

ELLE BURTON AND THE REFLECTIVE PORTALS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BASED UPON THE BOOK BY PEGGY M. MCALOON AND ANNEKA ROGERS (2014)

Discussion Sheet and Questions BY Catherine Z. Gruener (2014)

Particular care should be used when deciding to read this book with those who may be traumatized or may be re-traumatized by death, physical abuse, or violence. Several traumatic events are witnessed or experienced in detail within this book, and this may not be suitable for all audiences.

Peggy McAloon and Anneka Rogers create a magical world in which their main character, Elle, has special powers and magical friends who assist her in being resilient, and the heroine, against some of life's hardest and most unthinkable events: cancer, fire, death, abduction, gun violence, and physical abuse. The following discussion questions are offered to provide a platform, a way to open up communication about these, and other issues, brought forth in Elle's journey. Resources for abuse, domestic violence, stranger danger, bullying, grief, and fire safety are offered at the end of this document. Peggy McAloon and Anneka Rogers provide readers a vivid and heart-felt journey into several major life issues, through a child's personal pain and engagement in the suffering of others, with compassion, resiliency, altruism, and agape love.

QUESTIONS	
"Gratitude is carefully planted in your soul, waiting to spring to life." Can you describe how Elle showed and practiced gratitude? Can you think of ways to plant gratitude in your life?	<input type="checkbox"/>
What do you think of the Fiorin? What do the Fiorin do for the children and for Elle? What magical powers do they have?	<input type="checkbox"/>
How does Ginny show her love and compassion for her daughter, Elle, throughout the book? How does Elle show her love and compassion for her mother, Ginny, throughout the book?	<input type="checkbox"/>
How is Elle's grandmother her guide? Do you have a special person like Gamma in your life, or met other people like Gamma? Who do you talk with about important issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>
What lessons did Elle learn from her father, Poppy, that helped her throughout her journey? How did Elle persevere after the death of her father, Poppy? How were Elle, Ginny, and their community supportive of one another after the death of Poppy?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Why was it brave for Olivia to share her pain and story with Elle? How did Elle show bravery and compassion? What was the reaction of the Principal and adults at the school?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who are Elle's community supports? How do they support her? How does Elle give to her community?	<input type="checkbox"/>
What did the adults tell Elle when they found out that she had not been truthful with them about what she had been doing? Is it safe to lie to trusted adults? Is it safe to tackle hard issues alone? What are other ways to handle difficult situations?	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUESTIONS	
When you have important information, or information about others who might get hurt or are hurting others, who can you talk to or tell?	<input type="checkbox"/>
How did Elle stand up to bullying?	
How did A'isha and Elle show compassion for Jimmy? What happened to Jimmy when Elle included him in activities, and others paid attention to him for the good things that he did? How did Jimmy change?	<input type="checkbox"/>
What special powers does Elle have that children do not have? What is she able to do that other children are not able to do? If you want to help others, how can you help in safe ways? What would you do ifa friend was being bullied?a fire broke out?a friend was in danger?a friend was being hurt by an adult?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you think that people should hide their gifts or talents? Why or why not?	<input type="checkbox"/>

More Information: If you or someone you know is suffering from abuse or domestic violence, please contact the appropriate agencies below. Find help now. You don't have to go it alone. Other resources are included on stranger danger, bullying, grief, and fire safety.

National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

<http://www.childhelp.org/pages/hotline-home>

National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224,

www.thehotline.org

Stranger Danger <http://www.thesafeside.com/>

What to do about Bullying <http://www.stopbullying.gov/>

Grief Speaks <http://www.griefspeaks.com/id76.html>

Fire Safety

http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/er/fire_safety.html?tracking=K_RelatedArticle