

# *Hunters of the Lost City* Educators' Guide



## COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS

The *Hunters of the Lost City* Educators' Guide, which can be used with large or small groups, will help students meet several of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts. Questions can also be used in writing prompts for independent work. In addition to discussion questions and book-based activities, it helps students become careful readers without jeopardizing the fun of reading.

Noted throughout the guide are correlations between the discussion questions and activities and specific Common Core Language Arts Standards. For more information on specific standards, visit the Common Core website at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

## Pre-Reading Activities

- Have students look at the cover of *Hunters of the Lost City*. Ask them the following questions: What does the picture tell you about the book? What does it tell you about the characters? What does it tell you about the time period and setting of the book?
- As a class, discuss the title of the book. Ask students to guess how the title relates to the story.
- Read the book blurb on the back cover aloud to your class. Then brainstorm about the plot of the book and what could happen after Octavia “meets another girl beyond the walls.” Save these predictions to see how many of them happened in the book.

## Discussion Questions

- Octavia and Sima share a lot of characteristics, but they are different in many ways too. Compare and contrast these similarities and differences, using examples from the book to back up your thoughts.
- Choose three events from the text and explain how you would have handled them differently from the characters in the story. Explain how these new choices could have changed the outcome of the story in either a small or major way. Be insightful and think of the cause and effect. Sometimes even the smallest action can have a major impact on the storyline.
- What are the Ferox? Where do they live? Why are the people of Vittoria afraid of them? How were they made?
- Why did Vittoria close its gates every night at sundown? What happened to people if they didn't make it back inside before sundown? Why was this practice enforced? Do you agree with it? Why or why not?
- There are many themes found in *Hunters of the Lost City*. Some central ones are: protection at all costs, lies versus truth, and familial bonds. Choose one of these themes or identify one of your own, and trace its development throughout the novel.
- Using examples from *Hunters of the Lost City*, describe how following rules set up by people in charge can help people. Does it ever hurt people? Were the leaders of Vittoria right in setting up such strict rules for their people? Why or why not?
- Use points made in the *Hunters of the Lost City* to explain how trying to help someone could actually hurt them.
- Many characters in *Hunters of the Lost City* kept secrets from others. Choose two of these secrets. For each one, explain the motives behind the character keeping the secret, and whether you agree with them or not.

## Discussion Questions Continued

- *Symbolism* means using an object, person, or place to represent an abstract idea beyond its literal meaning. An example of this in *Hunters of the Lost City* is Vittoria's gates. Trace how these gates are used as a symbol throughout the book. Then, choose another example of symbolism and explain its significance.
- How can Agrippina be viewed as both good and evil? Do you think that she deserves to be punished? Is she the only character that deserves to be punished? Why?
- Come up with an alternate title for *Hunters of the Lost City*. Use evidence from the book to justify your name change.
- Who do you think the biggest villain is in *Hunters of the Lost City*? Why? Use evidence from the book to make your claims.
- In *Hunters of the Lost City*, what is more powerful: knowledge, magic, or monsters? Cite examples from the book to back up your claims.
- What can we as readers learn from Vittoria choosing to shut its gates and not help outsiders in need of help in order to protect itself?
- Explain the ending of *Hunters of the Lost City*. How is Vittoria different by the end compared to the beginning of the story? How did Octavia foster this change?

**Pre-Reading Activities and Discussion Questions address the following Common Core State Standards for Reading Literature:**

***Reading Literature  
Key Ideas and Details***

Grade 5 – RL.5.1-3  
Grade 6 – RL.6.1-3  
Grade 7 – RL.7.1-3  
Grade 8 – RL.8.1-3

***Integration of Knowledge  
and Ideas***

Grade 5 – RL.5.1-3  
Grade 6 – RL.6.1-3  
Grade 7 – RL.7.1-3  
Grade 8 – RL.8.1-3

***Craft and Structure***

Grade 5 – RL.5.4-6  
Grade 6 – RL.6.4-6  
Grade 7 – RL.7.6  
Grade 8 – RL.8.4, 6

***Range of Reading Level  
of Text Complexity***

Grade 5 – RL.5.10  
Grade 6 – RL.6.10  
Grade 7 – RL.7.10  
Grade 8 – RL.8.10

## *Hunters of the Lost City* Book-Based Activities

### Timeline Plots

There are a lot of settings, action, and lore in *Hunters of the Lost City*. As students are reading, ask them to organize key moments in the book by keeping a timeline of major plot events. They can create a traditional timeline, write on notecards, or create a storyboard. Encourage them to record and label all the important happenings and plot twists from the book alongside their favorite quotes from the book and their reactions to the story.

