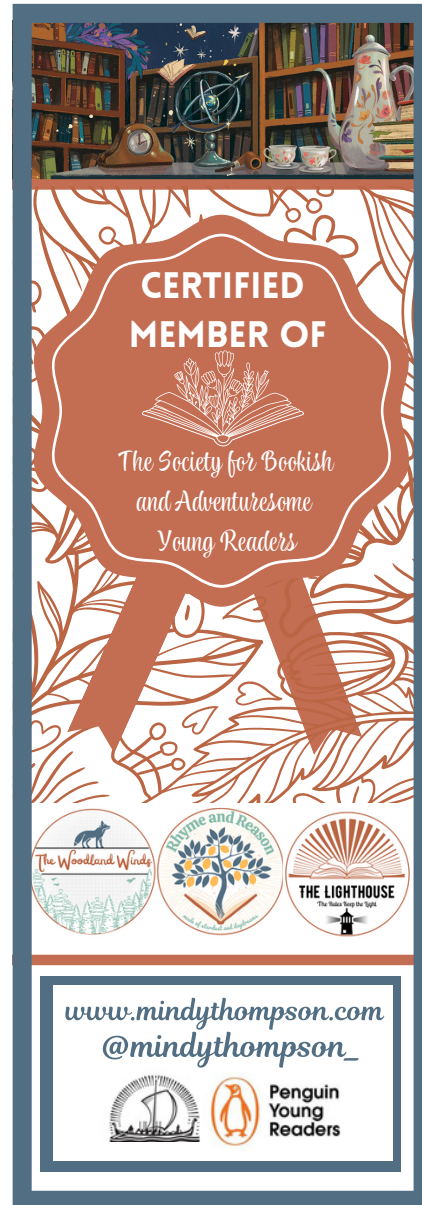
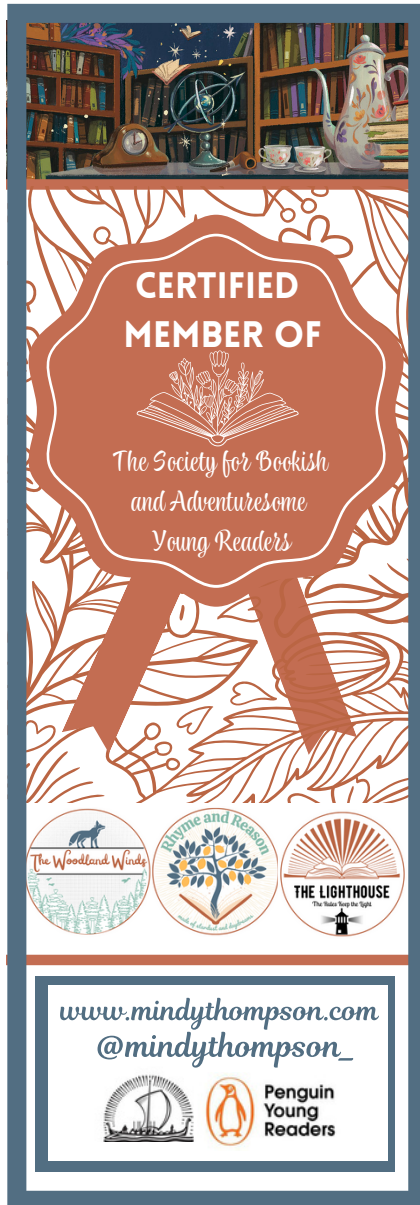


www.mindythompson.com



Printables:

Certified Member Bookmarks





Recipe



DISH NAME:



Recipe



DISH NAME:
