

Cold Steel

Study Guide

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Dear teachers and librarians, this is a study guide for Cold Steel. I have organized the guide according to thematic headings. Under the thematic headings there will be questions for students. These questions are meant for classroom discussions/tutorials etc.

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Coming-of-age

1. Do you think Wehia is still impulsive in Cold Steel? Discuss.
2. Do you think Wehia has learnt anything after breaking her sword? Discuss.
3. What would you advise Wehia if you were her friend?

Relationships

1. Wehia did not inform her mother about going into the fens. How do you feel about this aspect of Wehia?
2. Identity the ways how the swordsmith clans celebrate relationships.
3. Do you think the relationship between Wehia and Geri have grown stronger after their visit to the fens? Discuss.

Swordmaking

1. Wehia vows to remake Fire Heart and then she reforges the Council Sword? What do all these say about Wehia and her growth as a swordsmith?
2. If you have the chance to design and make a sword, what would it be and why?
3. Imagine you are a fellow apprentice from another swordsmith holding, what would you say to Wehia?

Family

1. Identify the ways how the clans look after their family members.
2. There are many types of families shown in Cold Steel. Do you have a favorite example? Why?
3. Family does not necessarily mean everything is fine. Disagreements happen. Put yourself in the shoes of Mariad t'Ran: how would she have solved the disagreement with her son?

Wider Issues

1. Wehia and Geri find out that the border people are not a monolith. Different encampments have different goals and ideals. Is there a way to bring them together without resorting to war? Discuss.
2. Do you think Wehia's duel with Lord Vess solved the issue between the blood families and the border people? Discuss.
3. Imagine you are sent to discuss peace with the border people. What do you think would be your terms? Discuss.

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Further activities

1. Students can form groups of four to present their thoughts regarding Cold Steel. They can do their presentation by skits, debates or classroom show-and-tell sessions.
2. *Write a letter to Hadana.* Students are invited to write a letter to Hadana. In the letter, students are encouraged to voice their feelings about the events in the book, especially Wehia's encounter with the soldier, her injury and her subsequent reforging of the two swords and how Hadana could have felt about them.
3. *Write a letter to any character of your choice.* Students are invited to write a letter to any character of their choice. In the letter, students are encouraged to voice their thoughts and feelings about the events in the books, and how the events impact the chosen character.

About the author

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