

A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

THE KEEPER OF THE ISIS LIGHT by Monica Hughes



www.florisbooks.co.uk

Themes/issues addressed in this book

Space; emigration; overcrowding and pollution on Earth; environmental issues; alienation

Book Summary

This exciting story is set in the distant future. The 16-year-old Keeper of the Isis Light, Olwen Pendennis, and her companion, Guardian, have lived alone on the remote planet of Isis since the death of Olwen's parents. Now, colonists from overcrowded and polluted Earth have arrived to settle in Isis' unspoiled valleys. Conflict arises as the new inhabitants start to repeat the mistakes of past generations and Olwen fears they may ruin Isis forever. This is a classic work of science fiction, full of drama and tension.

BEFORE READING

Group Activities

- Discussion: talk about what the future might be like in terms of life in space.
- Discussion: talk about what makes you happy, what clothes you like, what music you like, what is important to you.

AFTER READING

Individual Work

- Write down the clues we are given which warn us about Olwen being 'different'.
- Write a description of a 'floater'.
- Write a paragraph describing why Olwen feels sad when the lark is singing.
- Write about the feelings you would have if your dog or cat died.
- Write about how you would feel if people were afraid of you because of the way you looked.
- Choose five words from the vocabulary list below and use them in a short story.

Group Activities

- Discussion: talk about why change is sometimes hard to accept. What changes have you had to deal with?
- Discussion: what aspects of your life would you like to leave behind if you were able to go and live on another planet?

Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean:
 - impetus
 - crevices
 - insistent
 - perfect
 - whirled
 - delicacies
 - extinguish
 - swathe
 - predators
 - disorientated
 - soared
 - subservient

FLYWAYS

Series Summary

Flyways was conceived in response to the general decline in children's literacy levels. The series provides high quality, imaginative and thought-provoking fiction to children who are currently unchallenged by the majority of available reading material. The Flyways series includes a high percentage of prize-winning international literature, as well as books by new and established authors.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED

5-14 Curriculum (Scotland)

Years: P6-P7, S1-S3

Reading:

Reading for Information
Reading to Reflect
Awareness of Genre

Talking:

Talking in groups
Talking about texts
Talking about experiences, feeling and opinions

Writing:

Functional
Imaginative

National Curriculum (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)

Key Stages 2 and 3

English: Reading

Reading Strategies

Response to Texts, inc analysing and evaluating

Reading for Information

National Literacy Strategy:

Text-Level Reading

Text-Level Writing

Vocabulary