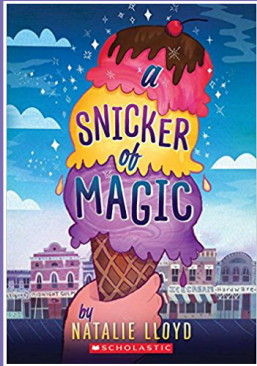


EVANGELINE OF THE BAYOU

by Jan Eldredge

Educators' Guide

IF YOU
LIKE



THEN
TRY



HERE'S **WHY**

Fans of *A Snicker of Magic* will dive headfirst into this charming Southern tale, complete with a spunky, delightful heroine who finds the courage to be herself, no matter the consequences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Fear. Throughout the story, Evangeline senses that people (or creatures) are following her. How does she overcome her own fear in these situations? Discuss the character traits Evangeline possesses to combat her fears.

Grief. On page 11, Evangeline walks by the churchyard where her mother is buried, and the "sinkhole of sadness began to open inside her." Why do you think the author chose this phrase to describe Evangeline's feelings?

Identity. It's almost Evangeline's 13th birthday, the time in her life when her haunt huntress powers, if she possesses them, will emerge. Why is becoming a haunt huntress so important to Evangeline? What makes Evangeline realize that she doesn't need a talisman to be a true haunt huntress? How does Evangeline's ability to trust her gut help her to reveal the true haunt huntress that she has always had inside her?

Courage. Evangeline isn't sure what the term "have heart" means, but she knows she must prove to the council that she does in order to become an official haunt huntress. What does it mean to "have heart"? How does she show that she has heart? Gran tells Evangeline, "Power comes from belief" (p. 155). What does Gran mean by this statement?

Helping Others. Even though she doubts her haunt huntress powers, Evangeline is moved and inspired to help Julian rescue his mother by recalling Gran's words: "When you see others in need, you help them, even if it means a risk to yourself" (p.209). Do you agree with this statement? How could this statement be Evangeline's motto?



EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



Gran-isms. Throughout the story, Evangeline is guided by her grandmother's sayings. Identify other examples of Gran's sayings. Have students choose a Gran-ism to interpret, creating an illustration and a paragraph describing what it means to them.

Down on the Bayou/Up in the Big Easy. The story is set in two locations: the Louisiana bayou and the city of New Orleans. Have one half of the class conduct research on the bayou; the other half on New Orleans. Have students focus on the history, culture, and people of these very different places. After students complete their research, give them time to creatively present their information.

Guide was created by Colleen Carroll (cc@colleencarroll.us), children's book author, literacy specialist, curriculum developer, and education consultant.

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