

***Lobizona* Discussion Questions**

1. Living under the threat of deportation creates a constant state of anxiety. How does this shared fear shape Manu and her mothers' bond, their routines, and their definition of safety and home?
2. Manu's transition from the human world to the Septimus realm mirrors the immigrant experience of navigating unfamiliar systems. How do both worlds challenge her sense of belonging, and what does she learn from each?
3. In what ways does Manu's isolation—both physical and emotional—affect her perception of herself and others? How does being excluded from society and school shape her internal dialogue and her longing for connection?
4. In the book there are labels like "illegal," "Lobizona," and "bruja"—to explore systems of exclusion. How do these words shape Manu's experience? How do you think they shape the experience of teens and adults now?
5. How do Manu's friendships challenge or reinforce her feelings of being an outsider? How do her relationships with peers either validate her uniqueness or deepen her sense of alienation?
6. What does Manu's connection to nature and plant-based medicine reveal about her heritage and resilience? How do these practices reflect ancestral wisdom and provide strength in a world that often feels hostile? Are there any traditions, practices or beliefs that have been passed down as sources of resilience for you in your life?
7. How does the legend of the lobizón and bruja reflect the tension between myth and reality in Manu's life? What does the blending of folklore and lived experience say about the power of stories to shape identity?
8. The Septimus society enforces a rigid gender binary: lobizones are designated male, brujas female. Manu's identity disrupts this framework. In what ways does this mirror the experiences of non-binary individuals in our own society, and how do they challenge or reshape traditional gender norms?
9. What role does Argentine folklore play in shaping Manu's understanding of her identity and destiny? How do cultural myths help her make sense of her powers and her place in both worlds? How do the stories you grew up with shape your understanding of who you are or how you see yourself?

10. How do the magical laws and traditions of the Septimus world mirror or challenge real-world cultural norms? Consider how the rigid rules of the magical society reflect societal expectations and prejudices Manu faces outside it.
11. Manu struggles with her Argentine heritage and magical identity. Discuss with an adult what cultural traditions or stories shape your identity. How do they help you feel rooted? Have you struggled with any of your identities?
12. What does Cata and Saysa's relationship reveal about the tension between personal identity and external expectations? In what ways do they learn to resist the rules imposed on them by society and their families?

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