Dig into the *New York Times* bestselling series that's taking the world by storm!

The Keeper of the Lost Cities series is all about friendships and finding the strength within yourself. Not to mention perseverance, determination, and endless adventure. So, what are you waiting for? Let’s get started!

Gather like-minded fantasy lovers for an epic adventure! This book club guide is here to help you create a fun and interactive space where you and your friends can get started on the Keeper of the Lost Cities series! The books transport readers to a vibrant world where elves live in Lost Cities like Atlantis and others forgotten by or unknown to the human world. Our main character, Sophie Foster, slowly discovers the secrets of her past as well as the potential perils of her future, and gains a band of friends along the way who have just as many secrets as she does.

Use this guide to read and discuss book one with your friends. And if you’re clamoring for more, use the discussion questions in the back for the rest of the books in the series!

**Inside You’ll Find:**

🌟 Hosting Pro Tips
🌟 How to Prepare
🌟 Activities
🌟 Discussion Questions for Each Book
Hosting Pro Tips

Book club gatherings can be a ton of fun, and with a small amount of prep work, you can make them magical! Keep the suggestions below in mind as you prepare and host your book club meetings:

1. Come prepared
Get creative in how you decorate, the music you play, and the activities you supply. Seems like a lot? No worries—we’ve got suggestions aplenty in this guide to help you get started!

2. Ask questions
Even though you might be the host of your book club, don’t be afraid to ask your members questions! They can offer suggestions on games, discussion questions, and so much more. Build your book club and figure out what works best for you!

3. Be enthusiastic
KOTLC (what we call Keeper of the Lost Cities for short) is full of action, intrigue, and plenty of material to keep your discussion thriving. Start with the first book and once you’re hooked, you can continue on to the rest!

How to Prepare

You don’t need a lot to make your meeting space magical. Here are some tips for making your book club come to life!

Visit ShannonMessenger.com
The wonderful Shannon Messenger, the creator of the Keeper world, loves her fans! Make sure to stop by her website ShannonMessenger.com and explore all the fun activities and extras she’s created for her fans! She also posts weekly on her Instagram at @SW_Messenger.

Character Photos
Print out the headshots of the main characters of the series that you can easily grab from ShannonMessenger.com/Keeper-of-Lost-Cities (scroll all the way down to see them). Hang them up around the room and voilà—you’ve created a “Keeper” space!

“Keeper” Playlists
Set the tone of your book club by listening to playlists curated by Shannon Messenger herself for each book in the series! They’re easy to find on ShannonMessenger.com/Keeper-of-Lost-Cities/Playlists

Snacks That Will “Keep” You Coming Back!
These scrumptious recipes can all be found on ShannonMessenger.com/Keeper-of-Lost-Cities/Recipes:

✱ Mallowmelt
✱ Mallowmelt Cupcakes
✱ Fitz’s Favorite Chocolate-Mint Ripplefluffs
✱ Sophie’s Special Butter-Toffee Ripplefluffs
“Keep” the book club going with fun activities to end your meet-up! After discussing the book, pondering questions, and eating the yummy snacks, consider also doing one or more of the activities below to end your session.

**Character Polls/Quizzes**
Using the character headshots you printed out for decoration, have your book club members put colored sticky notes beneath their favorite characters! Or, using cutout colored hearts, have your members vote on who they “ship” different characters with! If you have an Instagram account, post a picture using the hashtag #KeeperoftheLostCities or #KOTLC.

**Make Your Own Prattle Pins!**
Prattle pins are collectible items in the Keeper of the Lost Cities world. One is created for every known animal alive in the world. For example, in *Exile*, we learn that there were only two known Alicorns alive so there were only two Alicorn pins ever made—making them extremely rare. Give your members a chance to create their own pins!

