

RICK RIORDAN  
DAUGHTER  
OF THE  
DEEP

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Disney • HYPERION

## PRE-READING ACTIVITY

*They start just like any other. You don't realize your world is about to explode into a million smoking pieces of awfulness until it's too late.* (p. 5)

The story begins with an introduction to our heroine, Ana Dakkar, a high school freshman who is leaving for her freshman trials with her classmates to embark on an ocean adventure. We learn that two years ago her parents flew over the horizon and never returned. Ana's sense of loss and abandonment and feeling of otherness has formed much of her identity and self-worth. How can these feelings influence one's direction and purpose in life? Ana imagines that swimming into the ocean with her brother, Dev, will allow her to feel acceptance and self-worth. Will the ocean empower her, or does she need to discover her true self to feel complete?

## ANNOTATION GUIDE

### Monitoring Comprehension While Reading

As you read, use the notations below to monitor your understanding. Share your notations with a peer and/or adult to build discussion and meaningful inquiry questions while reading the novel.

Symbol	Considerations
?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This part is confusing because . . .</li><li>• What does the statement _____ mean?</li><li>• I don't understand what sequence of event(s) just happened.</li><li>• I wonder . . .</li><li>• What does the character mean when she/he says _____ ?</li></ul>
*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is really important to understanding the plot of the story.</li><li>• This character action helped me learn more about him/her.</li><li>• This is something important to remember about the character.</li><li>• This detail is important because . . .</li><li>• This is a really interesting detail that I would like to discuss.</li></ul>
!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I am surprised by this event.</li><li>• I was not expecting this character to . . .</li><li>• I am really surprised by the new information the author shared.</li></ul>
∞	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This information connects to something important in another chapter because . . .</li><li>• This information connects to my life because . . .</li><li>• This information connects to another book because . . .</li><li>• This action connects to something I've seen on television.</li></ul>



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *A familiar feeling washes over me: I can't believe I go to school here. Then I remember I have no choice but to go to school here. After what happened to our parents, it's the only home Dev and I have in the world. . . . Still, I clutch the black pearl at the base of my throat. I remember the last words my mother ever said to me: We'll be back before you know it. Then she and my father disappeared forever.* (p. 17)

Ana, the protagonist, cannot wash away the feelings of loss and abandonment she experienced when her parents disappeared. This causes her to feel lost and to cling to a world that no longer exists. She admits that she does not belong in this school, but she is staying to support her brother, Dev. How do you think she will continue to live in a life that no longer exists while striving to make sense of it all and form a new path?

2. *I'm not really present. I'm floating about six inches above my body. I can feel my heart hammering in my chest, but it's a dull, distant beat, like music coming from a stereo system in the dorm room below mine. My emotions are wrapped up in gauze. My vision flickers around the edges.* (p. 22)

Where do you think this build-up of emotions comes from? Ana sees a school counselor, but how does she live with these emotions and become a team leader? Is she able to look beyond herself and be the leader her classmates can count on? Throughout the book, Ana tries very hard to contain her emotions, to see a counselor and handle her own problems. Do you think this is helpful or hurtful as she tries to process her feelings and various events in her life?

3. *"No," Hewett says. "I'm not sure you do. As of this moment, you are responsible for one life above all others. You will not leave her side. You will protect her with your dying breath. You will make sure she stays alive, no matter what happens."* (p. 26)

Throughout the book, we learn about Ana and how vulnerable she can be. Why do you think Hewett gives Gem the responsibility to take care of Ana?

4. *I have been fearing an attack like this for two years.* (p. 28)

What do you think this statement means? How does this fear connect with the disappearance of Ana's parents? Is Ana worried that there is a conspiracy behind the disappearance of her parents?

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5. What's wrong with the professor? *I wonder. This seems like more than a stress reaction. . . .* (p. 39)

Dr. Hewett's reaction gives us insight into how dangerous this journey is for everyone. Ana does not seem to be the only person feeling stressed. How does the emotion of the professor affect the confidence of the other passengers?

6. *I guess Hewett wouldn't order Gem to protect my life at all costs.* (p. 40)

What do you think Ana means by this statement?

7. *Beyond that, I had two main takeaways from Jules Verne. First, the title 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea didn't mean what I thought it did. . . . The other thing I'd taken away from the book: Verne had come up with some cool ideas that would never work.* (p. 42)

What was Ana hoping to gain by comparing Jules Verne's novels to the journey she was on, and why did she assume that his ideas would never work?

8. *"You said Jules Verne reported a few things correctly. You didn't say he foresaw or imagined. Are you telling us the events in those novels actually happened?"* (p. 47)

How does Jules Verne's novel shape the perspective of the passengers on this journey? Does it add to their fear and make them question themselves and others? And why is it significant?

