



DISCOVERY GUIDE

for

Finding Tir Na Nog

by S.L. Whyte

The Discovery Guide provides a rewarding avenue to pursue creativity, self-discovery, and imagination. It includes several thought-provoking *Questions* (Q) and hands-on creative *Discoveries* (D) for each chapter of the novel. You may want to design and create your own Stelladaur journal to record answers, ideas and thoughts. *Questions* and *Discoveries* may be answered individually or in discussion groups and book clubs. We also recommend using Zoom, or another online meeting venue, to connect with other Stelladaur readers and explore the novel together. Individually or with a group, you can really get to know the characters and discover secrets of the Stelladaur!

Chapter One: “Eilam”

Q: Why do you think Reilly and Eilam are best friends? What qualities do you look for in a friend?

Q: What does it mean to have a “*keen imagination*”? (p. 9)

Q: Why does Reilly not care what others think of him? Do you think this is a valuable character trait? Why or why not?

D: Write an acronym for the word I.M.A.G.I.N.A.T.I.O.N.

D: Create an artistic representation of the acronym you wrote.

Chapter Two: “Time”

Q: Is time travel possible? Why or why not? Explain your reasoning.

Q: Reilly had a “*subtle feeling that something remarkable was about to happen in his life.*” (p.26) Do you ever have similar feelings? Give your own explanation for this phenomenon.

D: Using a calculator, test the math equations on pages 14-15.

D: With adult supervision, perform the egg and bottle experiment found on pages 21-22. Test it several times. Write about your findings.

Chapter Three: “The Spell”

Q: What is compassion? Give an example of someone in your life who has shown you compassion.

Q: Is it easier for you to show compassion to a stranger, to someone you know only a little, or to someone you know very well? Explain.

D: Decide on something you can do today to show compassion to another person.

D: If you’re working with a group or book club, decide together on a group name. Design a logo or mascot for your group name.

Chapter Four: “A Wish and a Knife”

Q: If you could wish for anything, what would it be? Why?

Q: What steps could you take today to make this wish come true? Be specific.

Q: If you were given an all-expense paid vacation, where would you go? Why?

D: Bake a birthday cake for a friend or family member. If you don’t know anyone who has a birthday this week or next, then get creative and celebrate the birth of a new idea, accomplishment or milestone.

D: If you’re working with a book club, have a virtual birthday party.

Chapter Five: “Interrogation”

Q: Do portals or wormholes exist? Research these topics. What evidence is there to support these ideas?

Q: In what ways did Reilly stand his ground when Travis Jackson interrogated and bullied him?

D: Using any medium, create an art project that represents a portal, wormhole or parallel world.

D: Design an anti-bullying poster, T-shirt or video. Share on social media.

Chapter Six: “The Ark”

Q: In what ways does “The Ark” symbolize the relationship between Reilly and his Dad?

Q: What is the significance of the constantly changing weather? In what ways might it foreshadow future events?

D: Write a poem about an unexpected tragedy.

D: Research a deceased relative and find out what you have in common with that person.

Chapter Seven: “Solemn Vow”

Q: What is a vow? How is honesty related to a vow?

Q: Do you think Reilly will keep his vow? Why or why not?

Q: Tuma means “Everlasting”. Do you think some things are everlasting? If so, what?

D: Using any medium, create an interpretation of Sequoran.

D: Go for a walk outside and listen to nature. Observe what you hear.

Chapter Eight: “Keystone”

Q: What is a keystone? Why is this a good metaphor for the Stelladaur?

Q: How does Tuma communicate with Reilly? Research how animals communicate with other animals. Research how animals communicate with people.

D: Eilam said: “*What we see in the reflection depends on our ability to truly look.*” (p. 97) Look at yourself in a mirror—directly into your eyes—for several minutes. List five positive qualities you see in yourself.

D: Using any medium, design and create your version of a Stelladaur.

Chapter Nine: “Sketches”

Q: What does Fiala mean when she says, “*Sketching dreams brings perspective to desire*”? (p. 119)

Q: In what ways is perspective helpful in achieving your goals and dreams? What causes your perspective about something to change?

D: Design your own game using something to represent a “Tah-dah Twig”. Play the game with friends or family.

D: Using colored chalk, design and draw your own “greatest desire” on a sidewalk.

Chapter Ten: “New York Again”

Q: Why does Reilly feel frustrated when Chantal doesn’t believe or understand what he tells her about Eilam and the Stelladaur?

