

THE GREEN KINGDOM

Discussion Guide & Activity Pack

Twelve-year-old Caspia is spending the summer in Brooklyn, and she isn't thrilled. She doesn't like cities and is reluctant to leave her friends, Ellie and Laryssa, back home in Maine. But Caspia's summer is transformed when she discovers a bundle of letters in an old chest of drawers. Each letter contains a 'green' riddle, with clues leading to a different plant. Caspia sets out to solve the riddles, and, as she does, she meets new friends and finds, to her surprise, that sometimes you can put down roots where you least expect it.

A tale of mystery, friendship, and
adventure from bestselling author
Cornelia Funke



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Also available in eBook and audiobook
Best for kids ages 8-12



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Discussion Questions

1. In the book, Caspia spends a summer in Brooklyn with her family. If you could spend a summer anywhere in the world, where would you go? Whom would you take with you?
2. At the beginning of the story, Caspia misses her home in Maine. Have you ever moved somewhere new? How did you adjust to your new surroundings?
3. If you found a bundle of letters from around the world containing riddles, would you try to solve them? Do you agree with Caspia's decision to open and read the letters?
4. At the end of the book, Jemila tells Caspia, "You grew roots. It is really magical when that happens. You never know where it will be. And it is very difficult tearing them out again." What do you think about this quote? What does Jemila mean by "grew roots"?
5. Caspia discovers that plants grow and thrive in all sorts of environments. Even in a busy place like Brooklyn, dandelions bloom from the concrete sidewalks. Where do you see plants in your neighborhood or school? Are any of these places unexpected?
6. Did you solve any of the green riddles? Which ones?
7. The letters lead Caspia to 10 members of the Green Kingdom: Cinnamon tree, dandelion, rose, bamboo, apple tree, mint, cotton, elder tree, stinging nettle, and jasmine. Which of these plants have you seen—or even eaten—before?
8. Throughout the story, people interact with plants in different ways. Caspia's mom cooks dishes with the plants, Ado draws plants at the botanic garden, Ado's dad gardens, Minna embroiders and paints plants onto household objects, and Jemila tends to plants at the Blooms & Books store. Which of these activities are you most drawn to and why?
9. Caspia's friends throw her a party at the community garden. What are community gardens? Why do they exist in cities? Have you ever been to a community garden?
10. By the end of the book, Caspia begins to feel better about Brooklyn and even misses living in Brooklyn after the summer ends. Why do you think she changed her mind?



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Maze

In this maze, make your way through the streets of Brooklyn with Caspia and find the Botanic Garden.

START



Blooms
& Books

Community
Garden

Mrs. Wahid's
Spice Shop

Botanic
Garden

END



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Word Search

E	N	G	E	Q	P	F	Y	V	B	K	T
T	M	I	M	E	A	W	O	D	W	A	S
M	E	L	D	E	R	J	P	I	D	R	Z
B	M	O	U	M	A	G	K	Y	N	G	M
O	B	D	R	Y	C	W	H	I	S	L	E
T	R	O	W	T	H	I	S	T	L	E	A
A	O	S	T	L	U	T	I	S	E	L	D
N	I	H	B	O	T	A	N	I	S	T	O
I	D	L	R	W	E	I	X	E	M	V	W
E	E	L	D	E	R	B	E	R	R	Y	G
R	R	P	A	V	I	L	L	I	O	N	A
D	L	I	S	T	E	S	A	R	V		

Pavilion
Thistle

Embroider
Botanist

Elderberry
Parachute

Meadow



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Create Your Own Green Riddle!

Pick a plant (it can be anything from a tree to a tiny herb). Then, research and write at least **five clues** for your riddle. When you're done, share your riddle with your family or friends and have them guess the answer.

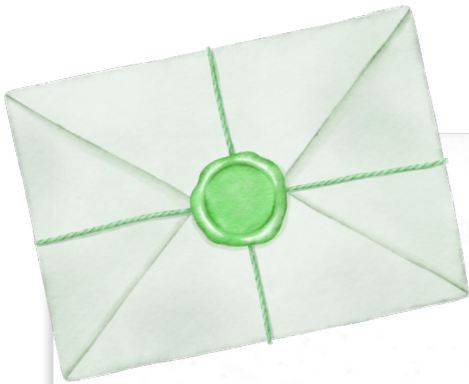
Research Prompts:

Where does your plant originate from? Where else can the plant survive and thrive?

Can your plant be used in a recipe? If so, share a dish that features your plant.

What is an historical fact about the plant? Did people use it for something special?

Are there any myths, legends, or stories connected to this plant, like it having magical powers or an interesting backstory?



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Design Your Dream Garden!

Design your very own garden—perhaps a vegetable patch for a family of rabbits, a secret garden consisting only of species of blue flowers, or anything else you can imagine. Draw your plants and write the plants' names on the labels below.