9. *Just as I was starting to believe he might not be a traitor, my trust pendulum swings back toward extreme doubt.* (p. 51–52)

Why do you think Ana begins to question Dr. Hewett's motive? Does she have reason to believe that he might be a traitor?

10. *Think like a Dolphin, I tell myself. Espionage, not frontal assault.* (p. 53)

When and where does Ana learn so much about Dolphins? How has this proved to be true thus far in the story?

11. That is not who we are. We don't stoop to their level.

*"Why the attack?" I ask Caleb. "Why me? And why did they send a bunch of students who couldn't do the job?"* (p. 69)

Why does Ana find herself in a situation where she feels like an impersonal target?

12. *"Yes, Miss Dakkar," Hewett agrees. "As of today, you are his only surviving direct descendant. This makes you quite literally the most important person in the world."* (p. 77)

Why do Dr. Hewett's words have little impact on Ana? Why does she distrust Dr. Hewett so much?

13. *"But we do agree on one thing. Turning Nemo's technology over to the world's governments, or worse, the world's corporations, would be disastrous."* (p. 84)

Why does Dr. Hewett believe this to be the case?

14. “After four generations of fruitless searching, your parents succeeded. They discovered the wreck of the Nautilus.” (p. 85)

Why do Dr. Hewett’s words cut through Ana’s heart? How does she respond to that information?

15. Using details from the story, explain the relationship between Ana and her brother, Dev. Which events throughout the journey show how their relationship changes?

16. Describe the first interaction between Dr. Hewett and Ana. What characteristics are evident about Ana? Do you think Dr. Hewett is friend or foe? Why? Use textual evidence in your response.

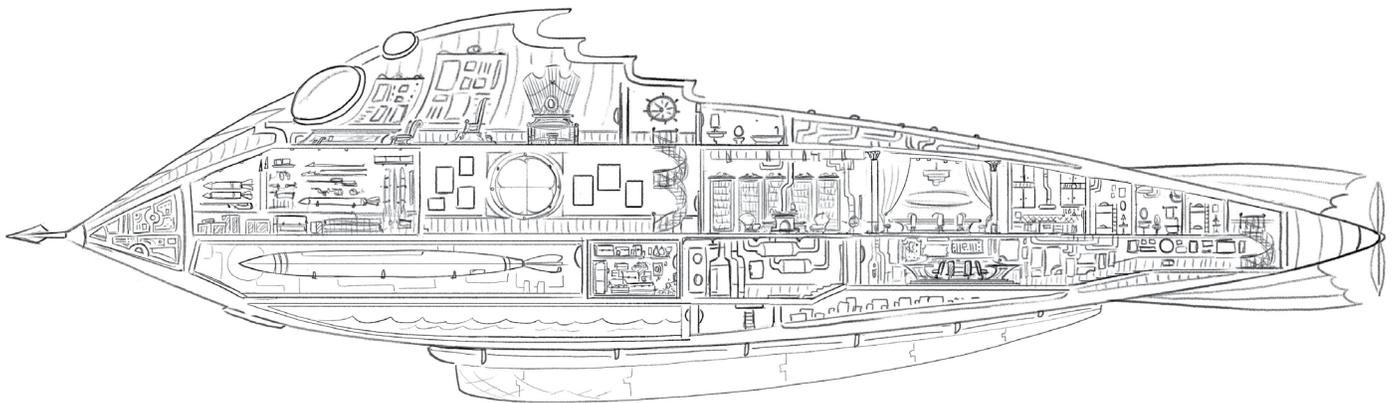
17. As Ana narrates the novel, she often talks about her parents. Based upon her perspective, how is she treated by adults? How does she view the adults in her life? Can you relate to Ana’s perspective of adults? Why or why not?

18. Describe the sequence of events that occurs when Ana arrives at the gardens. What problems do her and her classmates face throughout their journey? Why is the *Nautilus* important to Ana? Explain.

19. Reflect upon the events leading up to the conclusion of the story. How does each character transform from the beginning to end of the story? Did you find the ending of the story surprising? Why or why not? What theme or lesson do you think the author wants the reader to take away from the novel?

a. If you could write an alternative ending to the story, what would you make happen? Why?

