

Allie Gator and the Seven Stones

Book club discussion guide

Allie Gator is packed with symbolism, hidden meaning, layers of meaning, and a yin yang push and pull. The story may be enjoyed as 'just a story', but if you like to peel apart the layers of a story, this guide will help you do that.

It is meant to provide a framework for discussing the various aspects of Stones, but does not cover every item nor every layered meaning.

Section 1A - Vacation

- Losing things, labeling – do children adopt the labels we give them?
- Key lime pie – does forcing a person to do something taint it?
- Kids are self motivated to learn as Allie is at the beach – in school, very often not. Why? Mirror image of curiosity at the beach and not school.
- Do children notice our double standards with regard to respect?
- Symbolism of reflection and halo
- Symbolism of being 'land centric'
- What does it mean to answer the call or not, and what are the repercussions?
- Who are the real Holt, Ginott, and Kaveri?
- Meaning of the old Indian legend.
- Who are the real Aditi and Varuna?
- Symbolism of the mirror

Section 1B – Aditi, Varuna and Grahi

- Who are these three in history/religion?
- Symbolism of the mirror
- Do heroes see truth which others cannot see? (ie Allie sees Varuna)
- Is proving you are right revenge? Is that OK?
- Do people seek out those who offer them redemption? Grahi's offer.
- Is this redemption a source of evil?

Section 2 - The World of Disregard

- What does Ahimsa mean?
- What is Deva and who are the real Indra and Indrani?
- What is a preta?
- Do we 'change size' as we go to different worlds?
- Is it OK to have children guard the symbols?

- The old waterbug – does looking back make you prematurely old?
- Symbolism of the palace glazier
- A an abandon kingdom is orderly
- Symbolism of use them to defeat them
- Why the statement tilting at windmill?
- Symbolism of preta guarding the exit from the kingdom
- The meaning of the manipulation of Kai
- When to act? When to not act?

Section 3 - The World of For Your Own Good

- Why the Proverbs stone and who is Solomon? Why pedagogy?
- What is dictionary definition of crepehanger? Is there a relation of monster to actions by Solomon?
- Discuss Procrustes
- Abishag and David, the norm of a child becoming like their parents
- The crest of the criss crossed rods
- Symbolism of blinded children
- What does kicking Ginott out mean?
- Symbolism of seeing king through the stone
- For your own good
- Symbolism of Allie using the rod
- The smashing of the rods
- Meaning of Allie and the King knowing that he had blinded them

Section 4 - The World of Cosmic Unfairness

- Why Esau?
- Check the definition of Equitas and Filicoid Stone
- Discuss introspection
- Jacob from Bible (Genesis)
- Symbolism, fern as balance
- Are we like zombies when presented with unfairness?
- Allie holds up stone and zombies don't respond. Why?
- Allie cradles the stone like a baby. This awakens something in the queen.

Section 5 - The World of Cosmic Fairness

- Who is John Galt and Rearden?
- What is praxeology?
- Can attempts at fairness be suffocating?
- Can fairness destroy purposeful action?

- Was Ray's life fair?
- Symbolism of oysters, and the stone being 'inside'
- Does creating an individual plan contradict its own point?
- Does learning have to be hard work?
- Discuss the beaver in the zoo anecdote
- Symbolism of fairness world collapsing in on itself
- Why does the bhoot bring to mind the grim reaper?
- Symbolism of two Allie trying to devour herself
- Does cosmic fairness turn parts of the self against itself, psychologically speaking?

Section 6 - The World of Guilt

- Discuss Electra by Sophocles, and Orestes' role
- What is the definition of scrupulum? Derived from Latin scrupulus.
- Symbolism of Allie going into the guilt world as someone else.
- Helga Huld is a reference to Herr Huld, the lawyer in Kafka's The Trial
- Josef K is the bank officer arrested in the same book
- Symbolism of festival of the Furies
- Can sacrifices alleviate guilt?
- Contrast using guilt versus blackmail
- Discuss Allie reflexively recoiling to strike as Electra guilted her
- Symbolism of festival scene as Jesus crucifixion
- Why three jikininkis? Allie hits pole three times.
- Guilt and misunderstanding
- Symbolism of jikininkis bursting into flames

Section 7 - The World of Lies

- Who was Erebus? Thetis?
- Symbolism of the stingray
- Nyx as elemental god who spawns dark spirits
- Definition of Obloquy, Veritas
- Riddles and lies, the meeting with Tank
- Is it OK to grab Veritas? Not to her.
- Are exaggerations lies?
- Will small lies and exaggerations lead to general distrust?
- Can labeling be lying? Does labeling stigmatize a natural variation in ways of being in the world? Allie's meeting with the non-swimming pups.
- Who are Geras, Oizus, Moros and Fraus? Labelers and liars?
- Symbolism of young stingrays going into Thetis' mouth, Veritas being destroyed
- Allie tries to find Athena the wrong way, then the right way
- Allie reaches into the fire for the stone
- When truth is destroyed, it spawns more truths to be discovered - Veritas

Section 8 - The World of Reflection

- What is the meaning of Onomatopoeia and its relation to reflection?
- Who was Liriope – mother of Narcissus
- Definition of Speculum – see Latin
- Developing the self versus developing selfishness
- Cultivating the habits of heroes
- Crusher claw and stalked eye symbolism
- Virginia (Woolf – see childhood), Demian (Hermann Hesse), and Narcissus (Greek Mythology)
- Parenting as mirroring, how is it ‘used’
- How does it affect children’s views of self?
- Discuss Virginia not want to be mirror
- Echo’s monotone
- Mirroring and control, what person would or not want to utilize it? Why?
- Queen made stronger by Allie’s weakness
- Symbolism of Narcissus legs going rat-a-tat-tat
- Pascal’s wager and the theft of the cell phone
- Asking Demian to kill.
- Symbolism of breaking the mirrors
- Does one made of the reflections of others have a true self?
- Liriope born of a switched mirror

Section 9 - The Trial of Aditi

- Unfairness and legitimacy
- Save the world justification
- Grahi as provider and judge
- Symbolism of star gazer type of fish and electricity
- The West Wall (Wailing Wall) – trial will happen beyond this
- Egeria – giver of wisdom and prophesy
- Symbolism of the poison net, versus their safe haven
- The origin of heroes
- Setting sun (end of day) time of trial
- The small mirror is trial prop
- Allie’s mom wakes up to the idea of death
- History is written, twisted by those in control, to make their point, designate bad guys.
- The importance of parents being human, apologizing.
- Allie uses mirror to send evil right back against itself

Section 10 - New Flipflops

- Symbolism of new flipflops
- First breath, in new old world
- Subtle changes in the real world can cause big changes in relationships