### Scene Stealers

*Hunters of the Lost City* is full of exciting characters, events, and plot twists. In order to help students review the events and better understand character motivation, break students into small groups, ask them to choose an action-packed scene, and then have them perform it. Encourage them to really get into their role by thinking about their character's motives, goals, and inner-feelings; reading their lines with emotion; and moving with purpose.

### Friendly Letters

Octavia and Sima share a very special and complex friendship. To explore this relationship more, ask your students to write a letter in the voice of one of one girl to the other. Encourage them to look back through the book to find the scenes where the two characters interact, reread them, and take notes on how they speak and act toward each other. In their letters they can either recap an event from the book or create their own narrative about the girls after the story ends.

### Lights, Camera, Action!

*Hunters of the Lost City* definitely has what it takes to be adapted into a movie or mini series. Have your students play the role of a casting director by asking them to brainstorm actors and actresses to be in this live-action adaptation. Have them list the main characters from the book, write a brief description of each one, name who they envision playing each part, and explain their choices. After casting is complete invite them to create a movie poster advertising the film.

### Magical Moments

There is magic all throughout *Hunters of the Lost City*. Have students make a comic strip that is inspired by this magic. Ask them to use characters and events from the book combined with traditional comic strip elements such as illustrations, speech bubbles, and captions. Collect and publish all the comics in a book titled *Magical Moments in the Lost City*.

### Newsworthy Assignment

The Last Sorcerers' Battle was certainly a newsworthy event! Have students pretend they are investigative journalists tasked with reporting on it. They can write a traditional newspaper article or create a TV newscast, podcast, or vlog. Encourage them to act like real journalists by asking and answering who, what, where, when, and why questions, writing catchy headlines, and combining facts from the books with made-up quotes they believe the characters would say to a real reporter. Invite students to share their news reports with the class.

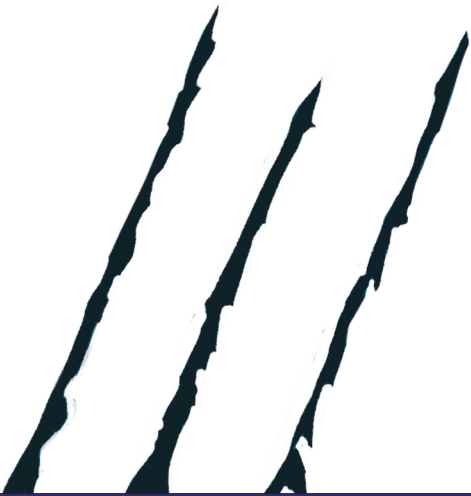
## *Hunters of the Lost City* Book-Based Activities Continued

### Literary Mock Trial

At the end of *Hunters of the Lost City*, many characters felt that Agrippina should have been held accountable for her actions. Hold a literary mock trial in your class to decide her fate. You serve as judge, choose one student to be Agrippina, and assign all the others into three groups: Prosecution, Defense, and Jury. Using evidence from the book, have students testify, defend, and argue over Agrippina's actions and their consequences. Encourage students to present their evidence, testify, and question witnesses to present a good case. After all the evidence has been presented, instruct the jury to vote on if Agrippina should be punished.

### New Adventures

At the end of *Hunters of the Lost City*, Vittoria is a new city with an uncertain future. Invite your students to help shape this future by writing its next chapter. Encourage them to use events and plot points from the book to create a narrative that takes place after the book's last scene. The chapter can be about anything, but it must have some elements of the original story and be something that could believably happen next. Invite students to read their new chapters to the class.



**Title: *Hunters of the Lost City***

**Author: By Kali Wallace**

My Rating: ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆  
★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆  
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆  
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A quick plot summary:

My favorite character is \_\_\_\_\_ because:

I think the best part of *Hunters of the Lost City* is:

**Title:** *Hunters of the Lost City*

**Author:** By Kali Wallace

One major theme in the book is:

I think that Vittoria looks like:

I would/would not recommend *Hunters of the Lost City* to a friend because:

## ABOUT THE BOOK



Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-68369-289-8

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Ages 10 and up

Twelve-year-old Octavia grew up believing the town of Vittoria was the only one left in the world. The sole survivors of a deadly magical war and plague, the people of Vittoria know there's no one alive outside the town walls—except the terrible monsters that prowl the forest.

But then the impossible happens: Octavia meets another girl beyond the walls, someone who claims to have traveled from far away. Everything she's ever believed is thrown into question, and there's no going back.

In her quest for the truth, Octavia discovers a world full of lies, monsters, and magic. She'll have to use every scrap of her wits and courage to uncover what's real about her family, her home, and the rest of the world.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Kali Wallace** is the author of books for children and adults, including *City of Islands*, *Shallow Graves*, and *Salvation Day*. She lives in Portland, Oregon.