

## Extension Activities

- 1. Unstable Structure.** Melina Marchetta experiments with structure in *Jellicoe Road*, having the story unfold as a mystery and keeping the reader guessing about connections between characters, as well as between the past and the present. Read another book by Melina Marchetta and write an essay comparing its themes to those of *Jellicoe Road* and contrasting their structures. Do you prefer the structure of *Jellicoe Road*, or do you favor something more conventional? Explain.
- 2. Get the Picture?** *Jellicoe Road* offers vivid descriptions: the reader actually *sees* the trees on Jellicoe Road and *hears* the splash when Webb falls. Sketch, paint, or otherwise illustrate part of the story. Is this project easy or hard to do, given the concrete descriptions that Melina Marchetta provides? Write a caption to accompany your illustration that offers insight into your inspiration. How does your final product illustrate an important theme or motif from the story?
- 3. The Weight of the World.** The characters in this story confront tough situations: drugs, disappearances, accidents, abuse, and even suicide. Choose one of these weighty issues and research its effects on teens. In the format of your choice (a brochure, poster, website, blog, etc.), publish information on your selected topic that you think your peers should know. Then write a brief description of how the characters in *Jellicoe Road* confront the same issue. Do they make healthy choices? If so, how? If not, what should they have done differently?
- 4. Grief Counsel.** The characters in *Jellicoe Road* are also faced with grief. Research the stages of grief. In which stages do you see Taylor, Hannah, Jonah, and other characters? Write a letter or email to one of the novel's characters (which could be delivered at any point during the story), advising them about how they can continue in the wake of tragedy.
- 5. Mockingbird on the Road.** There are several instances in the novel when characters refer to another important coming-of-age story, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Read and enjoy Harper Lee's book and then think about the similarities it shares with *Jellicoe Road*. What lessons do the young people in each story learn about growing up? Write a recommendation for fans of either book to get them interested in reading the other.



KIREN

## About the Author

**Melina Marchetta** received the Michael L. Printz Award for her third novel, *Jellicoe Road*. She is also the author of *Saving Francesca* and *Looking for Alibrandi*, both of which received numerous awards, and the upcoming *Finnikin of the Rock*. *Looking for Alibrandi* was released as a major Australian film. A former high school teacher, Melina Marchetta lives in Sydney, Australia. You can visit her online at [www.melinamarchetta.com.au](http://www.melinamarchetta.com.au).

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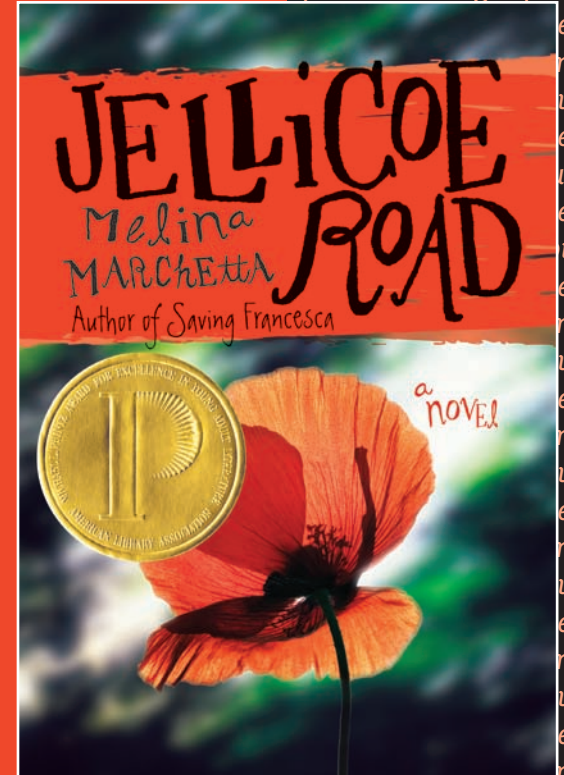
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Guide prepared by Kate Coxon, Teacher at Rocketship One Public School, Palo Alto, California. 06/08

## Reading Group Guide



Printz Award Winner

**JELlicOE ROAD**

By Melina Marchetta

