

**PINE VIEW SCHOOL
SUMMER READING 2014-2015
STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 7**

**City of the Beasts by Isabel Allende
Guided Reading Questions For Discussion:**

Questions should be answered in complete sentences. Answers must have proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Type your work using 12 point Times New Roman font. Answers must be supported by specific evidence from the text and cited correctly.

Here is the format to follow when answering these questions: For each question begin your answer by “borrowing” from the question and writing your answer in a complete sentence. Following this answer find a quote from an actual part of the story to support your answer. To introduce this quote tell the setting of this part of the story and tell who is speaking. Transition to the quote and cite the page number in parentheses.

Note: Below it is an example of one possible way to answer question #1 using support and citing from the story. Follow this format as you write your answers to the rest of the questions below.

1. Alexander goes into a destructive rage after witnessing his father chopping off his mother's hair. How do his reactions to his mother's illness contrast to his sister's reactions?

Alex's reactions to his mother's illness contrast to his sister's reactions because Alex has a hard time controlling his temper. He arrives home from school during lunch to get his flute and finds his father cutting off his mother's hair. The author, Isabel Allende, shares, "For a few seconds, Alex stood frozen, stupefied, not taking in what he saw: the hair on the floor, the shaved head, the knife in his father's hand only inches from his mother's neck. When he came to his senses, a terrible cry rose up from his very toes and a wave of madness washed over him"(8). His sisters appear younger and less concerned. Looking in on Alex when he wakes up, his sister Andrea asks, "Are you redecorating your room, Alex?"(10). This shows that Alex's reactions contrast to those reactions of his sisters who do not truly understand the seriousness of their mother's situation.

2. Kate Cold purposely isn't waiting at the airport for Alexander when he arrives in New York. How does this help to prepare him for their journey to the Amazon? Discuss and cite an example of one of the mistakes he makes and what important lesson he learns from it.

3. Describe the relationship between Alexander and his grandmother.

- a) How is this relationship different from the typical relationship between a grandmother and her grandson?
- b) How does their relationship help Alexander cope with both his mother's illness and the journey into the Amazon?
- c) Cite one instance in the story when their relationship changes?

4. Describe how the male chauvinistic ideals of Mauro Carius and Ludovic Leblanc's clash with the strong-minded women on the journey. Cite one specific example.
5. What are totemic animals? Describe and cite the circumstances showing how Alexander and Nadia's totemic animals are revealed to them.
6. How do Alexander and Nadia's strengths and weaknesses complement one another? Cite one example showing how they help each other overcome their personal weaknesses by relying on the other's personal strengths.
7. a) Explain how Dr. Omayra Torres deceives the other members of the group?
b) Cite and explain how her motives are ironic?
8. a) What is the symbolism of the crystal eggs and the water of health?
b) Why do Nadia and Alexander risk their lives for these things?
c) Cite and explain what they give up in order to attain them?
9. Explain the irony surrounding Ludovic Leblanc.
a) How does his public image and reputation contrast with his personal actions? Cite one specific example.
b) How do LeBlanc's opinions about the Indians and the Beast change as the story evolves?
10. Who is Walimai? Cite details to describe him. What role does he play in the story?
11. a) Describe the Beasts. Cite at least one specific detail.
b) How do they compare to the image that the members of the expedition had projected?
12. How does the story end for each of the main characters? Cite details for each of these characters: Ludovic, Kate, Alexander, Nadia, and Mauro Carias.