

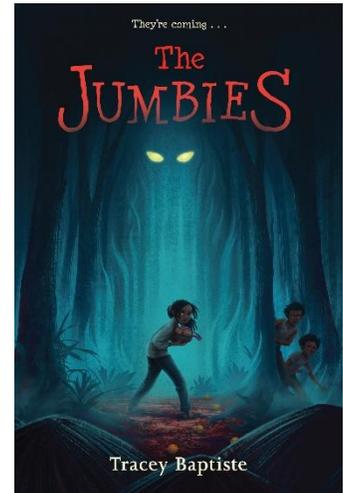


Kids Book Club Kit | Darien Library

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste

Recommended for grades 4 to 6

Summary: Corinne La Mer isn't afraid of anything – until the day she chases an agouti all the way into the forbidden forest and sees a pair of shining yellow eyes watching her. Soon after, she spots a beautiful stranger named Severine at the market, who later turns up at her house and bewitches her father. Corinne's going to need all her courage – and some help from her friends – to stop Severine and save her island home.



Discussion Questions:

1. *The Jumbies* features a lot of different scary creatures. Had you heard of any of them before reading the book? If so, how did you first learn about them? If not, which type of jumbie stood out to you most and why?
2. In what ways is *The Jumbies* like folktales and fairy tales you've read? What makes it different?
3. What does Pierre mean when he says on page 19, "You know how the sea is. Nothing stays at the bottom forever"? After reading the story, does this meaning change?
4. On page 70, Corinne detects something wrong with the food Severine is cooking, but her father doesn't. Describe a time when you knew something was not quite right even though it seemed to others that everything was okay.
5. Malik and Bouki are loyal friends who remind Corinne that sometimes everyone needs help. When has a friend helped you through something that was too big to handle on your own? Do you think the story would have ended as it did if Corinne hadn't had the help of her friends? How would the ending have been different, if it had been?
6. Dru is timid and shy when she first meets Corinne, while Corinne is a risk taker. How do the girls change or grow over the course of the story? Why are the girls such good friends?
7. On page 27, the white witch says, "If I help one, I have to help the other. For balance." Over the course of *The Jumbies*, the white witch does provide each side with some help, but does she stay true to her vow to keep things balanced? Do you think she made the right choices? Why or why not?
8. Who has more right to live on the island, jumbies or humans? Why?
9. How will Corinne's life be different after the events of the story? How might the discoveries about her family history change how the community treats Pierre and Corinne?

Further Resources:

Interview with the author: <https://dar.to/32V2BC8>

Jumbies Field Guide: <https://dar.to/2QXxnaV>

Activities

Corinne remembers her mom best while gardening. Try your hand at growing something, whether a small indoor plant or a whole vegetable garden!