

DISCUSSION GUIDE



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Finders of Silverthorn Forest: The Lost Treasures

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

“We Finders have what we call the Golden Rule: Finders Keepers.”

While hunting for an old time capsule that his grandma once buried in the woods, Max never expects to discover the home of a small magical creature. Nor does he expect that magical creature to have an extensive collection of lost items, all catalogued and labelled. Yet this is how he meets Tuftorous Snook, collector of lost objects, and just one of the many Finders living in Silverthorn Forest.

Thrilled by his discovery, Max can't wait to find out more about these extraordinary creatures. But when he accidentally breaks the most important rule – *never steal* – he's banished from their home. With Silverthorn Forest in danger, however, Max must somehow find a way to save Tuft and the other Finders before it's too late.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rachel Chivers Khoo was born in Belfast and spent most of her childhood sheltering in her local library from the endless Northern Irish rain. She studied English Literature at Oxford before working in book publishing. She is the author of *The Wishkeeper's Apprentice* and *The Magician Next Door*. She lives in Oxford with her family and far too many books.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Beginning: Chapters 1– 6

1. ***“The Golden Rule always applied: Finders Keepers”* p. 16**

The Finders collect lost objects. What sorts of treasures would you like to find if you had magical whiskers?

The Finders believe in the rule of “Finders Keepers”. Do you think it's fair or unfair for them to keep the lost objects they find?

EXTENSION: Creative writing – Write a diary entry in the voice of a Finder. Describe finding a lost object with your whiskers and think of a new name for your found treasure (like Tuft's “string-maker”).

2. **Max and Tuft's friendship**

Max and Tuft's relationship gets off to a tricky start when Max enters Tuft's home without permission.

We learn that Finders don't trust humans. Why do you think the Finders are so wary of humans?

Max can hardly believe his eyes when he meets Tuft for the first time. How would you feel if you met a “talking animal” (p. 50)?

Tuft and Max soon become friends. What actions does they each take to form a friendship?



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Middle: Chapters 7–12

3. The Treasure Burrow

The Treasure Burrow is at the heart of Silverthorn Forest and contains all of the Finders' most valuable treasures. Have a look at the map at the start of the book. Which other important locations are marked on the map?

EXTENSION: Draw a map of a magical woodland from your own imagination. Mark some important locations on your map and use them to plan a story.

4. Mr Pellington

What's your first impression of Mr Pellington? How would you describe him in three words?

What character traits do you think a villain should have? Can you think of any other villains from other books you've read recently? How are they similar to or different from Mr Pellington?

End: Chapters 13–18

5. The Time Capsule

Grandma's time capsule is full of trinkets, notes and drawings from her childhood. These simple things have lots of sentimental value for her. The Finders don't seem to understand sentimental value. How would you describe the concept to them? What do you think of the saying "One person's rubbish is another's treasure"? If you were making a time capsule, what would you put inside?

EXTENSION: Make your own time capsule using the activity instructions at the back of the book.

6. The Ancient Oak

The ancient oak tree in Silverthorn Forest is over half a millennium old. How important do you think it is to protect our ancient trees? Do you know of any ancient trees in or near your hometown? Can you think of any other books or poems that celebrate trees and nature?

EXTENSION: Read the "How to Spot an Ancient Tree" section at the back of the book and design a poster to help educate others about the importance of protecting our woodland.