Q: What were Reilly’s motives for talking to Kate about Khenan?

Q: Can a person’s motives change the outcome of a situation? If so, how?

D: Listen songs in each of the following music genres: Jazz, Classical, Country, Hip Hop/Rap, R&B, Rock, Opera, Meditative (Ambient, Alternative, Spa), and Religious (Contemporary Christian, Classic Hymns, and non-Christian worship). Write about your feelings and emotions as you listen to each song.

Chapter Eleven: “More Questions”

Q: What did Eilam mean when he told Reilly, *“Perhaps your wanting is changing, and that causes you inner conflict”*? (p. 150)

Q: What did Eilam mean when he said, *“Some imaginations are very magical. Every imagination is real.”* (p. 151)

Q: Eilam told Reilly: *“What you did for Khenan, you can do for others. One at a time. Remember, every ONE is important, and every ONE makes a difference for many. Nothing more is required, Reilly; only that you listen when the real you speaks, and then act accordingly.”* (p. 152) Why is it sometimes so difficult to listen to your own self?

Q: What obstacles do you face that keep you from feeling confident enough to trust your own voice?

D: Write an acronym for the word M.A.G.I.C.A.L.

D: Write a poem about Reilly’s relationship with Eilam.

D: Write a poem about change.

D: Identify an obstacle that holds you back from being your authentic self. Write down three things you can do to proactively overcome your obstacle.

Chapter Twelve: “Frequencies and Scruples”

Q: What does Reilly learn from Sequoran about how he can communicate with other living things? (p. 160-161) Research to determine if science supports these ideas.

Q: Eilam told Reilly, *“You are creating your own path, Reilly. It will be whatever you are willing to allow, through inner awareness.”* (p. 165) Explain what this means to you?

D: Make a list of the following character traits and write your personal definition for each: Awareness, Consciousness, Understanding, Honor, Moral Decency and Ethical Living.

D: Design and create an artwork of a feather.

Chapter Thirteen: “Awareness”

Q: What does the bubble around Reilly represent?

Q: Why are Porfino’s two regular eyes closed but his third eye is open?

D: Make a collage with pictures of things that represent stillness and inner awareness.

D: Practice meditation for ten minutes. Sit very still with your legs crossed and arms relaxed at your side. Close your eyes. Inhale deeply and slowly. Exhale slowly. Breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth. Focus on your breath. Clear your mind. Feel the movement caused by your breath. Relax. Breathe. Only think of your breath. Feel the steady beat of your heart. Relax.

Chapter Fourteen: “Tenth Floor”

Q: Why does the hotel ballroom make Reilly feel nervous or uneasy?

Q: What does Reilly do to gain confidence in this chapter?

D: Bake something for you and your family to enjoy.

D: Bake something and give it to a friend or neighbor.

Chapter Fifteen: “The Unveiling”

Q: How does Travis Jackson try to manipulate Reilly?

Q: How might the chapter have ended differently if Reilly had jumped up and announced to everyone that Travis Jackson was a fraud? Why might this make the story less interesting?

Q: What is an example of foreshadowing in this chapter?

D: Think of a scientific invention that could change the world and benefit all of humanity. Give the invention a name.

D: Draw a prototype of your invention.

Chapter Sixteen: “Discoveries”

Q: What individual qualities or characteristics do Reilly, James and Norah have that help them at the warehouse?

Q: Why is working as a team sometimes more effective than doing something by yourself?

Q: What challenges arise when working as a team?

Q: Does age determine intelligence? Does age determine wisdom? How are intelligence and wisdom related to knowledge?

D: Write an acronym for the word K.N.O.W.L.E.D.G.E.

D: Write an acronym for the word I.N.T.E.L.L.I.G.E.N.C.E.

D: Write a poem about wisdom.

Chapter Seventeen: “The Duds”

Q: What do you think the key James received from his mother is for?

Q: When the warehouse men dropped the box of duds into the water off the ferryboat, Reilly felt that “*life below the surface of the water was suffering.*” (p. 252) How do people sometimes contribute to the suffering of plants and animals—even if unknowingly?

D: Write a possible additional scene about the key.

D: Identify something you can do to contribute to the well being of plants or animals, and do it.

Chapter Eighteen: “Insanity”

Q: Do you agree with Reilly that Travis Jackson wants power more than money? Why or why not?

Q: Is the motive for power more dangerous than the motive for money? How are they related in our society?

