

THE LIFE AND TIME OF LONNY QUICKE

Discussion Notes

- Lonny Quicke is a lifeling, someone who can save others by the touch of their hand. Would you like to have this power and why?
- Can you think of any objects, people and places that are linked to time in the book? Why do you think that time is a big theme throughout the story?
- At one point Erin asks Lonny, “Do you think one day feels like a hundred years for a mayfly?” (p.108). Do you think that would be the case? And if so, why?
- Why do you think Lonny’s dad decides to live in the middle of the forest far away from town? Do you think this is the right decision?
- Lonny is very protective of his brother Midge. Why do you think that is?
- Lonny compares his own “boot-stuffing, chicken-sorting hands” to Midge’s “careful hands” (p.14). What does that reveal about how Lonny feels about himself?
- When Midge hears the stories about lifelings in Farstoke he says, “All their stories are different than ours” (p.160). Can you think of any differences between Grandma Quicke’s stories and the stories told at Farstoke festival? Why do you think the stories are different? *As a group, you could choose to focus on the story of the Sinkly family (p.18 & p.131) or the story of William Memrie (p.155 & p.186).*
- When we meet Mr Voss, we learn that his name means ‘fox’ in English and his favourite tie has foxes on it. Do you think there are any similarities between Mr Voss and a fox in terms of their character? Think especially about when a fox kills Lonny’s chickens and Grandad Quicke says, “Fox was just doing what it knew best. Trying to take care of its family” (p.42). Can you think of a time when Mr Voss behaves in the same way and why?
- In chapter 26, Suki the dog becomes very ill. Do you think Lonny feels responsible and if so, why? How do you feel about the decision Lonny makes at the end of this chapter?
- The Voss family loves to celebrate lifelings at the festival “to give thanks and offer gifts, so that one day, when we need one most, a lifeling might appear for us, too.” But after meeting Lonny, do their opinions of lifelings change?
- Lonny wants to learn more about his mum, but all he has are “the edges of memories and a bunch of old photographs” (p.46). How does Lonny get to know his mum more throughout the book?
- Jess remembers that Lonny’s mum once told her, “It’s what you do right now that really matters.” (p.215) What do you think she means by that?



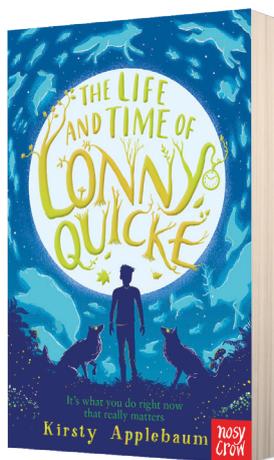
Kirsty Applebaum

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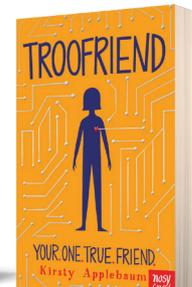
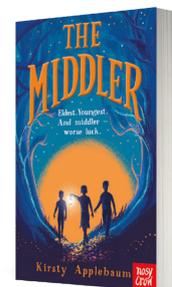
Discussion Notes

- At the end of the book Midge says about Grandad Quicke, “All he wants is some company. That’s all he ever wants, really. Can’t you even see that?” (p.239). How can you tell Grandad Quicke is lonely? Has Lonny’s relationship with his grandad changed by the end of the book?
- Can you think of times in the book where any of the characters have been brave?
- The story is told from Lonny Quicke’s point of view and we see the world through his eyes. In what ways would the story be different if it was told from someone else’s perspective, for example Midge’s, or from someone in the Voss family?
- Why is Lonny frustrated living “in the middle of the forest when everyone is getting on with their lives” (p.243)?
- At the end of the book, Lonny joins Jess and his Grandad to go on a tour around the world, visiting the places his mum has been. What emotions did you feel at the end of this book? Did you expect it to end this way? What did it make you think about?



We hope you enjoyed reading the book!
Share your thoughts and reviews with us on
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#TheLifeandTimeofLonnyQuicke

Also by
Kirsty Applebaum



THE LIFE AND TIME OF LONNY QUICKE

Creative Activities



Author **KIRSTY APPLEBAUM** shares ideas for getting stuck into your own creative writing and drawing, all inspired by *The Life and Time of Lonny Quicke*!

Fairy Tale Comic Strip

When I wrote *The Life and Time of Lonny Quicke*, I wanted to explore what would happen if a fairy tale came true. This is a really fun way to start a story. Imagine you've been given a handful of magic beans. What will you do with them? Perhaps you decide to plant them in your school garden, or in your grandma's vegetable patch, or on the grassy bit in the middle of a roundabout. Do they grow into an enormous beanstalk like the ones in *Jack and the Beanstalk* – or do they grow into something else? Is there a giant lurking somewhere? Use drawings and speech bubbles to tell your story in a comic-strip or graphic-novel style.

The Festival

In the middle of *The Life and Time of Lonny Quicke* there is a festival with live music, stalls, candy floss and even a zipwire. Can you remember a fete, fair or festival that you've been to – perhaps a school summer fete? What was your favourite stall? What colours do you remember? Was there any music playing? What was the weather like? What did you eat? Did anything happen that made you feel unhappy, or worried, or that made you laugh? How did you feel when it was all over? Write a short piece about it, or draw a picture showing your memories. If you can't remember a fete, fair or festival, you can make up your own! Think about what a visitor might see, smell, taste, hear and touch while they're there.

Share your work with us!

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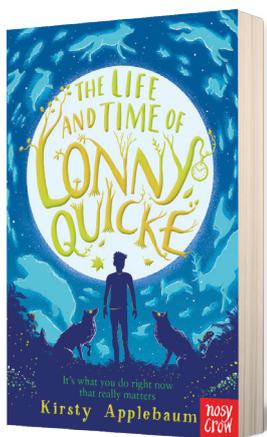
Creative Activities

Animal Guards

In *The Life and Time of Lonny Quicke* there is a town called Farstoke. Farstoke has a high wall all the way around it, with four gates for people to come and go. The local folklore says that many, many years ago, wild animals used to guard the gates: wolves, bears, stags and geese. If you built a walled town, what animals would you choose to guard your gates? Let your imagination run wild – the animals can be real or imaginary. Draw a map of your town with the animals at the gates, or write a scene describing invaders trying to get past the animal guards.

A Letter in a Hurry

In *The Life and Time of Lonny Quicke*, Lonny finds a letter written by someone who had to leave very suddenly, in the middle of the night. Imagine you have to leave home very quickly in the middle of the night. Write a letter to someone you are leaving behind. Why do you have to leave? How are you feeling? Excited and happy? Worried and sad? Nervous and scared? Are you in danger, or are you heading off for an adventure? What things are you taking with you, and what things are you leaving behind? Who are you writing the letter to? Do you know when you'll be able to see them again?



We hope you enjoyed these activities!

Share your work with us:

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