

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE TO

Soul Riders

BOOK 1 OF 3: JORVIK CALLING



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On sale wherever books are sold

Step into the universe
of the massively
popular adventure
game *Star Stable*

Six-week
book club

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Explore a magical world on horseback in **SOUL RIDERS**, an all-new fantasy trilogy based on the massively popular adventure game, *Star Stable*.

When Lisa and her dad arrive on the mysterious island of Jorvik, she finds herself in a new city and at a new school trying to make new friends. This isn't the first time Lisa's moved because of her father's work, but this time it's without her mom. She died in a riding accident, and Lisa hasn't gone near a horse since it happened. Despite her fears, it's not long before Lisa is drawn to the stables, where she meets Starshine, a blue-maned steed with whom she shares a special bond. Alongside fellow riders Alex, Linda, and Anne, Lisa learns she has a secret destiny to save the world. However, will the **SOUL RIDERS** be able to come together as a team before it's too late?

The island of Jorvik is brimming with magic waiting to be discovered, and at the heart of it all are the **SOUL RIDERS**. Each girl is not only a hero in her own right, but also complex and relatable, with struggles and triumphs that are sure to resonate with any reader. Alone, they are strong. Together, they're unstoppable!

Meet the Soul Riders

Star Stable



Anne von Blyssen *I control my own destiny!*

Anne and her horse Concorde are rebels. In search of independence and true friendship, they defied their legacy and privileged past.



Alex Cloudmill *I strike in the name of justice!*

Alex and her horse Tin-Can are warriors. They never shy away from taking responsibility and always have their friends' backs.



Lisa Peterson *My heart is my greatest power!*

Lisa and her horse Starshine are true believers. Free spirits, they're driven by their hearts and their compassion for others.



Linda Chanda *Knowledge triumphs over fear!*

Linda and her horse Meteor are a well of wisdom. They are curious minds and believe that knowledge can conquer any fear.



First Meeting

Prologue, Chapters 1 through 5



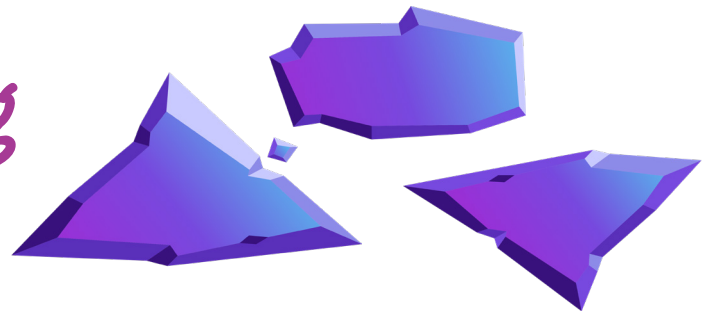
- *Soul Riders* takes place on the magical island of Jorvik. What makes this setting so unique? Would you want to live here?
- The story begins with Lisa moving to Jorvik. Have you had to move? Were you excited? Nervous? If you could live anywhere, where would you want to move?

"Isa is the photo album version of Lisa Peterson, [Lisa] thought to herself. The past. History. She doesn't have much in common with the here-and-now Lisa..." (p. 9)

- Do you feel like there are past versions of yourself that you no longer recognize? Do you agree with Lisa that these past selves are completely separate from the present?
- Music helps Lisa remember her mother. Think about someone you miss. What makes you feel close to them when they're not around?
- In Chapter Four, Lisa first describes Starshine, the blue-maned steed that keeps showing up in her dreams. If you're a Star Stable player, what makes your horse unique? If you haven't played Star Stable, imagine you have a horse companion and describe what they look like.
- The guitar is the only thing in Lisa's new room that feels like it's just hers. What's something in your bedroom or house that you feel represents you?

Second Meeting

Chapters 6 through 10



- Lisa mentions that when words fail her, she often turns to music. Do some songs remind you of certain people or memories? Does this book make you think of any so far? If you were to create a soundtrack of *Jorvik Calling*, what are a few of the songs that would be on the playlist?

“‘Seriously, Lisa, I’m not even sure it’s legal to move to Jorvik if you don’t like horses,’ Alex said. ‘It’s, like, in our constitution, or whatever.’” (p. 46)

- Most people on Jorvik love horses. Think about your community, whether that’s your town, school, or something else. What’s something you share that brings you closer together?
- Lisa longs to ride horses again, but after the accident, she is afraid to be near them. What’s something you love to do, even though it’s hard or scary for you?
- How does Alex show friendship to Lisa at the stable? How can you help someone new feel welcome around you?
- In Chapter 7, Lisa musters the courage to tell Alex and Linda what happened with her mom. Why was she so hesitant to tell them?



“[Lisa] still sang, but only when she was alone or with Starshine in his stall. At those times, she allowed herself to fantasize about what it would be like when she was accepted to The Jorvik Academy of Performing Arts. In her dreams, it was always when, not if.” (p. 61)

- What is your dream? Why do you think Lisa has to “allow” herself to fantasize about her own?



