

BOOK CLUB NOTES



PEARLY AND PIG

AND THE
GREAT HAIRY BEAST

SUE WHITING



FOR READERS AGED 8+
OCTOBER 2021
9781760654870
PAPERBACK

A FAST-PACED JUNIOR FICTION ADVENTURE STARRING A PLUCKY NEW HEROINE THAT HAS TO FACE HER FEARS TO SAVE HER PARENTS, HER FRIEND AND THE DAY!

Pearly Woe is a worrier. She worries about everything, especially that she'll never be brave enough to become a member of the top-secret group of stealth adventurers – The Adventurologists' Guild. Pearly also has a special talent – she can talk to animals. Her favourite animal to talk to is her pet pig, called Pig. But with her parents missing, Pig pig-napped and Pearly a stowaway on an icebreaker heading for Antarctica, Pearly's worries just got REAL.

"... a rollicking adventure with plenty of twists to keep readers turning the pages ..."

MOMO CELEBRATING TIME TO READ

"...the main theme of overcoming self-doubt and persevering no matter the odds will be relatable and inspiring for kids."

BORG PRINCESS

WALKER BOOKS

Illustration © Rebecca Crane 2022

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pearly is a hyperpolyglot. (Isn't that a great word!) It means she can speak many languages – twenty-seven in fact, including some animal languages. Do you think all hyperpolyglots can speak animal languages? Is this aspect realistic or fantastical? Have you ever wanted to be able to talk to or communicate with animals? If you could choose any animal to be able to communicate with, what would it be? Why? What would you like to say? Or would you like just to be able to listen? To hear their point of view?
2. Pearly is also an expert worrier. Can you remember some of the things she worried about? Often, her worries were over the top. Have you ever had unrealistic worries like this? How does she deal with this side of her character? How does it impact on her throughout the story? One of Pearly's biggest worries is that her worries will mean she will never be brave enough to be an Adventurologist. Do you think she will ever be an Adventurologist?
3. Is Pig a pet or a friend to Pearly? Discuss. How important is Pig to Pearly? What would have happened if Pig was not in the story? Would Pearly have succeeded in the way she did?
4. Ms Woods is the villain of this story. How would you describe her? On page 20 Pearly thinks, "*I don't trust anyone who calls me honey constantly, even if you are a movie star with the whitest teeth on earth!*" Would you trust Ms Woods? Why? Why not? What do you think motivated Miss Woods to do the terrible things she did?
5. Would you like to be part of the Adventurologists' Guild? Why/Why not? How is its approach to adventuring unique? What adventure would you like to go on? Where do you think Pearly's next adventure should be? What could happen?
6. The story is primarily set in Antarctica. Was this an interesting setting? Did this setting add to your enjoyment of the story? How? Would you like to go to Antarctica? Why?/Why not?

ACTIVITIES

1. Imagine being able to eavesdrop on animals. How cool would that be? In small groups, pretend you are animals and create a short sketch with them talking about a situation. E.g. commenting on people looking at them at the zoo, or people chopping down a tree or eating at a cafe etc.
2. Can you speak Pig? Have a go at saying some of these Pig phrases, but using a piggy voice: OINKY OINKY NO-NO; OINKITY; OINKITY-O; OINKITY SQUEALIO; OINKY SQUELIO-O. Do you remember what they mean?
3. In pages 136 – 150, Pearly and Pig are caught in a blizzard. What would that be like? In pairs, act out walking (and stumbling etc.) in an ice field in Antarctica during an almighty blizzard.
4. Read Pearly's list of worries on pages 2, 3, 29, 36, 44, 140 (and others). Now imagine Pearly is stuck in a dense jungle – what would she worry about? Can you dream up some over-the-top Pearly-style worries?

Read more of Pearly's adventures in Pearly and Pig and the Lost City of Mu Savaan!

