

READ GLOBAL BOOK GROUP

Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line

by Deepa Anappara

Questions

(Adapted from Penguin/Random House)

1. The first chapter begins with 'This story will save your life'. On a first reading did you find the opening difficult to understand? How do you interpret the opening chapter having read the whole book?
2. What other books have you read with a child narrator? What does a child narrator bring to the story that an adult does not?
3. Have you experienced a basti/slum/shantytown like Jai's or read about it in the news or in fiction? If so, what aspects in the book rang truest to you? Did anything surprise you?
4. There are Hindi and Urdu words and phrases scattered throughout the novel. Did you look the words up, or did you rely on context clues? Why do you think Anappara made the choice not to translate them?
5. Jai is inspired to search for his missing classmates by a TV program called Police Patrol. Did this show have a positive or negative influence on him?
6. What does the Purple Line symbolize for Jai, Pari, and Faiz? What do the other kids at the train station teach them?
7. When the police ignored the children's disappearances, why do you think the parents didn't do anything (at the least in the eyes of the other children)?
8. Discuss Jai's home life, as compared to the home lives of the other kids in the book. How do you think this influenced him? Did it shelter him from any of the realities of life in the basti?
9. What do the "hi-fi" buildings nearby mean for the children— and the adults? How does it affect them to see so much wealth but have so little themselves?

Readalikes

A Fine Balance, Rohinton Mistry [FIC MIS]

Behind the Beautiful Forevers Katherine Boo [305.569 B]

The Mountains Sing by Phan Quế Ma Nguyễn [FIC NGU]

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