

Sea of Kings



DISCUSSION GUIDE

About the Book

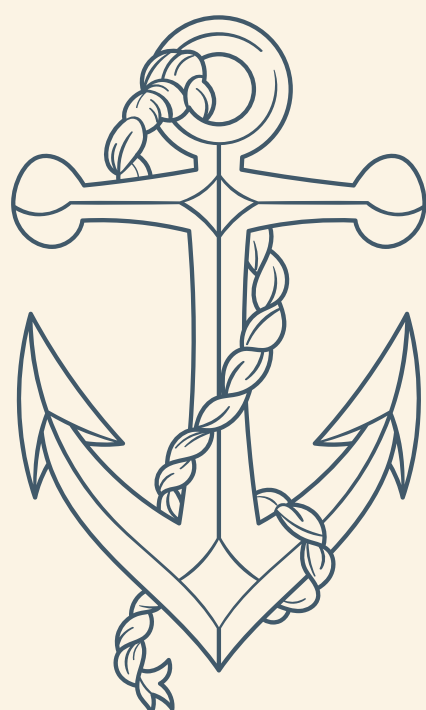
Thirteen-year-old Prince Noa has hated the ocean since the day it caused his mother's death. But staying away from the sea isn't easy on his tropical island home where he's stuck keeping up with his dim-witted and overconfident younger brother, Dagan—the brawn to Noa's brains.

When a vengeful pirate lays siege to their home, Noa and Dagan narrowly escape with their lives. Armed with a stolen ship, a haphazardly assembled crew, and a magical map that makes as much sense as slugs in a salt bath, the brothers set sail for the realm's other kingdoms in search of help.

But navigating the sea proves deadlier than Noa's worst fears. To free his home, Noa must solve the map's confusing charts and confront the legendary one-eyed pirate before an evil force spreads across the realm and destroys the very people Noa means to protect.

About the Guide

This guide contains discussion questions designed for use in a classroom, book club, or literary setting. It is intended to assist in the comprehension of the text and promote the exploration of themes in the novel, such as friendship, family, identity, forgiveness, leadership, and good vs evil.



Discussion Questions

01

Describe how Noa feels about his father, Titus. How does this change throughout the story? How do Noa's feelings toward his father influence his quest?

02

Noa lives in the fictional realm of Aztrius on the island Ondule. Give three examples of how this tropical environment is similar to your daily life. Give three examples of how it is different than your daily life. Why is setting such an essential component to the story?

03

What personality traits make Dagan different than Noa? How do these traits affect their relationship? Their quest? If you were part of Noa's crew, how would your strengths and weaknesses contribute to the quest?

04

What main obstacles (storms, etc.) do the characters face after leaving home? Which character has the most challenging time emotionally and/or mentally facing these obstacles? What makes it difficult for them?

05

Describe what happens when Noa visits the island Martesia. What would you have done differently? Why? What other outcomes could have happened?

06

Noa learns mythical sea creatures are real, and magic exists. How would your world change if these things existed? What would excite you about this world? What would scare you?

07

Noa decides the crew will fight the pirates instead of surrendering. How does this go differently than he planned? Who is impacted the most by this choice? What does Noa learn?

08

Describe Vim in three words. Why does Vim bully Noa? What does Noa do to help Vim? Are all bullies the same? What should you do when you encounter a bully?

09

When Dakki shows Noa the Sirena, he warns him that people were “killing their friends over misunderstood conversations” when using the shell. What does Noa mishear about his father? How is the Sirena similar and/or different from gossip? Is there ever a time when gossip is okay? Why or why not?

10

On pages 278-279, we learn more about Ravie’s past. List how Ravie felt before this conversation. Was she justified in feeling the way she did? What would you say to Ravie if you were there? How does Noa help Ravie overcome her negative feelings?

11

Noa feels shame about a secret regarding his mother. Do you agree or disagree with who he blames? How does this secret affect his family? Why does he choose to reveal this secret to Ravie? Who else keeps secrets in the novel? When should you not keep a secret?

12

Dakki says, "Forgiveness gives us the power to rise above those who look down on us because we no longer feel beneath them." What does this mean? Who does Noa forgive, and how could this shape his future? Describe a time when you forgave someone. How did it make the other person feel, and/or how did it affect your relationship?

13

What deal does Noa make with Weston? Was Noa successful? Why or why not?

14

Which character would you most like to hang out with for the day? Why? Which character do you relate to the most?

15

The novel has many unique details about islands and sailing. What details were your favorite? Why? Predict what could take place in a sequel.

Projects

Language Arts

With your Sea of Kings book in hand, find a sentence that describes each of the five senses. Record these five sentences in a notebook. Which sense was the hardest to find?