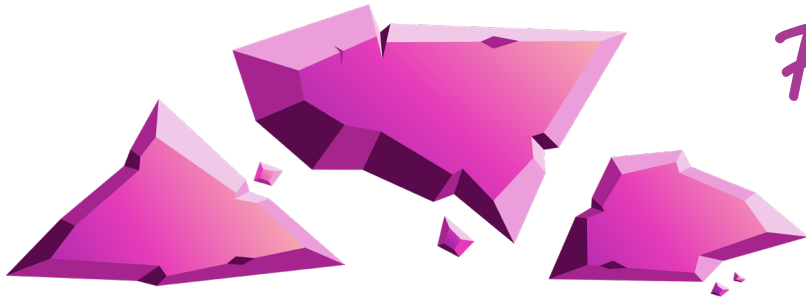
Third Meeting

Chapters 11 through 15

- At this point, Lisa has met Alex, Linda, and Anne. What was your first impression of each Soul Rider? Did any of them surprise you later?
- The Light Ride is a big event each year on Jorvik, honoring the island's culture. What is a tradition that means a lot to you? Who do you share it with?
- At one point, each of the Soul Riders sees a unique symbol on the sky—the sun, the moon, stars, and a lightning bolt. Do you believe in the universe showing us “signs”? Why or why not?

“Aideen might have been the first rider on this island, but she was far from the last,” Linda said. “They say she was the one who brought horses into the world and that true goodness was born with her and the horses.” (p. 97)

- In some ways, Aideen could be considered a spiritual ancestor to the Soul Riders. Who is someone you consider an ancestor? This could be a blood relative, mentor, or role model.
- By now, Lisa has formed a strong bond with Starshine, and says that when they're together “everything just feels so right” (p. 103). When do things feel “so right” for you? When do you feel the most comfortable?
- When her parents accepted professorships at Oxford, Linda chose to stay in Jorvik. She loves her life on the island, but she longs for a sense of family. What would you have done if you were in Linda's shoes? When is a time that you chose to forge your own path?



Fourth Meeting

Chapters 16 through 20

- *Jorvik Calling* alternates its point of view between many characters. Why do you think the book is structured this way? Would you want it told a different way?
- Lisa is devastated when Starshine is taken. Think about a time when you have felt powerless, or frustrated about something out of your control. What makes you feel supported by your friends when there's a problem that can't immediately be solved?

"You're supposed to work to live, Lisa, not live to work. I need to get my bosses to remember that."
(Lisa's dad, p. 26)

- When Lisa's dad said the line above, he was talking about work-life balance. How does work-life balance affect Lisa's relationship to her dad? How do you balance your responsibilities with time spent with family and friends?
- Both Anne and Alex have little brothers, but their relationships are very different. How does each show that they care about their little siblings? If you have a sibling (or a close friend who is like a sibling to you), how do you show concern for them without being overbearing?



"It felt warm when [Anne] rode with Linda, Alex, and Lisa. Safe. She stopped seeing herself from the outside—she didn't have to overanalyze every line or movement. Is that what it's like to have friends?" (p. 119)

- Think about your friends. What do you think are good qualities in a friend? How do the other Soul Riders make Lisa, and then Anne, feel welcome?
- You're over halfway through the story now! What's been your favorite part so far? What do you think will happen next?



Fifth Meeting

Chapters 21 through 25

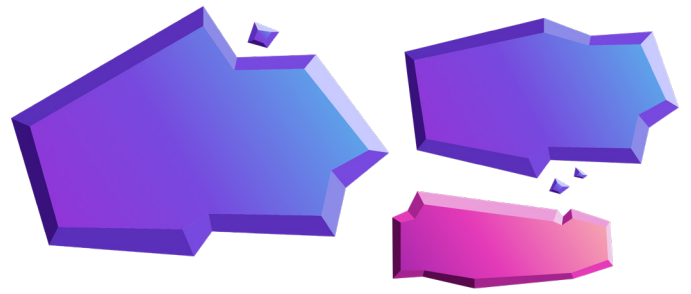
- Anne agrees to be in Derek's photoshoot because Concorde enjoys the limelight, even though it makes Anne visibly uncomfortable. Where do you feel pressure in your life? What's the difference between pressure that's harmful (as it is with Anne) and the kind of attention that makes Concorde blossom?
- Anne's mother is obsessed with achievements, but all of the prizes and accolades feel empty to Anne. What do you think it'd take for Anne to be proud of herself? When is a time that you felt proud of yourself without any prize involved?

Alex writes the following in detention: *"It is often said that ethics is about following your internal compass ... Some claim that compass is calibrated in childhood, when parents and other adults show the child what good behavior is. But what happens when the compass is skewed? What if we have been focusing on the wrong things all along?"* (p. 137)

- Alex couldn't rely on her parents growing up. Where do you think her sense of right and wrong came from? What do you base your ethics on?
- Herman is a role model for Alex, and goes out of his way to support her and other "lost souls." Think of a role model in your life. What do you admire about them? How do they show that they are there for you?
- Each of the Soul Riders has a unique power, reflecting their own personal strengths that they bring to the team. Think of one of your own strengths. If that were to manifest as a special power, what would that look like?

Sixth Meeting

Chapters 26 through the end



- Which Soul Rider do you relate to the most? Which one did you find the most challenging to understand?

"It is true that you choose your own path in life. You shape your own destiny. But sometimes, fate chooses for you." (Opening passage.)

- Think about the role of destiny in *Jorvik Calling*. Do you think the four main characters really had a choice whether or not to become Soul Riders? What external factors may have influenced the path they took? Do you believe in fate in your own life?
- In Chapter 29, Linda has a dark vision. What do you think it means? Have you ever tried to interpret your own dreams?
- Near the end, the Soul Riders find themselves on separate paths. Do you think it would've been better to have stuck together? Why is it sometimes tempting to try to do things alone?
- Now that the story is over, share your favorite scene or chapter. What did you like about it?
- *Jorvik Calling* ends on a cliffhanger. What do you think will happen next?



The Story Continues...

in [Soul Riders: The Legend Awakens](#),
on sale September 8, 2020.

Star
Stable



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PUBLISHING®