

THE LOST CITY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LANGUAGE ARTS, GRADES: 5–9

“Max was speechless. So many questions were going through his mind. He stood there with his mouth open, until one question formed itself into words.”

The Jaguar Stones, Book One: Middleworld, page 121

1. CHAPTER BY CHAPTER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Preface: Do you think that dreams have a purpose? Share a dream that is memorable and the impact it has had on you.

Chapter 1: What do you already know about ancient Maya culture? What are some background details you learn about the Maya?

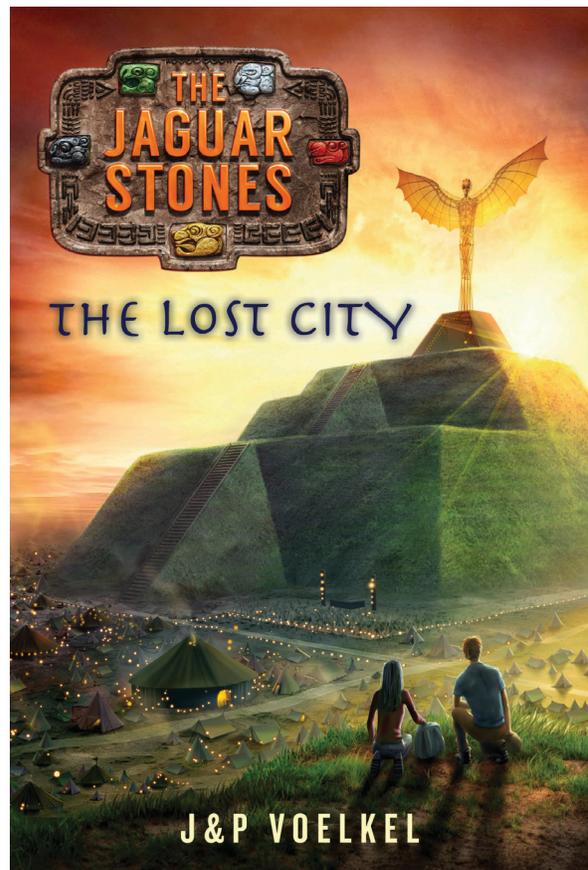
Chapter 2: What is the purpose of myths, legends and fairy tales? Is there one particular monster that scared you as a child? Why do you think Hermanjilio’s grandfather told him all of those stories?

Chapter 3: Can you think of some examples of the old Mayan saying, “Creatures of the night fear courage and light”? What is something that you are afraid of that needs to be faced bravely?

Chapter 4: Draw one of the evil creatures using at least five specific details from the text. What are some examples of “courage and light” in this chapter?

Chapter 5: List pros and cons as to Max and Ah Pukah becoming “besties”? What do you think about Max’s decision? Give evidence as to why you think that.

Chapter 6: Max is very worried about how he thinks Lola is changing. Draw a Venn diagram charting the Mayan Lola with the Modern Lola. Are there any common characteristics that define her character?



- Chapter 7: If you were on Ah Pukuh's marketing team, what kind of advertising campaign would you use to target kids in your generation?
- Chapter 8: What strength does each team member bring into the submarine? If you were to join them, what personal strength would you add? How would this be helpful?
- Chapter 9: Lola seems torn about her ancestry. What traits have you inherited from your each of your family ancestors?
- Chapter 10: Lola tells Lucky to stop worrying about them. What are some things that Max and 6-Dog and she should be worried about once they landed in New Orleans?
- Chapter 11: What are some things that Max says and does that show that he doesn't yet appreciate or understand the power of the Mayan past?
- Chapter 12: If you had a superpower, such as being invisible, what would it be? How would you use it?
- Chapter 13: Maya kings lead from the front. What are some ways Lord 6-Dog shows his royalty in spite of his appearance as a howler monkey wearing old pajamas?
- Chapter 14: What do you already know about the ancient North American city of Cahokia. What are 10 historical details about Cahokia provided in this chapter.
- Chapter 15: There were many things amiss in this modern Cahokia. List them.
- Chapter 16: What deal did Lola and Lady Koo strike? What concern did Count Landa and Max agree upon? Who do you think is right? Why?
- Chapter 17: Now that the plot is building to a climax the conflicts are clearer. How do you predict each conflict will be resolved?
- Chapter 18: The action is about to spin out of control. Draw a six-frame cartoon strip showing the main events in this chapter. A lot is happening.
- Chapter 19: Who do you predict Max, Lola and Lord 6-Dog find on the spaceship? How does this set up the climax?
- Chapter 20: Why does Ah Pukah agree to a baseball game in the Boston Red Sox's home field, Fenway Park?
- Chapter 21: Imagine taking Lola and Lady Coco and Lord 6-Dog to your home. What would they find most surprising? What would remind them of their home in the jungle?
- Chapter 22: There are several reasons why the authors chose The Day of the Dead for the big game of Life and Death. This chapter is full of foreshadowing hints. Which ones did you notice?
- Chapter 23: The characters each chose their favorite food for what just might be their last meal. Decide what your meal would be and write down directions as to how to prepare it perfectly.

- Chapter 24: If you were choosing your grand finale in which you face your arch-enemy who has vowed to destroy you, where would the battle take place? What would be the weapons of choice? Who would be there to cheer you on? What would be the soundtrack?
- Chapter 25: Max's greatest heroes have been ferried from the other world to fight for the good guys. Who from the past would you most like to spend an evening with, especially if you were facing a hopeless situation?
- Chapter 26: Without a doubt, Max has changed in this journey to Fenwick Park. Character is how we react to a challenge, no matter the outcome. In what way do you think he has changed the most, and what circumstances impacted him the most?
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- Chapter 28: When was a time that your "world turned inside out," when you were thinking you were well on your way to riches and fame? What helped you overcome?
- Chapter 29: Lord 6-Dog at last discovers that the real conflict is inside, and declares to his brother, "My battle is within myself?" What did he mean by this, and what was the outcome of him facing his greatest fear?