Music

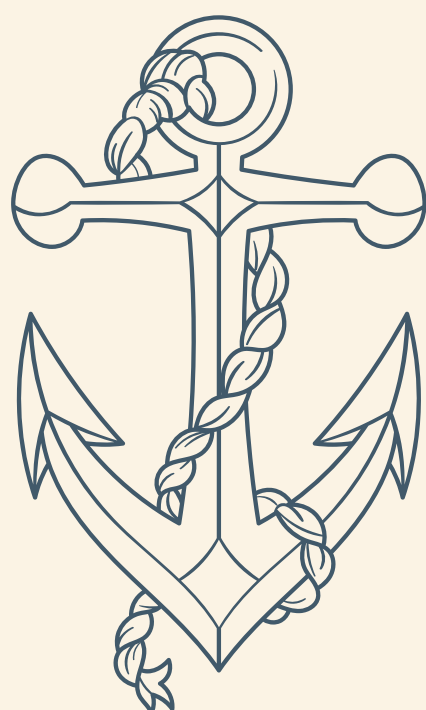
Choose a classical song to play during a scene from the book. Explain your choices for song and scene.

Art

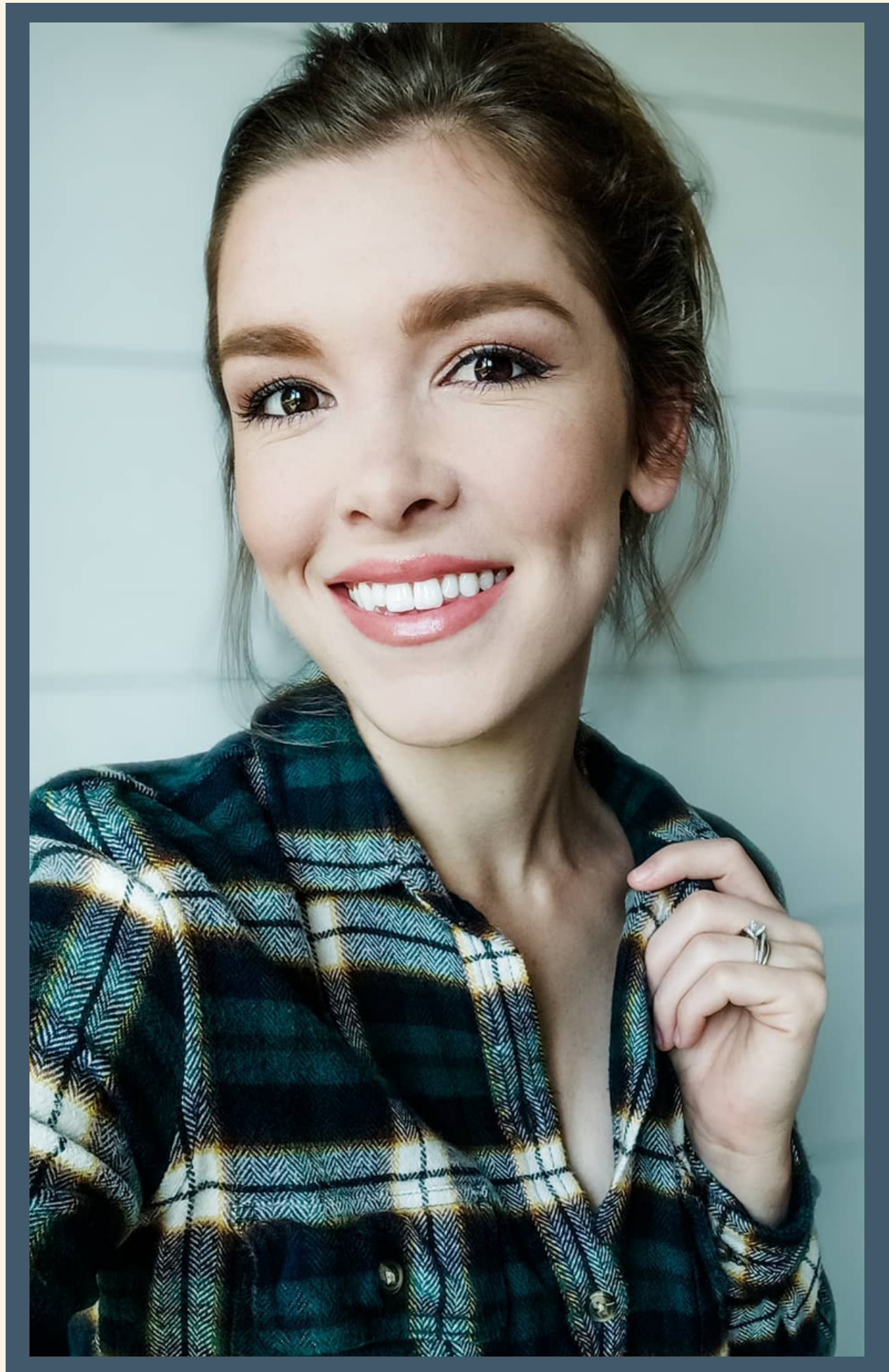
Create your dream ship (in 2D or 3D) using any material that you wish. What would be on your ship? Add labels and an index to explain.

