

LITERATURE CIRCLES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

With Literature Circles, the small groups gather periodically to discuss the book they are reading in common and to do activities related to that book. Below are some starter questions for the small groups, to facilitate discussion, for each part of *The Crystal Palace: Rescue of the Baby Fairy Prince*.

Part 1 (chapters 1 – 3) At Grammy's

1. What do you remember most about Karina, as described in the book so far? Emily Jean? Katie?
2. Do any of the characters remind you of any real person in your life? In what way? Be specific?
3. Karina rescued a little boy in the pool. How do you think she felt? Have you ever done something that made you feel that way? Explain.
4. Karina and her friends are having a sleepover at her Grammy's and Popi's house. Popi sings with them. What do you think it would be like to have a grandpa like Popi? Would it be similar or different from your grandpa? In what ways? Be specific.

Part 2 (chapters 4-7) At Fairyland

1. Angela came out of the crystal in Karina's room at Grammy's & Popi's house. Explain how you imagined it. Be specific. (p. 20)
2. Karina and her friends were surprised when Angela appeared. (p. 20) They hadn't expected a fairy! How would you have felt? Have you ever been surprised about something that made you feel that way? Explain. Be specific.
3. What was Angela's personality like? (p. 21+) What did she do or say that made you think that?
4. The fairy folk welcomed the girls to Fairyland. Why? How do you think the girls felt? Have you ever felt that way? Explain. Be specific. (p. 32)
5. Angela explained about fairy life on their walk to Crystalopolis. What do you remember about the different jobs the fairies did? Which sounded best to you? (p. 33)
6. The girls talked about Earth Day and environmentalists with Angela. Why? What did that have to do with Fairyland? (p. 33)
7. What was special about the palace? (p. 35) Describe; Explain.
8. How did Karina seem to feel when she realized everyone was counting on her to rescue the prince? What clues helped you know how she felt? (p. 39)
9. Explain what you remember about Magdalena. (p. 40)
10. What clues did the girls find? What did they decide to do? (p. 43)

Part 3 (chapters 8-10) Kingdom of the Leprechauns

1. Who helped the girls get to the Kingdom of the Leprechauns? Describe him. (p. 48)
2. How did they get to the Kingdom of the Leprechauns? How would you feel traveling that way? Can you think of a time you did something exciting that made you feel that way? (p. 50-51)
3. The girls did not feel welcome in the Land of the Leprechauns. Why not? What happened?
4. Describe King Shamus, physically and also his personality. Be specific. (p. 54-55)
5. What made the girls suspicious about the prince's being in the Land of the Leprechauns? How did King Shamus react to that possibility? (p. 56)
6. Who took the little prince? Why? Explain. (p. 57, 69)
7. How did the girls know which road to take when there was a fork in the road? Have you ever heard of that before? (p. 59)
8. Describe what it must have been like for the girls in the hidden tunnel? Be specific. Give details. (p. 61-62) Have you ever felt that way? Explain.
9. Explain how the girls were able to defeat the sea serpent. (p. 66) What does that tell you about the girls?
10. What do you think of the Queen Mother? (p. 69-70) Was she a bad person? Are people usually all-bad or all-good? Explain. Give examples from your life.
11. How did King Shamus feel about returning the prince to Fairyland? Why? (p. 71)
12. What did Karina suggest to make King Shamus feel better? (p. 72)

Part 4 (chapter 11) Home again

1. What did Queen Serena think about the Queen Mother? (p. 73) Why was she not angry? Have you known times when someone did something bad, but they really weren't a bad person? (or have you?) Explain.
2. What made Karina and her friends think that MAYBE Fairyland was not a dream after all? (p. 75) How do you think that made them feel? Explain.
3. Which character did you find the most interesting? Why? Explain.
4. Karina, Katie, and Emily Jean showed courage. Explain. When have you had to have courage in your life?
5. Karina, Katie, and Emily Jean showed cooperation. In what way? Explain. When have you had to show cooperation in your life?
6. Karina, Katie, and Emily Jean showed compassion. When? To whom? Explain. When have you showed compassion to someone?
7. What did you like best about the book? What didn't you like? Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not? Be specific.