

T. A. BARRON

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Tree Girl

A Chapter Book
ISBN: 978-0-14-242708-8

About the Book

“Anna doesn’t know how she lost or mother. Or when! For as long as she can remember, she has lived in a lonely cottage by the sea with only cranky old Mellwyn, the fisherman.”

Reviews

“Tree Girl will surely delight its readers.”
— *Madeleine L’Engle*

“Teens will respond to [this book’s] underlying themes of self reliance, rebellion, and the search for self knowledge.”
— *Booklist*

“Barron is a wonderful storyteller, a maker of myths and fables who creates magical places where characters learn wisdom and power.”
— *School Library Journal*

Discuss

1. How does Anna’s attitude toward the forest change during this story? What does that tell you she has learned?
2. In this story, the tree spirits have a special power, allowing them to take the visual form that someone who sees them expects to see. This enables them to live in secrecy in the forest. But this power also has a symbolic meaning, regarding the different ways people are seen by others. What is this symbolic meaning? And what does that say about the experience of being human?
3. At the very end of the book, Anna could choose to rejoin her true family in the forest or to help the man who has pretended to be her father. Even though he had sometimes been mean to her, she decided to be compassionate and help him heal from his injuries. What does Anna’s choice tell you about her character? Do you think she made the right choice?

