

The Pirate of Panther Bay

General Discussion Questions

1. *The Pirate of Panther Bay* is set in 1780. What is happening in the world at this time? What does the book say about the times and the economic context? How are these times different from today?
2. To what extent does the historical context for the story drive the actions and decisions of the main characters? If the same story were set in the 21st century, would the characters make the same decisions? Why or why not?
3. Is the *Marè Rouge* a “typical” pirate ship? What makes it similar? What makes it different?
4. Isabella is 18 when she takes command of the *Marè Rouge*. Is she ready to lead a pirate ship? What are her strengths as a leader? How might a pirate ship be different than a regular merchant ship?
5. Isabella latches onto a “star” as her life begins to unravel. What purpose does the star serve for her? Does the star fade or disappear? Does she still need it at the end of the book?
6. What role does Jacob’s memory serve Isabella? Does it make her stronger or weaker? How does this compare to, or conflict with, her star, or the prophecy?
7. Describe the roles the principal characters play in *The Pirate of Panther Bay*. How do they complement each other? Are they substitutes? Are these relationships similar to the ones you see in your life? Which relationships seem the strongest in the book? Which ones seem the weakest?
8. How does Isabella’s relationship with Jean-Michel change throughout the book? Does it become stronger or weaker? Does Isabella need Jean-Michel more at the end of the book? How does this parallel or contrast with Isabella’s relationship with Jean-Michel?
9. How does Isabella’s character change over the course of the book?
10. What role does Carl serve in the story?
11. How does Juan Carlos’s relationship with Isabella change him over the course of the story? How would you describe him in the first chapters? How would you describe him in the last chapters? Was there a “pivot point” in the story for Juan Carlos?
12. What are five elements of *The Pirate of Panther Bay* that you believe are realistic depictions of pirate life in the 17th and 18th centuries? What are five elements you think are unrealistic? What role do they play in telling the story?