

WARNED by Mahtab Narsimhan

Discussion Questions with Curriculum Links

1. How does the author build a sense of suspense and foreboding right from the book's description? What literary devices contribute to this ominous tone? (Curriculum link: Literary Analysis)
2. Avi is forced to stay in a remote Indian village away from his familiar city life. What challenges might he face adjusting to the rural setting and lack of modern conveniences? (Curriculum links: Geography, Cultural Studies)
3. The astrologer's death prophecy seems rooted in superstition rather than fact. Do you believe in the paranormal or think there could be a rational explanation? Discuss your thoughts. (Curriculum link: Debate/Persuasive Writing)
4. Avi has a tense relationship with his grandfather's "sinister servant." How might differences in social class, cultures or generations spark conflict between characters? (Curriculum links: Social Studies, Character Analysis)
5. Describe the genre conventions of a suspenseful mystery novel that the book seems to follow based on the description. (Curriculum link: Literary Analysis)
6. If you had to solve a mystery, what skills or traits would you need to rely on, like Avi and Lalita? What would be your biggest strengths/weaknesses? (Curriculum link: Personal Reflection)
7. Research the role of astrology or fortune telling in Indian culture and tradition. How might these beliefs shape the characters' perspectives? (Curriculum links: Social Studies, World Cultures)
8. What visual images or symbols from the book create an eerie, foreboding atmosphere? Write a descriptive paragraph further developing one of these images. (Curriculum links: Creative Writing, Imagery)
9. The book seems to blend contemporary story elements with Indian mythology/folklore. Can you think of any examples of legends or tales from your own culture/heritage that blur reality and fantasy? (Curriculum link: World Mythology)
10. If you were to adapt this book into a movie trailer or book advertisement, what specific visuals, dialogue, or audio elements would you use to entice people to watch/read it? (Curriculum links: Media Literacy, Marketing)