

### ***Children of Blood & Bone* Summer Reading Guide**

About the Book: Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. Danger lurks in Orïsha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers—and her growing feelings for an enemy.

A note about the text: This novel is told from the perspective of three different characters. As you read, consider how each character evolves and changes in the face of adversity.

Discussion Questions: While you are NOT required to answer every one of these questions, it is advisable that you keep them in mind as you read so we can discuss them the first week of class. Moreover, these questions will remind you of what literary elements (specifically, characterization) to think about as you read and prepare you for our discussions in August.

1. Describe Zélie's background and personality. What are her strengths and weaknesses? How does she change over the course of the book, and what causes the changes? Discuss why she characterizes her past as a "lifetime of mistakes" (p. 375). Do you agree with her assessment of herself?
2. Talk about Tzain, specifically his personality and his relationship to Zélie, using evidence from the text. How does he contribute to their quest? What does Amari like about him? Discuss Tzain's statement, "I'm tired of paying for everyone's mistakes" (p. 395).
3. Compare what Amari is like at the beginning of the novel and what she is like at the end. What brings about the changes in her character? Discuss her relationships with her father, mother, and brother, and explain how those are part of her transformation.
4. Amari embraces Zélie's cause wholeheartedly but Inan wavers. What makes the siblings different in this regard? Talk about Inan's characteristics and how his father influences him. Analyze the symbolism of Inan carrying his father's pawn. Why is Zélie attracted to Inan? Discuss the important choices he makes, especially those near the story's end.
5. Summarize the history of Orïsha in regard to the maji and kosidán, including the Raid. What is King Saran's approach to ruling the kingdom and how is it different from his father's? Why is Saran so violent? Discuss his exchange with Zélie before he has her tortured.
6. The gods are a key aspect of the novel. Describe them and the characters' encounters with them. How do the gods affect the plot? Why are they so important to Zélie and her friends?

7. Point to times and relationships in the novel where trust is a significant issue, especially among the four main characters. When is trust justified among the characters? When is trust betrayed? Why is trust such a central issue under a tyranny like King Saran's?
8. Anger is also heightened under a tyranny. Who is angry in the novel, and why? Is the anger justified? How does anger fuel some of the important action in the plot?
9. What challenges do Zélie, Amari, and Tzain face in their quest to save their country? What physical obstacles do they have to overcome on the journey? What are their worst setbacks, and how do they deal with them?
10. Why do you think the author tells the story from three viewpoints with three different voices? How are the voices different from one another? How would it be different with a single narrator? Why use first-person voices? Discuss why Tzain doesn't narrate part of the story.
11. Analyze the prologue and epilogue, and think about why the author chose to include them. Discuss the first line of the prologue and that of the first chapter. Discuss the last line of the last chapter and the last line of the epilogue. Explain how the lines relate to the novel as a whole.