**Supplies:**
- Paper
- Pencils/Pens/Colored Pencils
- Pieces of cardboard
- Hot glue gun or rubber cement
- Safety pins
- Mug/cup or circular item

**Step-by-Step:**
1. Using a mug, cup, or other circular item, trace a circle on a piece of paper and a piece of cardboard. Cut out the cardboard circle; this will be the backing for your pin.
2. Within the paper circle draw whichever magical creature your heart desires! Color in your creature if you’d like.
3. Once you are satisfied with your creation, cut out your paper circle.
4. Then glue your design to your cardboard circle.
5. With adult supervision, hot glue your cardboard piece to the front of your safety pin.
6. Huzzah! You’ve created your own prattle pin that can now be put on your backpack or person!

**Draw Your Own Family Crest!**
Take a look at each of the covers of the seven books out so far. Elves in the Lost Cities world wear capes, and the cover art throughout the series showcases characters’ various capes and the pins that hold them together. These pins are family crest pins. After reading the first book, give your members the opportunity to design their own family crests! Follow the same process as the prattle pins, only this time draw an imagined family crest!
Write a Round-Robin Short Story About Characters in Keeper of the Lost Cities!

Supplies:
- Clipboard (5)
- Pen or pencil (5)
- Paper (5)

Step-by-Step
1. Gather into groups of five or less.
2. Brainstorm as a group a topic you want to write about. It can be anything you want! For example, you could write a story about the newest power Sophie has discovered she has or the latest creature friend she’s met. Get creative!
3. Once a topic has been decided, everyone will write an introductory sentence to a story. Don’t share them aloud; everyone should begin writing the story they have in mind. You only have two minutes to do so.
4. Then everyone will pass their clipboard to the person on their right. Each person then has another two minutes to write the next sentence or two in the story their friend started.
5. The process should continue until the clipboards have returned to their original owners. The final writing round gives the person who wrote the first sentence a chance to conclude their own story.
6. Once they’re done, everyone should read their stories out loud—this activity can be serious or incredibly funny, depending on what everyone wrote!

Get the Conversation Started!

Get started with book one: Keeper of the Lost Cities. We’ve picked a handful of questions for you to use as discussion prompts for each in your first book club meeting!

Keeper of the Lost Cities #1: Keeper of the Lost Cities
1. Belonging is a main theme in book 1 of KOTLC. Sophie felt alone in the human world but doesn’t quite fit in the elven world either. Does she have to be the same as everyone else to belong?
2. Sophie keeps a lot of secrets and is also trying to crack a few. What do you think she may be hiding? And do you think it’s healthy for her to keep her own secrets?
3. What are Sophie’s relationships with her old and new families like? How do they change throughout the book? How do you define family?
4. Many of the chapters throughout the book end on cliffhangers. What was the biggest cliffhanger for you that made you want to keep reading?
Get the Conversation Started!

Loved reading the first book? “Keep” going with books two and three: *Exile* and *Everblaze*! Here are more questions to help your group get talking!

**Keeper of the Lost Cities #2: Exile**

1. Sophie builds a lot of friendships throughout the series. Why is trust important in these relationships? What does it mean for Sophie and her friends to trust themselves and their abilities?

2. Describe Silveny and her personality. What’s her relationship with Sophie like? What feelings do she and Sophie have in common?

3. What is the Black Swan organization? Who are the men in the dark capes who try to steal Silveny?

4. The Lost Cities are not entirely peaceful. What are some of the weapons and methods of fighting used in the books? Can you draw any parallels to political and social issues in our world today?

**Keeper of the Lost Cities #3: Everblaze**

1. How often does Sophie work with her friends? What makes a team strong and successful? Would you say Sophie and her friends are successful?

2. More than one character is betrayed by someone they care for. Describe these betrayals. Who betrayed whom? Why?

3. Do you wish you could enter the minds of others like Sophie? If you could have powers, which of Sophie’s would you want? Why?

4. There are a lot of mysteries throughout the Keeper of the Lost Cities series, what have you learned so far? Who do you think the Neverseen are? What role does the Black Swan play in Sophie’s life?
Get the Conversation Started! continued

Your book club is on a roll! “Keep” it up and continue reading and discussing this engrossing series with these questions for books four and five: *Neverseen* and *Lodestar*!

