

Fire Heart

Study Guide

*

Dear teachers and librarians, this is a study guide for Fire Heart. I have organized the guide according to thematic headings. Under the thematic headings there will be questions for students. These questions are meant for classroom discussions/tutorials etc.

*

Coming-of-age

1. Do you think Wehia is impulsive? Discuss.
2. Do you think Wehia has learnt anything after making her sword?
3. What would you advise Wehia if you were her friend?

Relationships

1. Wehia's bond with her family is very strong. How do you feel about this aspect of Wehia?
2. In Gerit, Wehia has found a true friend and companion. Identity the ways how Geri has taught Wehia to be kind to herself.
3. Friendship is an important factor in the swordsmith clans. How does this help Wehia navigate the bewildering world of the City?

Swordmaking

1. Wehia throws herself into designing and making Fire Heart. Do you think she has understood what Hadana actually meant?
2. There are so many steps to swordmaking. In what way do you think swordmaking is similar to things like studying?
3. Would you make a sword? Why?

Family

1. Let's talk about family in the book. Discuss.
2. The clan is the strongest when it is together. Identify the ways the t'Tolani celebrate their togetherness?
3. Does Wehia miss her family? Discuss.

Wider Issues

1. The City is angry and fearful of the border people. Do you think the City is being unfair to the border people? Discuss.
2. What do you think about the acts of charity performed by the swordsmith clans?
3. Why do you think Wehia shy away from talking about the border people? Discuss.

*

Further activities

1. Students can form groups of four to present their thoughts regarding Fire Heart. They can do their presentation by skits, debates or class-room presentations.
2. *A letter to Wehia*. Students are invited to write a letter to Wehia. In the letter, students are encouraged to voice their feelings about the events in the book, especially Wehia's confrontation with Hadana and then the discovery of Fire Heart's flaw.

About the author

Joyce Ch'ng lives in Singapore. You can contact them for a Zoom Q & A via their email sabersger@gmail.com.