

IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES THE POISONED KING

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BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



The questions included here illuminate some of the important themes found in *The Poisoned King* by Katherine Rundell. Perfect for use in English lessons, library sessions, assemblies, as part of story sessions or extra-curricular book clubs.

1. How was Anya's life in Argen castle different to her life in the forest? Which did she prefer and why?
2. Would you say Anya is a stereotypical princess? In what ways is she similar or different to princesses in other stories you have read, seen or heard?
3. Anya always has at least one gagana with her. If you could have a mythical creature that was always with you, what kind of mythical creature would you choose and why?
4. How is Anya's father different to his brother, Claude?
5. On page 105, Naravirala says, 'Take care, child, that you do not burn through your own heart, and leave yourself with nothing but a scorched scar to rely on.' What do you think she means by this?
6. Naravirala thinks that Anya is thirsty for justice but then she sees that she is hungry for revenge. What is the difference between justice and revenge?
7. How did you feel when you read about the fate of the dragons on page 148?
8. On page 152, Arach says, 'Mankind is not to be trusted with hordes of gold. It poisons him.' What do you think he means by this? Do you think any of the characters in the book have been 'poisoned' by gold?
9. How do you think Anya would describe Christopher?
10. Which item do you think was most important to the story: Christopher's sword, the little black book or Anya's loquillan? Why?
11. On page 256, the author writes: 'She wanted nothing to do with endings. She wanted new beginnings.' What new beginnings do you think Anya might experience in the next year of her life?
12. On reflection, which are your favourite characters, creatures and moments in the novel? Why?
13. Themes that run through the story include: friendship, love, justice, revenge, greed and bravery. Can you order these themes from the one you think is the most important in the novel to the one you think is the least important? Are there any other themes that run through the novel?
14. What colours are used on the front cover of the book? Why do you think the cover designer chose these colours? Do they relate to the story and its themes?
15. The next adventure in the Impossible Creatures series will be out in autumn 2026. Can you predict what might happen in this story? What do you think its title might be?