Science

Using a cup, water, and a sheet of plastic, try to make the cup go upside down without spilling the water inside. Explain what is happening.



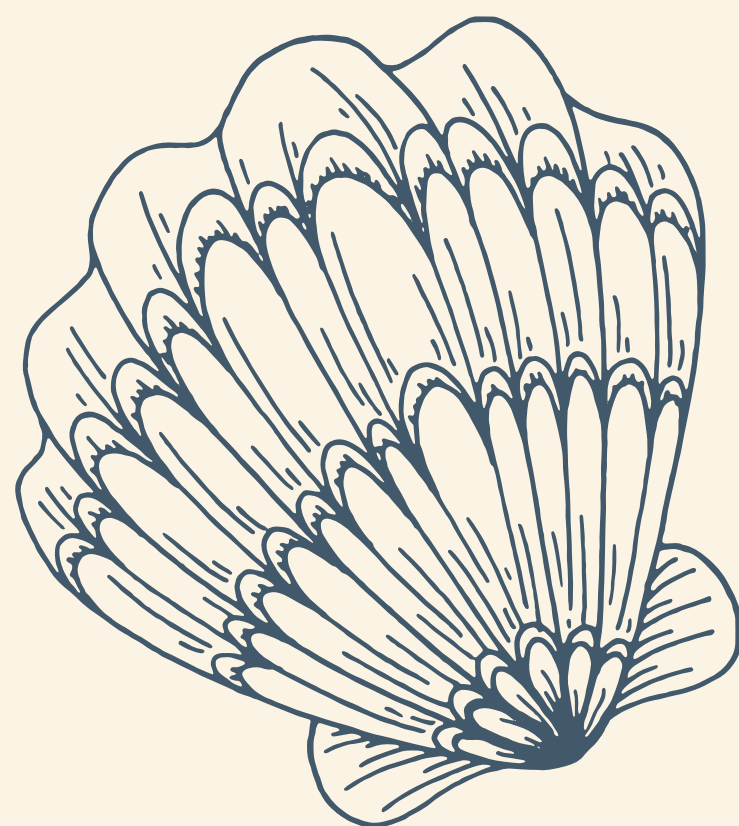
About the Author



Melissa Hope is passionate about helping writers improve their craft and connect with the writing community. She escaped the frostbite normalcy of Canadian winters to live in Florida with her family, bipolar cat, and growing collection of scuba gear.

Visit her website
www.authormelissahope.com
to watch free writing tutorials.

Twitter: @hopefullhappens
Instagram: @hopefullhappenings
Youtube: HopeFullHappenings



Author Interview

With Jessica Olson, author of *Sing Me Forgotten*

Q: Hi Melissa, this book is a fun pirate adventure, but I'm curious where you got your inspiration? Have you always been into pirate stories?

A: I think there's always been a part of me that has loved the sea. When I was younger, my favorite animal was an orca, and one of my favorite movies was Flipper with Elijah Wood. I loved The Swiss Family Robinson. I also loved the Pirates of the Caribbean films, and I suppose the love of the high seas sort of evolved from there.

Q: This book features several fun islands, which house their own flora and fauna. How did you go about creating these places? How do you approach worldbuilding in general when writing?

A: Worldbuilding may be my absolute favorite part about writing.

It started off with an idea and from there I went to work researching everything I could about the tropics, the ocean, fruits, animals, food, history, and so on. The more I research, the more ideas come in shaping the world and what each island will be.

This has been my process for other books as well: idea, then research, then more ideas come.

Q: Noa deals with some heavy, grief-related struggles during this story. Why do you think it's important to tackle difficult things in books for young readers?

A: I think it's necessary that children see themselves in stories. All of us use stories to grapple with our emotions, and oftentimes we might think no one else understands how we feel, so when we read about a character that is going through similar emotions to us, we can relate to them and not feel so alone. On the flip side, books that tackle difficult things like Noa tackles with his mother's death can help the reader develop sympathy and compassion because they are forced to step into someone else's shoes who is dealing with something hard.

Reference Resources

Melissa Hope's website: www.authormelissahope.com

Jolly Fish Press website: www.jollyfishpress.com

Full Author Interview: www.classof2kbooks.com/post/book-birthday-and-author-interview-sea-of-kings-by-melissa-hope



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