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Johnston Public Library Book Discussion Questions

Get in Trouble by Kelly Link

Summary

Link has won an ardent following for her ability, with each new short story, to take readers deeply into an unforgettable, brilliantly constructed fictional universe. The nine exquisite examples in this collection show her in full command of her formidable powers. In “The Summer People,” a young girl in rural North Carolina serves as uneasy caretaker to the mysterious, never-quite-glimpsed visitors who inhabit the cottage behind her house. In “I Can See Right Through You,” a middle-aged movie star makes a disturbing trip to the Florida swamp where his former on- and off-screen love interest is shooting a ghost-hunting reality show. In “The New Boyfriend,” a suburban slumber party takes an unusual turn, and a teenage friendship is tested,

Hurricanes, astronauts, evil twins, bootleggers, Ouija boards, iguanas, *The Wizard of Oz*, superheroes, the Pyramids . . . These are just some of the talismans of an imagination as capacious and as full of wonder as that of any writer today. But as fantastical as these stories can be, they are always grounded by sly humor and an innate generosity of feeling for the frailty—and the hidden strengths—of human beings. In *Get in Trouble*, this one-of-a-kind talent expands the boundaries of what short fiction can do.

Discussion Questions

1. Is there a central theme to the stories? What are the issues that the author explores?
2. Which story (or stories) did you find most significant – or interesting, profound, illuminating, amusing, disturbing or sad? What was memorable about the book?
3. Did you like the structure of the book? What are your thoughts about reading short stories collected in a book vs. a novel?
4. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately or did it take you a while to “get into it”? How did you feel while you were reading it – amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored ...?
5. If you could ask the author a question, what would you ask?

6. Were the endings of the stories satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not ... and how would you change them?
7. Would you read other stories or novels by this author? Why or why not?

Discussion Questions adapted from LitLovers.com