20. How does Ana learn to let go and believe in herself again?



## POST-READING ACTIVITY

*“The gardens are where our parents found the Nautilus,” I say. “It’s also where Luca and Ophelia scattered the ashes of the dead. Prince Dakkar is here. Mom and Dad, too.” I look at my brother. “We never got to say good-bye properly. I thought you might want to. I know I do.” (p. 335)*

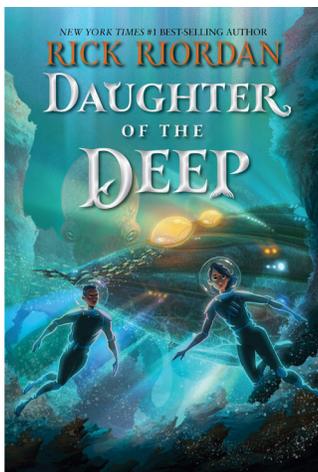
Ana began her journey feeling incomplete and lost even among her brother, classmates, and community. She wasn’t sure where she came from and if she really belonged on this journey. How was she able to find her true identity and strength after she experienced so much suffering and loss? Would she have been able to find out who she really was—her gifts and abilities—without these obstacles? What does this teach us about the attitude that we should have in confronting our fears and doubts about ourselves?

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. At the end of *Daughter of the Deep*, Ana is at the gardens and finally chooses to accept her parents’ disappearance and says goodbye. This shows that Ana has undergone a complete metamorphosis and has accepted her parents’ fate. It also shows us Ana’s strength and character, and she uses this strength to help her brother see their parents in the way she now does—as they were when they were children. Using Ana’s action as your inspiration, craft a letter to someone you love sharing how you see them and all the specific things that make them special to you.
2. Of all the characters that you were introduced to in the book, choose two that piqued your interest the most and create a Venn diagram comparing traits, positive and/or negative, in both characters. Create a slideshow, video, or presentation showcasing the significance of each character and the impact they had on the plot.
3. In small groups, select a favorite scene from *Daughter of the Deep* and create a graphic novel version of that scene. You can draw illustrations manually or use a digital comic strip creator (<http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Comix> or <http://infinitecomic.com>, for example) to create a storyboard for your group’s selected scene. Each group should then present their graphic novel to the class using Flipgrid. Alternatively, have each member of your group assume the role of one of the characters (keeping in mind each one’s personality and voice) and interact with one another in an extension of a scene from the book.



This guide was created by Mrs. Alamelu Sundaram-Walters, an adjunct ESL professor at Camden County College as well as a K–4 ESL educator in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. Previously, she taught ESL in New York for about three years and has been the NJ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages/NJ Bilingual Educators (NJTESOL/NJBE) New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) representative liaison executive board member for the past two years. She is also a member of the NJEA Instruction Committee and the Mount Laurel Minority Recruitment Committee, and currently sits on the Executive Minority Recruitment Committee for Burlington County. She holds a MA in language education from Rutgers University and an MS from Touro College, and is attaining her educational specialist degree in curriculum instruction. She is passionate about bridging the gap among multilingual learners/families and the school community. Alamelu is also fluent in reading, writing, and speaking Spanish.



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Rick Riordan

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*New York Times* #1 best-selling author Rick Riordan pays homage to Jules Verne in his exciting modern take on *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

Ana Dakkar is a freshman at Harding-Pencroft Academy, a five-year high school that graduates the best marine scientists, naval warriors, navigators, and underwater explorers in the world. Ana's parents died while on a scientific expedition two years ago, and the only family's she's got left is her older brother, Dev, also a student at HP. Ana's freshman year culminates with the class's weekend trial at sea, the details of which have been kept secret. She only hopes she has what it'll take to succeed. All her worries are blown out of the water when, on the bus ride to the ship, Ana and her schoolmates witness a terrible tragedy that will change the trajectory of their lives.

But wait, there's more. The professor accompanying them informs Ana that their rival school, Land Institute, and Harding-Pencroft have been fighting a cold war for a hundred and fifty years. Now that cold war has been turned up to a full broil, and the freshman are in danger of becoming fish food. In a race against deadly enemies, Ana will make amazing friends and astounding discoveries about her heritage as she puts her leadership skills to the test for the first time. Rick Riordan's trademark humor, fast-paced action, and wide cast of characters are on full display in this undersea adventure.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Rick Riordan**, dubbed "storyteller of the gods" by *Publishers Weekly*, is the author of five #1 *New York Times* best-selling middle-grade series with millions of copies sold throughout the world: *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, the *Heroes of Olympus*, and the *Trials of Apollo*, based on Greek and Roman mythology; the *Kane Chronicles*, based on ancient Egyptian mythology; and *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard*, based on Norse mythology. Rick collaborated with illustrator John Rocco on two #1 *New York Times* best-selling collections of Greek myths for the whole family: *Percy Jackson's Greek Gods* and *Percy Jackson's Greek Heroes*. Rick is also the publisher of an imprint at Disney-Hyperion, Rick Riordan Presents, dedicated to finding other authors of highly entertaining fiction based on world cultures and mythologies, and the contributor to an RRP short story anthology, *The Cursed Carnival and Other Calamities*. He lives in Boston, Massachusetts, with his wife and two sons. Follow him on Twitter at @RickRiordan.

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