TEENS BOOK CLUB GUIDE

CHARTING STARS

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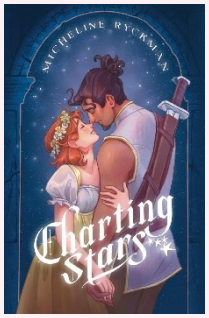

"People do rise to the occasion when the need is great, usually it's because it's better than the alternative, but in this case, I think you're brave." - Jarrett

GENRE

YA Fantasy / Romance

THEMES

Destiny & Identity | Hope / Courage / Love | Light vs Darkness | Friendship and Sacrifice | Magic | Home and Belonging

CHARACTERS

Talia Benson

Talia is a young and relatable unlikely heroine. She loves her cozy comforts: cats, books, the everyday magic found in beautiful and ordinary things – so when she finds herself magicked away to another world, where courage and bravery are required from her, she must learn to lean into her unique strengths to save herself and her friends. Through her unexpected quest, this stargazer and whimsical artist discovers she is capable of hard things, that she is braver than she imagined, and that falling in love is just the thing she was missing!

Jarrett

Loyal, thoughtful, and steady, Jarrett becomes one of Talia's closest companions during her quest. Not used to showing emotions and burdened by the trauma of his past, Jarrett is adamant about completing his own secret 'Runner' quest. Throughout his journey, Jarrett learns that leaning into feelings and sharing burdens with others is the first step to healing and finding a place to belong.

QB

QB is a squirrel gifted with healing knowledge and Jarett's allocated animal.

Maren

Maren is a Hydran, a fierce warrior whose job is to guard and protect. Initially, she is quite abrasive and dislikeable, but as the story unfolds, her boldness and bravery reveal her admirable side, and these quirks become endearing.

Jora

The Guardian of Vela is a majestic and angelic ruler who discloses the prophecy of the 'star child' and reveals Talia's way back home.

Calystra

Once on the path to becoming one of the greatest guardians the Nine Realms had known, Calystra is now shrouded in darkness: a fallen angel seeking the child of the prophecy and star heart for her own power and dominion.

Drew the Earthen Witch

Hidden behind the façade of a cat, Drew is an Earthen Witch of great power who has become somewhat of a guardian to Talia and has pledged herself to Talia's protection. While the earthen witches are known for their loose morals and apathy towards right and wrong, Drew seems to be on Talia's side and against Calystra.

Bash, the Crown Prince Sebastien Auron of Augria

Bash is travelling the realm under disguise. He is handsome, brave, and a good leader.

Moses

A Tarkan, who Talia describes as an odd mix of "predador/charmer mixed with fun-loving/heart-of-gold." He proves himself both loyal and trustworthy.

STORYLINE

When Talia Benson is unexpectedly transported into the magical Nine Realms - a land filled with ancient prophecies, dangerous creatures, powerful magic, and a growing darkness threatening every kingdom – she longs for nothing more than to make it back home.

Along the way, she meets companions who feel like home, finds hidden bravery within herself and discovers that while she feels like an ordinary girl, her seemingly mundane gifts can be used for the good of others.

This is a tender, charming and whimsical tale that reminds us that everyday people, through ordinary acts of kindness and courage, can change the world and hold back darkness.

1 QUESTION ONE

What did you enjoy most about *Charting Stars*? Why?

2 QUESTION TWO

Talia is a relatable heroine who feels like she's too ordinary to change the world or live a big adventure. How do her experiences throughout the story change her?

3 QUESTION THREE

Discuss Jarrett's transformation throughout the story. What burdens does he carry? What role does Talia play in his growth?

4 QUESTION FOUR

How do the storyline and chosen-one trope explore the themes of destiny and free will?

5 QUESTION FIVE

How does the enchanted setting enhance the themes? What deeper truths might the magical creatures and storyline represent?

6 QUESTION SIX

Which character did you relate to most and why? What struggles felt most realistic? How did that character grow, or what lessons did they learn?

7 QUESTION SEVEN

How do the developing friendships bring out the best in the characters and deepen relationships? Why is belonging so important?

8 QUESTION EIGHT

Talia realises that one of her ordinary skills – conversing with people – can be used as a gift. What skills or gifts do you possess that might bless others?

9 QUESTION NINE

Evelyn says, “Home always looks new at journey’s end. But in the meantime, life still needs living, even when you’re on the road or dallying in between” (p. 105). What does she mean by this?

10 QUESTION TEN

Talia loves her cozy comforts. What are some of the things you love that make your life feel cozy, comfortable and peace-filled?

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