

A Novel Study Guide

Journey To The River Sea

Content ⇒ Process ↓	People	Places	Events	Themes	Connections within the novel and with the readers experience.	Structure and Methods (Use of a range of reading strategies)
Knowledge In The Book: Right There		Find out as much information as you can about the Amazon. Research one of the plants or animals named in the book and produce an information booklet or leaflet on it.	List the key events in the novel.	Discuss the differences in attitude between how Maia and Miss M treat the local culture and traditions and how the Carters treat them.		
Comprehension In the Book: Think and Search	Use information in the novel to describe both the physical appearance and the character of Miss Minton.					
Analysis & Application In My Head: Author and Me			When the other girls discuss what they have found out about the Amazon how does this differ from what Maia actually experiences. Are there certain countries that are portrayed unfairly by the media? Discuss the phrase ‘Do not judge a book by its cover’ and relate it to this story.	The novel covers four themes. Journeys, New Experiences, Racism and Respect for other cultures and Friendship. Choose two themes and reflect how the author addresses these issues. Give examples from the book.	The author shows us that Maia’s positive attitude influenced how she felt about moving to the Amazon. Think about what new situations await you in the future and what strategies you could use to cope with any problems.	

Synthesis In My Head: On My Own	Write a diary entry for one of the characters at a pivotal time in the novel. E.g. when Clovis sees Westwood for the first time or when Maia finds out she is going to Brazil.				Maia shares a talent with her mother. What talent do you share with a member of your family?	Research a picture of a rainforest. Use this picture to inspire you to write a poem about the rainforest. Make sure that you use lots of descriptive words and phrases in your poem.
Evaluation In My Head: On My Own	Choose two characters from the book and consider how the characters develop as the book progresses.					