Q: How do you feel when someone has something that you don’t have but that you really want?

Q: What happens in a group or team setting when members feel jealous of others in the group?

D: During the next week, be aware of any creative ideas that randomly pop into your mind. Write down each idea and any related details. At the end of the week, consider which idea most resonates in your heart, as well as makes sense in your mind. In other words, is the idea growing and percolating? Do you have a desire to act on this idea? If so, put your idea into motion by writing a plan of action with detailed steps to support your idea. Then take the steps to bring your idea to life!

Chapter Nineteen: “Affirmations”

Q: Why was Reilly apprehensive about scooping and looking into a portion of the Affirmation Cloud? Do you think he knew what he would see? Why was there a shift in what he wanted?

Q: What does the word “steadfast” mean?

Q: Why is it vital that Reilly be steadfast?

D: Using any medium, create an art piece for each of the seven *Affirmations of the Stelladaur*. (p. 274)

Chapter Twenty: “Messages”

Q: Why do you think fantasy authors sometimes create characters that are giant birds? What does Nebo symbolize?

Q: Why might S.L. Whyte have given Sequoran a sense of humor?

D: Make a list of all the plants and animals in this chapter and their character traits.

Chapter Twenty-one: “The Fireglass”

Q: Why is gratitude sometimes difficult to express?

Q: What did Eilam mean when he told Reilly that “*the same fire that consumes a forest with only one spark also ignites a display of beauty that transcends all doubt*”? (p. 309)

D: Make a list of ten things you are grateful for today.

D: Design and make a golden wristband or bracelet. Wear it to remind yourself to recognize and feel gratitude for the simple things that make your life special, and also for challenges that you are facing.

Chapter Twenty-two: “A Hoax”

Q: Why do people “*see what they want to see and ignore what they don’t want to see*”? (p. 315)

Q: Was it appropriate for Reilly to punch Frank? Why or why not? What else might he have done to get his point across?

Q: Why does Reilly seem to be more anxious at this point in the story and not as able to remain calm like he usually does?

D: Write a short story or poem about a time when you trusted your heart, or a time when you did not trust your heart but later wished that you had.

Chapter Twenty-three: “Interview”

Q: What do you think Jordan will do with the information he gets from interviewing Reilly?

Q: In what ways have you already learned to listen to yourself?

Q: What is the difference between *magical* and *magic*? Give examples of each.

D: Draw eight petroglyph symbols that might be on the rock and identify what they could represent. Explain how they might be connected.

Chapter Twenty-four: “Juggler”

Q: What literary techniques does S.L. Whyte use to build tension and suspense?

Q: What does the juggler represent?

D: Create a line graph from 1-26 with each number to represent chapters in the book. Draw a line to indicate the story climax for chapters 1-24 and what you think it will be for chapters 25-26.

Chapter Twenty-five: “Inevitable Change”

Q: Why is change difficult for most people?

Q: What changes have you recently experienced in your life? Have the changes been difficult for you to adapt to? How have you benefited or grown from these changes? Explain.

D: Kokumo said: *“Learning to welcome the changes you cannot see, and trusting they will bring you those which you can, is one of the keys of understanding never-ending change. The waves know this, and they do it. As does all of nature.”* (p. 360) Explain in writing what this quote means to you.

D: Rearrange your bedroom. After a week, write down the negative and positive results of this change. Identify if rearranging the room created other necessary changes. Explain.

Chapter Twenty-six: “Links”

Q: Why do you think Eilam left? Where might he have gone?

Q: What do you think will happen to Norah? Will Reilly see her again?

Q: Did you like the ending? Why or why not?

D: Before reading Chapter One of *Fading Heart (Stelladaur Book 2)* write your own chapter one.

(Next Steps on Next Page.)

NEXT STEPS

1. Purchase the SUPER HERO ACTIVITY GUIDE, found on the Academy page of my author website, and explore more Stelladaur adventures! www.stelladaur.com
2. Go with Reilly on his continued journey to find Tir Na Nog and to become a Stelladaur Ambassador. Order *Fading Heart* (Book 2) and *Fraction in Time* (Book 3). https://www.amazon.com/S.L.Whyte/e/B00BJ8IABI/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0
3. Join my secure Mailing List, found on the Contact page of my author website, to receive my FREE newsletter *The Portal*. Subscribers are the first to receive announcements about new releases, special offers, contests, Stelladaur games and promotions.
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Go ahead ... CHANGE THE WORLD!