

*The Fairy Godmother Academy Series Reader's Guide: Birdie's Book*  
Available free at <http://FairyGodmotherAcademy.com/bookclub>

## **PART 1: Introducing the Series**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What different ways do we use the word *dream*? What does it mean to be a dreamer? To dream big? To follow your dreams? What is the difference between dreaming at night, daydreaming, dreaming of the future?
2. Do you have a dream of how the world could be different? Write or draw your dream.
3. Does anyone in your family, or a close friend, share your dream? What could you do together to help make it real?
4. What does the word *wisdom* mean to you? How is wisdom different than knowledge?
5. Does your family share certain wisdoms? Write or talk about about a time that a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle shared with you a valuable lesson they'd learned.
6. Who in your family are you most like? How are you similar?
7. Look up the meaning of the word "talisman." Imagine a talisman that could represent you and your family. Draw, sketch, or paint a picture of it. Then write about what this talisman means to you.
8. When you imagine a fairy godmother what comes to mind? What do you imagine the fairy godmothers in the book series will be like?

### **GROUP WORK FOR DREAMERS**

Optional: Download and print "Lineage Journal" pdfs from <http://FairyGodmotherAcademy.com/lineage-journals>

1. Look up the meaning of the word "talisman." Then use the questions below to help you imagine a talisman for your group.
  - What inspires us?
  - Do we have a magic gift or skill?
  - What animals, colors, and plants do we like?
  - What have our ancestors done?

Now draw or paint a picture of your talisman. OPTIONAL: Use this talisman for the cover of your Lineage Journal.

2. Discuss your dreams about how the world could be a better place. Do other group members share your dreams? Now imagine together how you'll take action and change the world. Congratulations, you're starting a Local Lineage! If you want to create a Lineage Journal, have each member write her dream and her wisdoms on the pages (printed from the above link) and put them together in your journal.

## **Part 2: Birdie's Book**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### ***Pre-reading***

1. Have you and your family ever moved to a new city? How did you feel about being uprooted?
2. What does it mean to take care of the Earth? What are some simple things you do at home or at school to protect the green world?
3. What qualities do you think are important in a best friend? Should friends be alike or different?
4. Ask your mom, parent, or guardian to describe what she was like at your age. In what ways was she similar to you? In what ways was she different?

#### ***Getting to Know Birdie***

1. How would you describe Birdie at the beginning of the book? Is she shy? Outgoing? Smart? Funny? What details show you what Birdie is like? Does she change by the end of the book?
2. In Chapter 1, Birdie meets her Granny Mo and learns some interesting things about her grandmother, her mother, the Arbor Lineage, and herself. What does she learn?
3. Describe Birdie's family talisman, the Singing Stone. Do you think it suits Arbor girls well? Why? What role does the Singing Stone play in Birdie's Adventures?
4. In Aventurine, Birdie is befriended by Kerka. Are they more alike or different? How do their difference make their friendship stronger? What difficulties do they overcome together? Could Birdie have completed her quest without Kerka?

#### ***Dreams***

1. In Chapter 7, Queen Patchouli reveals *The Book of Dreams* to Birdie. What does Birdie find out about her mother's dream? How does she feel after she reads it?
2. Queen Patchouli says that knowing Emma's dream will begin Birdie's understanding of why she is in Aventurine and what she must do there. How is this true?
3. What is Birdie's dream? Does she accomplish it? How?
4. Did Birdie's quest in Aventurine inspire you to follow your dreams? Talk about dreams that you'd like to make real.

#### ***Wisdoms***

“There are things you have to learn to become a fairy godmother. Things about yourself, other people, the way the world can be changed.” — Queen Patchouli

1. Did your ideas about fairy godmothers change after reading Birdie's Book? How are they different? Who can be a fairy godmother?

2. What do you think Birdie learns from her time with Granny Mo, and in Aventurine? How does her new-found wisdom help her to change the world?
3. Does your family share certain wisdoms? Interview a family member to discover their wise gems. Here are some questions you might ask:
  - Who do you most admire?
  - When you were my age, what was your life's dream?
  - What has been the best surprise about how your life turned out?
  - What do you wish you had known at my age?

Write about the interview or simply discuss it with your group. What valuable lessons did your a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or guardian share?

4. *Wisdom of the Day*. Choose a Wisdom Card from the *Gallery of Wisdoms* at <http://FairyGodmotherAcademy.com/gallery-of-wisdoms> on the Fairy Godmother Academy website. Write about what the picture makes you think of and what the wisdom saying means to you.

### **GROUP WORK FOR DREAMERS**

*"I'm in...we're in... a dream, right?" I asked. "Or a dream world."*

*"A land only for the strongest dreamers," said Kerka. "Dreamers with destinies."*

— *Birdie's Book*

1. Do you wish that more people would care for the environment? Would you like to spread peace in the world? What is Birdie's dream? What is yours?
2. Discuss your dreams about how the world could change for the better. Together make your own dream book. Have each member write her dream on a page.
3. Do you dream of a greener planet? A world without hunger? A place where all kids have the chance to learn? Look to *Birdie's Blog* at <http://FairyGodmotherAcademy.com/blog> for ideas on how to make your dreams real. Consider forming your own a Fairy Godmother Academy "Local Lineage", so you can act together with other dreamers to make the world a better place.
4. What does it mean to take care of the Earth? Imagine that your Local Lineage is forming a *Green Squad*. What are some simple actions you could take together to protect the green world? How could you grow your dreams from just talking in this room to helping your neighborhood, your city, and the whole world? Think about how other Dreamers and you can work together.

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