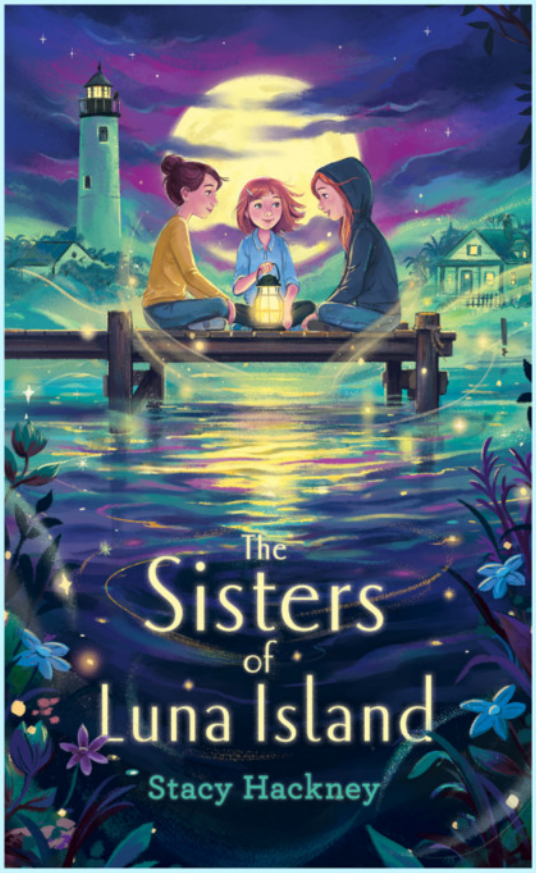

THE SISTERS OF LUNA ISLAND

by Stacy Hackney

Twelve-year-old Marigold Lafleur is the last of a long line of aromages: witches who blend scents into practical charms using aromagic. But ever since a terrible accident injured her father and damaged Luna Island, Marigold and her sisters, Birdie and Lou, have vowed to abandon their family legacy and mama's way of life. Shunned by their neighbors and overlooked by their parents, Marigold relies on her big sisters above all else.

But when Marigold discovers a secret curse that threatens her family, her sisters can't stop the impending danger. It's up to Marigold and her best friend, Sam, to uncover the origins of the curse and break the spell. To do so, she must learn to trust her instincts and believe in her own unique magic or risk losing her beloved sisters forever.

Questions for Group Discussion

Family

Marigold has struggled with her family since her father left. She leans on her older sisters, Birdie and Lou. How do Birdie and Lou provide emotional support for Marigold? What do the sisters have in common and how are they different? How does the relationship between the sisters and Marigold's view on family evolve during the book? Does Marigold see her role in the family differently at the end? What role do you play in your family?

Identity

Marigold struggles with other people's perception of her at the beginning of the story. She wants to fit in like everyone else and ignores her aromagic, which makes her different. Does her opinion on "fitting in" change over the course of the book? How does her viewpoint on aromagic tie into her viewpoint on her own identity by the end? What does Marigold learn about herself and her differences? What unique qualities about yourself are you proud of?

Community

Luna Island is a small, close-knit community. Marigold has been isolated from that community for months. How does Marigold plan to rejoin her community? What does she learn about what it means to belong to a community? What impact does your community have on you?

Magic

Aromagic is an important part of the story. Mama and Marigold have different beliefs about the personal responsibility that comes with using aromagic. How do their beliefs differ? Which one do you agree with?

Friendship

Sam has stuck by Marigold even when she's abandoned by her other friends. So why does Marigold want to rekindle her friendship with Lauren? Why do you think Marigold makes fun of Sam in front of Lauren? What does Marigold come to realize about friendship by the end of the book? Was there ever a time when you hurt one of your friend's feelings? How did you fix the friendship?

Extension Activities

1. Make Your Own Journal - Marigold finds a journal from one of her ancestors. Research your family tree and write a fictional journal entry from the point of view of your ancestor. Think about what kind of hardships they faced and how they lived on a daily basis.

2. Create a Spell Book - Marigold has a special form of magic, which combines different scents into charms. Create your own imaginary spell book with recipes that blend flowers and herbs together. What kind of spells can you dream up?

3 Enjoy a Musical - Marigold loves watching old musicals. Grab a friend and settle in for a musical movie night. Start with Annie or Singing in the Rain, two of Marigold's favorites.