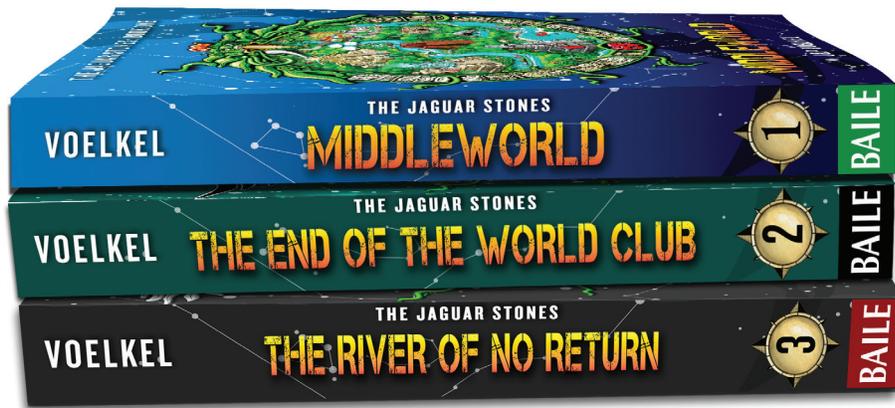


DISCUSSION GUIDES: BOOKS 1, 2 & 3

LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADES: 5-8



MIDDLEWORLD

1. What terrible dream does Lord 6-Dog have that he vows never to reveal to anyone?
2. The first time he hears a howler monkey roar, Max cannot believe the volume. What makes howlers the loudest land animals on the planet?
3. Hermanjilio tells Max and Lola: "If you want to understand the Jaguar Stones, you must understand the Maya world view." (253) What is the Maya world view?
4. What does Lord 6-Dog mean when he says: "All history is a self-fulfilling prophecy"? (297)
5. What message does Lord Muan come to deliver to Max? Why does Lord 6-Dog tell Max not to trust him?
6. Lola calls Max "the most selfish person I ever met." (p. 198) Do you agree that Max is selfish? By the end of the book do you think Lola would still call Max selfish or has he changed at all? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

THE END OF THE WORLD CLUB

1. Why are the twelve Lords of Death bored? How have they been passing the time over the last 1,000 years?
2. What is it that Max's father calls "The End of the World Club"? Research the history of apocalypse rumors. What conclusions can you draw?
3. The riddle that Lord 6-Dog translates repeats the color yellow many times. What is the significance of the color yellow for the Maya?
4. Why does Max hand the Yellow Jaguar over to Ah Pukuh even though he knows it's the worst thing he can do?
5. Why is Lola willing to face a fate worse than death by marrying Count Antonio de Landa? How is she saved from the marriage?
6. Why is it important to the Lords of Death that Max resembles his ancestor, Rodrigo de Pizarro? Does Max resemble his ancestor in other ways besides appearance? Give examples from the text to support your answer.

THE RIVER OF NO RETURN

1. What do the Death Lords want when they come to Lola in her dreams?
2. What is the “good news” that Max’s parents receive? Why doesn’t Max think it is good news?
3. Max says to Lola that Ah Pukuh “is trying to do to Middleworld what the conquistadors did to the Maya.” (89) What does he mean by this?
4. Why do the Death Lords call Max and Lola “The Hero Twins”. Look up the Maya legend of the Hero Twins. Compare and contrast the original legend with Max and Lola’s story. How are they similar and how are they different?
5. What does Ah Pukuh reveal is needed to activate the Five-Headed Jaguar?
6. What does Chan Kan do with the White Jaguar? How does he save the others from the Undead Army?