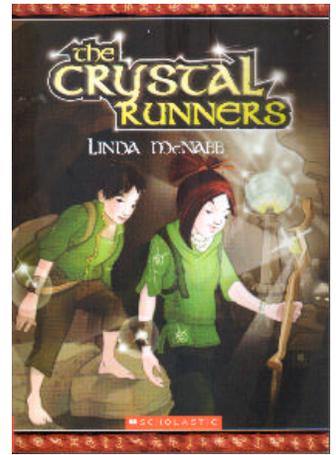


Teacher Notes for “THE CRYSTAL RUNNER” By Linda McNabb



SYNOPSIS

Jelah knows she's special.

In her village deep underground, she knows she doesn't want to be a crystal runner. Not for her a life of filling crystals with light and life. No! Jelah wants adventure - she wants to mix with the surface dwellers, like her grandfather.

The dimming of their light source gives Jelah the chance she's been looking for. Dragging twin brother Aydan behind her, she sets off to seek answers.

She discovers their problems are not all that is wrong and that, in these times of terrifying change, the twins must work together with Kaen, prince of the surface dwellers, to save both their worlds.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Discuss what it would be like to live underground.

- What sort of problems would living underground cause?
- What sort of heating could you use?
- How would you grow food?
- Do humans/plants really need sunlight? Why?
- What sort of animals/pets could you have underground?

List the things that you could not have if you lived underground

Eg. Sundial / Solar power / kites / planes / rain

What would you miss if you had to live below ground? What could you not take with you?

Would there be air pollution ?

What adjustments would you have to make if you had to live underground?

Eg. Different foods / deciding if it is day or night with no sun or moon / different ways of building homes

How would you cope with the following?

- No natural light
- No clearly defined night and day.
- Constant threat of a roof that may cave in.

What would be the advantages of living below ground? Are there any?

If you lived underground and came to the surface – what sort of things would you notice?

What would you think of...

- The sun
- The moon
- Rain
- Sunburn
- Clouds
- Wind
- Snow

Would you prefer to live above ground or below? Why?