

Teacher's Discussion Guide: Careful What You Wish For

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Synopsis: Eshana, a lonely teen, discovers a website that grants wishes, but soon realizes that these wishes come with unforeseen and negative consequences. She learns about online safety, the impact of bullying, and the importance of self-acceptance and true friendship.

Themes: Bullying, online predators, wish fulfillment, supernatural elements, loneliness, friendship, internet safety, self-acceptance.

Discussion Questions:

1. Online Safety:

- What are the potential dangers of interacting with strangers online?
- What red flags did Eshana miss when interacting with "Wise One" on the I-WISH website?
- How can you protect yourself from online predators?
- *Curriculum Link:* Computer/Technology Skills, Social Studies

2. Bullying:

- How does Cara bully Eshana, and what impact does it have on Eshana's self-esteem?
- What are some strategies for dealing with bullies?
- Why is it important to stand up to bullying, whether you are the victim or a witness?
- *Curriculum Link:* Social-Emotional Learning, Language Arts

3. Wish Fulfillment and Consequences:

- What does Eshana wish for, and what are the immediate results?
- How do Eshana's wishes backfire and create unintended problems?
- What does this story teach us about the importance of thinking before we act and considering the potential consequences of our choices?
- *Curriculum Link:* Language Arts, Social-Emotional Learning

4. Friendship:

- How do Eshana's friendships with Pia and Tito evolve throughout the story?
- What qualities make a good friend?
- How can true friends help us overcome challenges and make better decisions?
- *Curriculum Link:* Social-Emotional Learning, Language Arts

5. Self-Acceptance:

- Why does Eshana feel like a "social misfit" at the beginning of the story?
- How does she learn to accept herself for who she is?
- Why is it important to value our own unique qualities and not try to be someone we're not?
- *Curriculum Link:* Social-Emotional Learning, Language Arts



Curriculum Links:

- **Language Arts:** Reading comprehension, character analysis, creative writing, persuasive writing, media literacy
- **Social Studies:** Social themes, cultural studies
- **Computer/Technology Skills:** Internet safety, understanding online relationships, evaluating sources
- **Social-Emotional Learning:** Empathy, conflict resolution, self-esteem, decision-making, consequences

Extension Activities:

1. **Online Safety Campaign:** Have students create a public service announcement (PSA) or presentation about online safety, targeting teens. Include tips for recognizing and avoiding online predators, protecting personal information, and building healthy online relationships.
 - *Curriculum Link:* Computer/Technology Skills, Language Arts
2. **Anti-Bullying Skits:** Divide students into groups and have them create and perform short skits that depict different scenarios of bullying and effective strategies for intervention and resolution.
 - *Curriculum Link:* Social-Emotional Learning, Language Arts, Drama
3. **Character Journaling:** Ask students to write journal entries from Eshana's perspective at different points in the story, exploring her thoughts, feelings, and motivations.
 - *Curriculum Link:* Language Arts, Social-Emotional Learning
4. **"Wise One" Deconstruction:** Analyze the language and tactics used by "Wise One" to manipulate Eshana. Discuss how these tactics are similar to those used by real-life online predators.
 - *Curriculum Link:* Language Arts, Computer/Technology Skills, Social Studies
5. **Alternative Endings:** Challenge students to write alternative endings to the story, in which Eshana makes different choices and experiences different outcomes.
 - *Curriculum Link:* Language Arts

This guide is designed to be adaptable. Select the discussion questions and activities that best suit your students' needs and learning objectives.