

DISCUSSION Guide

Liesl & Po

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New York Times Bestselling Author

LAUREN OLIVER

ABOUT THE BOOK

Liesl's cruel stepmother, Augusta, keeps Liesl locked in her attic bedroom. Lonely and grieving for her recently deceased father, Liesl is surprised one evening by Po, a ghost who suddenly materializes in her room. The two become friends, and Po enables Liesl to escape from her attic room and embark on a journey to bury her father's ashes beside those of her mother. What Liesl does not know is that, because of a mix-up at the undertaker's, the box that Liesl carries does not contain her father's ashes. Instead it contains the most powerful magic in the world, and the alchemist who created that magic desperately wants it back.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is Po different from how you would imagine a ghost to be?
2. What does Po hate about the impression living people have of ghosts?
3. What do you imagine it is like on the Other Side? Is what you imagine different from what Po describes?
4. Why is *ineffable* Liesl's favorite word? What is your favorite word? What is it about the word that makes it your favorite?
5. Why wouldn't Liesl's stepmother let Liesl see her father to say good-bye before he died? How would you describe the way Liesl's stepmother treats her?
6. How is Will treated by the alchemist? How is the way Will is treated similar to how Liesl is treated by her stepmother?
7. What does Will remember about Kevin Donnell's house when looking at Liesl in her attic window?

8. How does Will's decision to first make the delivery to Mr. Gray prove to be a fateful one?
9. What are Mr. Gray's profession and his side business?
10. Why are people starving all across the world?
11. What are the "feelings and attachments long forgotten" that Liesl stirs up in Po (p. 72)?
12. How does Po meet Liesl's father? What do you think Henry means when he says, "It was the soup, you know. I should never have eaten the soup" (p. 81)? What was Henry and Augusta's marriage like?
13. What does Augusta fear Liesl will be able to do with the magic powder?
14. Why does Liesl run away from Will? What makes Will think that Liesl might be crazy?
15. What does Augusta confess to Liesl?
16. What does Liesl realize when she gets to the Red House?
17. Why does seeing her house consumed by fire make Liesl feel joy and relief?
18. What happens when the true meaning of the magic is revealed: "*The dead will rise from glade to glen and ancient will be young again*" (p. 288)? What is Liesl able to do?
19. What happens when Po and Bundle turn golden?
20. What do you think will become of Liesl and Will?



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