

A DISCUSSION GUIDE TO

Soul Riders

BOOK 1 OF 3: JORVIK CALLING



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Step into the
universe of the
massively popular
adventure game
Star Stable



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Explore a magical world on horseback in **SOUL RIDERS**, an all-new fantasy trilogy based on the massively popular adventure game, Star Stable.

When Lisa and her dad arrive on the mysterious island of Jorvik, she finds herself in a new city and at a new school trying to make new friends. This isn't the first time Lisa's moved because of her father's work, but this time it's without her mom. She died in a riding accident, and Lisa hasn't gone near a horse since it happened. Despite her fears, it's not long before Lisa is drawn to the stables, where she meets Starshine, a blue-maned steed with whom she shares a special bond. Alongside fellow riders Alex, Linda, and Anne, Lisa learns she has a secret destiny to save the world. However, will the **SOUL RIDERS** be able to come together as a team before it's too late?

The island of Jorvik is brimming with magic waiting to be discovered, and at the heart of it all are the **SOUL RIDERS**. Each girl is not only a hero in her own right, but also complex and relatable, with struggles and triumphs that are sure to resonate with any reader. Alone, they are strong. Together, they're unstoppable!

MEET THE SOUL RIDERS



LISA PETERSON

A free spirit from Texas, dealing with the loss of her mother, Lisa and her father come back to Jorvik looking for a place to call home again. Slowly, Lisa realizes home is not always a place, but exists wherever your heart is. And only when she opens up her heart, and risks loving others again, will she be able to heal. To love is actually to live. This is Lisa. The heart of the Soul Riders.

LINDA CHANDA

Passionate about reading and logic, Linda lights the way with knowledge. She knows that courage isn't about being unafraid. It's about knowing when a danger is real and still doing what's right. The unknown only has power so long as it remains unknown. Linda is the mind of the Soul Riders.



ALEX CLOUDMILL

Having grown up on the streets of Jorvik, Alex didn't always have it easy in life. But then Elizabeth appeared and showed her that she is worth something and that she controls her own destiny. While a wild child at heart, Alex always has her friends' back and never shies away from taking responsibility. She strikes in the name of justice. Alex is the warrior of the Soul Riders.

ANNE VON BLYSSEN

Life as a riding celebrity might seem glamorous from the outside, but beneath the fame and glory, Anne seeks friends who like her for who she is, not what she's achieved. A real fighter, Anne has always found strength in adversity, but now she finds a home in the Soul Riders. Alone, she is strong—with her friends, she is unstoppable!



Discussion Questions

- Which Soul Rider do you relate to the most? Which one did you find the most challenging to understand?
- *Soul Riders* takes place on the magical island of Jorvik. What makes this setting so unique? How do the particular characteristics of Jorvik encourage Lisa to break out of her shell?
- “You’re supposed to work to live, Lisa, not live to work. I need to get my bosses to remember that” (p. 26). When Lisa’s dad said this, he was talking about work-life balance. How does this same idea apply to Lisa and her responsibility to the Soul Riders? How does it apply to someone like Anne, who loves to ride horses, but is expected to compete (and win) in competitions she doesn’t necessarily enjoy?
- *Jorvik Calling* alternates its point of view between the four Soul Riders. Why do you think the author structured the book this way? What does the story gain by balancing the perspectives of its four main characters?
- Lisa has a hard time adjusting to life in Jorvik at first, especially as she continues to process grief for her mother. If you could give Lisa advice, what would you tell her? What helps you cope with missing someone? Do you think Lisa’s mother would want her to take up riding again?
- Lisa mentions that when words fail her, she often turns to music. She associates everything—her mom, her mood, colors—with songs. Do certain songs remind you of certain people or memories? Did this book make you think of any? If you were to create a soundtrack of *Jorvik Calling*, what are a few of the songs that would be on the playlist?
- Each of the Soul Riders has a unique power, reflecting their own personal strengths that they bring to the team. Think of one of your own strengths. If that were to manifest as a special power, what would that look like?



SPOILER ALERT!

Continue the discussion after finishing the full book!

- “It felt warm when [Anne] rode with Linda, Alex, and Lisa. Safe. She stopped seeing herself from the outside – she didn’t have to overanalyze every line or movement. Is that what it’s like to have friends?” (p. 119)
 - Think about the friends that you have. What do you think are good qualities in a friend? How do the other Soul Riders make Lisa, and then Anne, feel welcome?
 - Think back: What are some other cases of the Soul Riders finding ways to understand and support one another?
- Near the end of *Jorvik Calling*, the Soul Riders find themselves on separate paths. Do you think it would’ve been better to have stuck together? Why is it more tempting sometimes to try to do things alone?
- Reread this section of the opening passage:

“It is true that you choose your own path in life. You shape your own destiny. But sometimes, fate chooses for you.”

- Think about the role of destiny in *Jorvik Calling*. Do you think the four main characters really had a choice whether or not to become Soul Riders? What external factors may have influenced the path they took?



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