GNOME IS WHERE YOUR HEART IS TEACHER'S GUIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The novel is told from two points of view: Lemon Peabody and Ensign Gnedley. How does this affect the story and information the reader finds out? How would the story play out differently for the reader if it was only from Lemon's perspective?

2. Compare and contrast the characters of Lemon and Gnedley. What traits do they share? What traits make them different? What advice would they give each other for handling the problems they each face in the novel?

3. Lemon is very single-minded in her goals with Project Validation and it leads to a fight with her friends. Why do you think Marlo and Rachel react the way they do to Lemon's actions? How could Lemon have handled things differently? What do you imagine that the three friends are up to now?

4. The Junior Forest Rangers group is used as a cover by Lemon and Marlo to work on Project Validation. How would things have gone differently in the story if Rachel had not also been a member of the group?

5. Lemon's dad Patrick spent many years being upset by Grandpa Walt's obsession with aliens. What could Walt have done differently with Patrick? What could Patrick have said to Walt? Compare and contrast the relationship between Patrick and Walt versus the one between Patrick and Lemon. How could Patrick have handled his relationship with Lemon differently?

6. The alien investigation is a group effort between Lemon, Marlo, and Rachel. What skills did each girl bring to it? How did they help each other?

7. By the end of the story, we learn that Commander Gnilsson is not who he seemed to be. What clues did you see in the story leading up to this? If you were part of the gnome crew, how would you have dealt with him?

8. Every member of the gnome crew has a different role on the ship. How was Gnedley underestimated as a member of the crew? In what way did he surprise people?

9. Courage, love, and kindness are three themes present throughout the book. How are they shown in the various characters and their actions. Choose at least three examples.

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ACTIVITIES

1. **Archive Report** – Imagine you're a visiting alien who is here to document the local flora and fauna. Examine the plants and animals in your neighbourhood. How would you describe the things you're seeing for the very first time? What would you guess their functions are?

2. **Junior Forest Rangers, Day Five** – In the novel, we never get to see what happens on Friday with the Junior Forest Rangers. What do you think the fifth pamphlet is about? What kind of information would be in it? Bonus: Create a cover for it.

3. **Welcome to Planet Earth!** – Imagine meeting an alien for the first time. What do you think are the most important things to tell them about life on Earth?

4. **Archive Branding** – The Interplanetary Natural Archives Alliance needs a new logo! Design one and then create a pitch to explain to the Alliance the different elements of your new logo and why they should choose it.

5. **Marlo's Masterpiece** – Write the opening chapter of Marlo's space adventure novel (with or without geese.) Bonus: Create a cover for it.

6. **Alien Stakeout** – Imagine you're going on a stakeout to track down an alien. What supplies would you need to bring and why?

7. **Ship Shape** – Design your own spaceship. What rooms and compartments would you include and why? What job would you have on the ship?

8. **A New Species: Plant Edition** – Imagine you discover a new plant. Where did you find it and what is it? Does it have any special properties? Give it a name and draw it.

9. **A New Species: Alien Edition** – Use the worksheet to create your very own alien being. Remember to think about any special physical features or skills they might have and what purpose they serve.

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A NEW SPECIES OF ALIEN ACTIVITY

DRAW YOUR ALIEN HERE!

Name of alien species: _____

_____

Name of home planet: _____

_____

Population: _____

Preferred Environment: _____

_____

Physical Characteristics: _____

_____

_____

Personality Traits: _____

_____

_____

Natural Enemies: _____

Preferred Diet: _____

Natural Defences: _____

Special Skills: _____

Weaknesses: _____

Other notable characteristics: _____

_____

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