**Keeper of the Lost Cities #4: Neverseen**

1. Tam becomes an important character in the story. Describe what he’s like when Sophie first meets him and why the friends have doubts about him.

2. Sophie says to Keefe, “What I’m trying to realize is that it’s okay to be different.” What prompts her to say this to him?

3. Why do Sophie and her friends go to Exillium? Would you want to be a student at Exillium? Why or why not?

4. What has Sophie learned about the Black Swan? Does it change how you think about the Black Swan?

**Keeper of the Lost Cities #5: Lodestar**

1. What is Lumenaria like? Why is it important?

2. Lord Cassius sends Keefe a message that says he can always come back home. Why does that surprise Sophie? Did it surprise you? What does it say about Lord Cassius as a person?

3. How does matchmaking work? If you could control the matchmaking process, who would you include in Sophie’s list? Would you want a matchmaking list for yourself?

4. What does the moonlark stand for? Why does Sophie feel like the moonlark pin symbolizes the role she needs to play?
Superfans unite! Your book club has proven that it has what it takes to continue meeting and sharing the love for Sophie and her friends! Use these questions to discuss books six and seven: *Nightfall* and *Flashback!*

**Keeper of the Lost Cities #6: Nightfall**

1. Sophie and her friends learn something shocking and amazing about Mr. Forkle. What do they find out?
2. Sophie expects King Dimitar to challenge her, but he challenges Keefe instead. What is the challenge? Who wins, and how does he do so?
3. Sophie doesn’t have romantic feelings for Dex, so why does she kiss him? How does the kiss affect Sophie and her friends?
4. What is the relationship between Keefe’s blood and Nightfall? What is Keefe’s “legacy” according to his mother Lady Gisela? How does Keefe feel about his mother?

**Keeper of the Lost Cities #7: Flashback**

1. When Sophie expresses her lack of confidence about their possible romance, Fitz tells her that she’s “the most powerful elf our world has ever seen.” What makes her powerful?
2. Why doesn’t Sophie see herself that way? Why do you think she lacks self-confidence? Can you relate to Sophie? Why can it be harder to convince yourself of your worth than it is to convince others? Explain your answer.
3. Do you want Sophie and Fitz to become romantically involved? What’s stopping them from getting together? What does the ending of the book make you think about their future as a couple? Do you think they have a future together?
4. Sophie learns how to use a throwing star. Would you want to learn that? Why is she conflicted about learning how to use the weapon? Do you think Sophie is correct in thinking that Project Moonlark made her a “natural killer”? Why or why not?
Get the Conversation Started! continued

*Legacy*, book eight, is the latest installment of the series and SURE to leave you breathless. If your group is ready to join Team Valiant, use these questions to discuss your thoughts and feelings.

**Keeper of the Lost Cities #8: Legacy**

1. What strengths does each member bring to Team Valiant? How does Sophie feel about being the leader? If you were in her shoes, how would you feel?

2. Sophie searching for her biological parents—who does she tell and who doesn’t she tell? Why is she keeping it a secret?

3. Why does Fitz care so much about identifying Sophie’s biological parents? How does he react when she explains that she isn’t going to keep trying to find out about them? How does Sophie and Fitz’s relationship change throughout this novel? Now think about Keefe and Sophie’s relationship, and how it changes during the book. What do you think Ro keeps hinting at? When does Fitz seem jealous of Keefe? Why?

4. Why is Sophie so convinced that she’s “basically defective”? How do her friends see her and how does that differ from the way she sees herself? Can you relate to that at all?

**About the Author**

*New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling author **SHANNON MESSENGER**

Shannon Messenger graduated from the USC School of Cinematic Arts, where she learned—among other things—that she liked watching movies much better than making them. She has studied art, screenwriting, and film production, but she realized her real passion was writing stories for children. She’s the *New York Times* and *USA TODAY* bestselling author of the award-winning middle grade series, *Keeper of the Lost Cities*, as well as the *Sky Fall* series for young adults. Her books have been featured on multiple state reading lists, published in numerous countries, and translated into many different languages. She lives in Southern California with an embarrassing number of cats. Find her online at ShannonMessenger.com.