

## LOMA – A MacIver Kids Adventure - Book Club Discussion Guide

### Opening Questions

1. What was your initial reaction to the book?
  2. Which of the ten MacIver children did you relate to most and why?
  3. How did the blend of science fiction and family drama work for you?
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### Key Themes for Discussion

#### Family & Belonging

- How does the book define “family”? How do the different characters interpret it?
- Discuss Brad’s journey from resistant foster child to accepting adoption. What changed for him?
- Compare Amar’s choice between his biological parents and adoptive family with the traditional idea of “blood is thicker than water”
- How do the MacIvers create belonging for such a diverse group of children?

#### Identity & Self-Discovery

- How does Allen’s discovery of his alien origins affect his sense of self?
- Discuss how each child’s special abilities or interests contribute to the group’s success
- How do the children’s various backgrounds shape their responses to the challenges they face?
- What role does Amar’s cultural heritage play in the story?

#### Choice & Destiny

- Examine the grandfather’s stories, particularly “The Sage’s Daughter.” How do they relate to the larger themes?
- Discuss the concept of “destiny” as presented in the book. Is it fixed or chosen?
- How do the characters balance personal choice with their supposed destiny?

#### Disability & Difference

- How does the book handle Allen’s disability? Is it portrayed realistically?
  - Discuss Brad’s creation of the off-road wheelchair. What does this reveal about his character?
  - How does the story challenge traditional narratives about disability?
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## Character Deep Dive

Consider discussing these character arcs:

- **Allen:** Leadership and acceptance
  - **Brad:** Trust and family acceptance
  - **Amar:** Cultural identity and family loyalty
  - **Antonia:** Finding courage and purpose
  - **The twins** (Sheila and Deane): Supporting roles and sisterhood
  - **Amar's grandfather:** Wisdom and sacrifice
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## Plot & Structure Questions

1. How effective was the initial mystery of the creatures in the woods?
  2. Did the pacing of the story work for you?
  3. Was the resolution satisfying? What questions were left unanswered?
  4. How did the multiple perspectives enhance or detract from the story?
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## Symbolic Elements

Discuss the significance of:

- The crystal and its powers
  - The tree house
  - The woods/forest
  - Fritter the basset hound
  - The mountain
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## Cultural & Social Themes

- How does the book handle cultural diversity?
  - What does the story say about foster care and adoption?
  - How are different types of families portrayed?
  - What role does tradition play in the story?
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### Science Fiction Elements

- How does this book compare to other children’s science fiction?
  - Discuss the concept of “energy balance” presented in the book
  - How realistic/believable were the alien elements?
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### Activities for Book Club Meeting

1. Create character maps showing relationships between characters
  2. Share personal stories of family and belonging
  3. Draw what you think the aliens really look like
  4. Create a playlist that captures the mood of different scenes
  5. Design your own version of Allen’s off-road wheelchair
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### Further Reading Suggestions

- Foster family stories
  - Middle-grade science fiction
  - Books about found family
  - Multicultural children’s literature
  - Stories featuring disabled protagonists
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### Final Discussion Questions

1. What message do you think the author wanted to convey?
  2. How might this story continue?
  3. What would you change about the book if you could?
  4. Who would you recommend this book to and why?
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### Reflection Activity

End your discussion by having each member share:

- One thing they learned
- One thing that surprised them
- One thing they’ll remember

*Note: This guide can be adapted based on your group’s size, age range, and interests. Feel free to focus on the elements that resonate most with your particular book club.*