DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR ARROW

ABOUT THE BOOK:
Minimum Reader Age: 8
Lexile: 610L
Topics: Environment, Deforestation, Friendship, Acceptance, Disabilities, STEM
Publisher: Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster
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Mad Max meets *The Jungle Book* with lots of *Fern Gully*, in this novel, Arrow, a 12-year-old boy with a limb difference, has grown up the only human in a lush forest oasis of a dry and arid future world, where the rich live in stilted cities and industry has devoured nearly all the trees. This patch of rainforest survives behind a magical curtain that keeps it hidden from those who would exploit it. But the magic has started to deplete, and the veil that shields the forest has begun to shred. When people from the outside world find the cracks in the magic, they discover a place they have only seen in dreams–dense and green with water in the air. Arrow is intrigued by these new humans, the first of his kind he's ever seen, but their arrival sets off a chain of events that will lead Arrow to make a devastating choice: be accepted by the people or save his home from being destroyed.

This discussion guide of ARROW helps to fulfill the Common Core English Language Arts Standards, along with other curriculum.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Samantha M Clark is the award-winning author of THE BOY, THE BOAT, AND THE BEAST and ARROW (both published by Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster) and AMERICAN HORSE TALES: HOLLYWOOD (Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House), as well as the GEMSTONE DRAGONS chapter book series from Bloomsbury. She lives with her husband and two funny dogs in Austin, Texas, where she helps other writers as the Regional Advisor for the Austin chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. When she's not writing books, Samantha likes to visit trees.

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Discussion Guide for Arrow

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

🌳 Who is the narrator of the story? Why do you think the author chose this narrator?

🌳 How did Arrow get his name? If the Guardian Tree was going to give you a name, what would it be? (Hint: Think of the things that make you unique and wonderful.)

🌳 Arrow grew up the only human in the rainforest, with the monkeys, sloths and other animals as his friends and the Guardian Tree as his mother. What kind of things do you think he learned in that environment that are different from the kinds of things you've learned growing up in your environment?

🌳 Who are the "Forest Dwellers" the Guardian Tree talks about? Research and discuss how indigenous people around the world live with and protect nature.

🌳 The Guardian Tree has seen the damaging effects of lies from the people she calls "Imposters," who made friends with the indigenous people of the rainforest, only to push them out. Now Arrow and the Guardian Tree don't know which humans they can trust. Coming from the dry, harsh outside world, Petari and her herd don't know if they can trust Arrow at first either. Research times in history when lies have caused harm to people. Discuss what makes people trustworthy and how you can know who you can trust.

🌳 When Petari, Val, and the other children from the Barbs see the forest, they see how different it is from their dry, arid world. They love the delicious fruit, the beautiful trees, and the cool rain. Look through the novel and research all the good things that forests give us.

🌳 The rainforest is an ecosystem, and the Guardian Tree uses the root network to communicate with everything that lives there, even Arrow. Research how ecosystems work. What ecosystems are you a part of? Also research root networks in our own world. How are they different from the root network in the book? If trees could talk to you like the Guardian Tree talks to Arrow, what do you think they would say?

🌳 The Guardian Tree protects the rainforest with the Anima, or magic, from inside the earth. Do you think there's magic inside the earth? If not, what kinds of real-world things can protect our forests?

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