

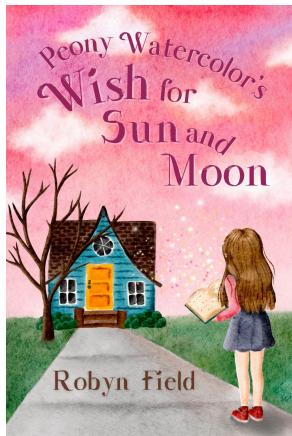
*Peony Watercolor's Wish for Sun and Moon* by Robyn Field | Reading Guide

General Questions:

1. What secret is Peony keeping from her friends? Why does Peony withhold this information from her friends?
2. Who is Lenora? Why does she ask Peony to bring her book to the library?
3. Sarah is welcomed into Peony, Marcie, and Delia's friend group and quickly fits in with the other girls. What does her presence represent to Peony, as she thinks ahead to the possibility of moving and as she struggles with the loneliness of secret-keeping?
4. Why is Peony so upset that Mr. Gruffles is missing? What does Mr. Gruffles represent to Peony? Why does she feel his loss so deeply?
5. In this midst of all her struggles at home—and the secrets and mysteries that have come from them—Peony goes through the very normal ups and downs of having a first crush. Why is Jacob so important to this story? What does he lend to Peony's character arc? What would her story lack if he wasn't in it?
6. Peony talks about her lies snowballing, how one lie leads to another lie, and how difficult it is to keep things straight. How does Peony feel when her lies are finally exposed after the talent show? Why? Does she change as a result?
7. How does Peony apologize to Delia and Marcie? How do they respond?
8. Peony is given a number of different passages to read from Lenora's magical book. Let's talk about what each is, why Lenora gives them to Peony, and how they help Peony grow. (For the leader: each of the passages are listed below. See how many your readers can remember on their own!)
  - a. Recipe for biscuits
  - b. A poem and quote by Dinah Maria Mulack Craik
  - c. Poem about Cinderella
  - d. Instructions to make a list of the good things in life
  - e. Poem "Together is Home"
9. Will Peony's family have to move to a new house? To a new state? Why do you think the author doesn't specifically tell what happens?

## Thematic Questions:

1. Friendships can be challenging no matter how old you are. In what ways are Peony, Marcie, and Delia good friends to each other? What could they have done to improve their friendship sooner? Do you need to go through arguments, disagreements, or challenges with a friend in order to have a deeper friendship?
2. Peony wins first place in the talent show, but because of how she won, she is not able to enjoy or celebrate her accomplishments. Have you ever experienced something similar?
3. The morning Peony writes her apology letters, but before she has heard their responses, Lenora tells Peony, "You're peaceful today." Why is Peony peaceful at this moment? Is everything fixed?
4. In many ways, this book is about how adolescents process grief—especially grief about adult things that are too complex for them to fully understand. How does Peony's grief manifest throughout the story in both constructive and destructive ways?
5. How, in the end, is community an important theme in this story?
6. Have you ever had someone show up in your life during a time of need who, you felt, was a sort of "Fairy Godmother" to you? In what ways did they help you? (For the leader: This could be a reflection question/share at comfort level question.)



*Peony Watercolor's Wish for Sun and Moon* is a lightly magical contemporary fantasy written by Robyn Field. It has also won a Moonbeams Award Gold Medal in Pre-Teen Fantasy.

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