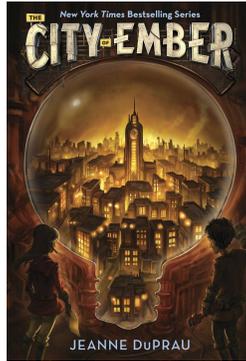


The City of Ember

By Jeanne DuPrau

Book Discussion and Activities



Discussion Questions:

1. Kids in Ember stop going to school and begin their careers at age 12. Does the prospect of that responsibility and independence sound exciting or scary to you? What job in Ember would you like to have?
2. Lina and Doon are different in many ways. How do their differences help them as they work together towards a common goal?
3. What similarities and differences do you see between Doon's family and Lina's family?
4. Earth today has many environmental and social issues. What sort of problems could have led to the building of the city of Ember?
5. Why do you think the builders chose the name Ember?
6. Which characters' behavior in the story could be seen as corrupt? How do they get away with this behavior?
7. People react in various ways when they feel threatened. How do the people of Ember react to danger? Have you seen people reacting to danger in these ways?



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8. How are Poppy's actions important to the plot?
9. What are three ways you see light, darkness, or color showing up in the story? How do these ideas help you get a better understanding of the setting or characters?
10. At the end of the novel, Lina, Doon, and Poppy have discovered a sunlit earth. What do you think will become of them in the sequel? Do you think that there are other people on the surface?

Extension Activities:

1. **Pre-reading** Distribute mock job assignments and give a talk about service to one's community. Share your feelings about your jobs and speculate about the type of society you will be reading about.
2. Teach the concept of supply and demand and make a list of all the items in the novels that are in demand. Think about the creative ways in which the novel's characters supply these items.
3. Sketch a place you have often dreamed about, like Lina does, and carefully select colors that reflect the mood and tone of the dream. Accompany your artwork with a written explanation.
4. When the citizens of Ember escape their dark society for a more promising land, they become refugees. Define the word *refugee*. Provide a brief overview of any current refugee crisis: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar (Rohingya people), Somalia. Consider why refugees flee their homelands and why some countries deny refugees access into their territories. *This assignment is suitable for older grades.*

Adapted in part from Scholastic's [The City of Ember](#) discussion guide.



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