

STOLEN LIGHT by V R Janis

1. They are playing pranks on each other in the beginning of the story. Does Wakangli react the way you think you would in a similar situation? Do you find her actions troubling? Does her experiences cause her to grow? If so, how?
2. Native American culture plays a big part in the book. Were there any notable cultural or traditional factors at play in the book? If so, what? How did it affect the characters? Do you think they were realistically portrayed?
3. What scene was the most pivotal for the book? How do you think the story would have changed had that scene not taken place? What scene resonated most with you personally in either a positive or negative way? Why or why not?
4. The author created a new world that she found interesting. Do the locations and environments of the book color the telling of the story or are they merely a backdrop? Does the location change during the book have any effect on the central characters? What details of the settings are your favorite? Why? Do you think it is important for an author of fantasy to pay close attention to a setting's detail? Why or why not?
5. Compare the humans to the elves. How are they similar? How are they different? For example, how do the humans react to Wakangli, an elf? Do you think the author is making a point about cultural differences between all people? What can we learn from Wakangli's experience and apply to our own lives?
6. How does the way the characters see themselves, differ from how others see them? How do you see the various characters? Why do you think people make assumptions based solely on appearance?
7. What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the novel? What do you think he or she is trying to get across to the reader? In what ways do the events in the books reveal evidence of the author's world view?
8. Discuss the relationship between Wi and Wankangli. How would Wi describe her? Why does their relationship change? Are you surprised at Wankangli's reaction? How about Wi's?
9. Wankangli keeps trying to escape. What do you think she is thinking as she struggles with herself on this issue?
10. What do you think Wankangli's brother would think about her saving the human girl at the cost of her freedom? What would her father, Great Tree say?

11. After Wankangli is taken, she is hurt. For the first time in her life she is alone. What do you think would have happened if Wi did not help her? Why do you think he helped?

14. In traditional fantasies there are seven elements: magic, otherworlds, universal themes, heroism, special character types, talking animals and fantastic objects. Which elements did V R Janis decide to incorporate into *Stolen Light*? Which ones did she omit? Why do you think so? What makes a fantasy different from other types of stories?

15. Were there any moments where you disagreed with the choices of any of the characters? What would you have done differently? What surprised you the most about the book? Were there any particular quotes that stood out to you? Why?

16. What is the significance of the title? Would you have given the book a different title? If yes, what is your title? What were the themes of the book? Do you feel they were adequately explored? Were they brought to life in a cliché or in a unique manner?

17. **How did the book affect you?** Do you feel 'changed' in anyway? Did it expand your range of experience or challenge your assumptions (for example did it take you to a place you haven't been before or help you see a place you know in a different light). Did reading it help you to understand a person better - perhaps a friend or relative, or even yourself? Did certain parts of the book make you uncomfortable? If so, why did you feel that way? Did this lead to a new understanding or awareness of some aspect of your life you might not have thought about before?

18. Discuss this quote from the author: "I was taught that our culture is used to bond us to our past, so that we would never forget where we come from. People need the stories to inspire that lesson of respect for all living things and the world around us. They remind us where we stand and what we stand for. These narrations help us give the future a piece of the past. . . . The story chooses the storyteller and it is our job to create an unforgettable journey that sparks the imaginations of our readers and listeners." Do you agree with the author? What do you think she means by the phrase "unforgettable journey that sparks the imaginations"? How is this shown throughout the novel?

19. If you were a writer, what could you learn from this book?

20. If you were to produce a movie of *Stolen Light*, whom would you cast in each role? Why would you pick these particular actors?