

***Lobizona* Discussion Questions and Activities**

Phase 1 Pg 5-88

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***Lobizona* Discussion Questions**

Phase 1 Pg 5-88

Character Perspective: How does Manu's perception of her mother evolve throughout the novel? How does the shift relate to you and your relationship to an adult in your life?

9-12.5.3.3 – Analyze how complex characters develop, interact, and advance the plot or theme.

Symbolism & Style: The recurring motif of eyes—especially Manu's golden ones—serves as both a symbol and a source of conflict. How does Garber use this symbol to deepen the story's themes and reinforce Manu's transformation?

– Analyze how literary techniques and authorial choices shape meaning and tone.

Moral Dilemma: Manu must choose between hiding her truth or embracing it at great risk. Evaluate her decision-making process and argue whether her choices were justified. Support your stance with textual evidence.

9-12.8.1.1 – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

First Thought, Second Thought

Think about why Manu's mom lied to her about their past and identity.

What is your first thought on this?

As you end Phase 1 of the book come back and reflect on your second thought

Phase 2 Pg 91-218

- Mantras & Mental Strength:** Throughout *Lobizona*, Manu uses mantras to ground herself and push through fear, uncertainty, and isolation. Choose one mantra from the novel and analyze how it helps her persevere. How might a personal mantra serve a similar purpose in your own life?
- 9-12.5.2.2 – Analyze theme development; 9.4.1.1 – Participate effectively in discussions, expressing ideas clearly and building on others’ perspectives.
- Ask an adult in your life if they have any sayings, prayers, or affirmations they use in tough times. What do these words mean to them – and to you?
- 9-12.5.2.2 – Analyze theme development and personal relevance.
- Magical Realism & Genre:** *Lobizona* blends fantasy with real-world issues like immigration and gender norms. How does Garber’s use of magical realism enhance or complicate these themes?
- 9-12.5.9.9 – Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work.
- Literary Technique & Identity:** Romina Garber uses magical realism to explore Manu’s identity as both undocumented and supernatural. How does this blend of genres shape the meaning and emotional impact of the story?
- Analyze how literary elements and techniques develop meaning and style.

Phase 3 Pg 221-344

Personal Reflection: If you were part of the Septimus world, which magical identity would you claim and why? Use traits, values, and personal experiences to justify your choice.

9-12.4.1.1 – Initiate and participate effectively in collaborative discussions.

Language & Oppression: Analyze how Garber uses language—especially labels like “illegal,” “Lobizona,” and “bruja”—to explore systems of exclusion. How do these words shape Manu’s experience?

9-12.5.4.4 – Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings.

Journal Prompt:

Create a Venn diagram – comparing you and Manu at this stage in your life.

- In one circle list traits, experiences and beliefs unique to you.
- In the other circle those that are unique to Manu – e.i. Lobizona.
- In the overlapping of the circles share what emotions, struggles or values you two share.

Based on your diagram write a paragraph reflection on how you are different or surprisingly like Manu. What does the comparison reveal to you about your own journey and identity?

9-12.8.1.1 – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Phase 4 Pg 347-391

**Educators note - the visual representations can be share with the author when she visits*

Visual Interpretation: Create a visual representation (e.g., sketch, collage, digital art) of the witches and their powers. How does this help you interpret their roles in the story?

9-12.9.1.1 – Integrate visual displays into presentations to clarify and enhance understanding.

Shadow Selves: Manu, Tiago, Cata, and Saysa confront their shadow selves. What does this concept reveal about their internal conflict and personal growth?

9-12.5.5.5 – Analyze how an author’s choices create effects such as tension or surprise.

Shifting Identity: Trace Manu’s identity transformation from the beginning to the end of the novel. What external forces and internal realizations drive this change?

9-12.5.3.3 – Analyze character development and its role in shaping narrative structure.

Cultural Identity: Manu struggles with her Argentine heritage and magical identity. Discuss with your family what cultural traditions or stories shape your identity. How do they help you feel rooted?

9-12.5.6.6 – Analyze how cultural experiences influence perspectives in a text.

Journal Prompt: 9-12.8.1.1 – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Explore Manu and Cata’s developing friendship. What prompted them to be so distant and learn to grow to care and respect one another? Reflect on a moment or moments in the book that deepened their bond. Then think of a friendship in your life that changed over time – what barriers did you or your friend have to overcome?

Discuss: 9-12.4.1.1 – Initiate and participate effectively in collaborative discussions, building on others’ ideas and expressing your own clearly.

What does Cata and Saysa’s relationship reveal about the tension between personal identity and external expectations? In what ways to they learn to resist the rules imposed on them by society and their families? What does that resistance cost them?