



RICK RIORDAN PRESENTS

THE LORDS OF NIGHT

A Shadow Bruja Novel



NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR
J.C. CERVANTES

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Disney • HYPERION



ABOUT THE BOOK

Renata “Ren” Santiago finds herself on an unplanned quest after discovering that the five rogue godborns are on a mission to awaken the Aztec Lords of Night in order to overthrow the Mayan gods. Unfortunately, she finds herself short of friends to help on the quest. That is, until she meets Edison, a demon, and Monty, an Aztec hunter. Both of them swear to protect Ren, but can they protect Ren from succumbing to the calls from the Lords of Night to be their queen? Ren’s quest takes on someone she was not expecting to save: herself.

AS-YOU-READ ACTIVITIES

TRAVEL LIKE THE GODS

The gods’ and the godborns’ use of gateways and magic portals have them crisscrossing the United States and Mexico in a matter of minutes. In order to keep oriented as they read, students can use any of the following mapping resources to record Ren’s quest, geographically and chronologically, documenting locations and events.

- Print the state maps of the United States and Mexico included in this guide to track changes in location.
- Use Google Maps to create a visual representation plotting and calculating distance in between each location.
- Create a Google Earth 3D project to map a virtual rendering of each location.

QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR DISCUSSION OR WRITING

1. Ren’s magic is awakened in Chapter 1. Her world becomes suddenly chaotic, and it appears that all she has to go on is her instinct to escape peril. However, her grandfather seems to know what to do, and she trusts his knowledge and judgment, putting her life in his hands. If you were in Ren’s situation, who is the person or people that you completely trust to guide you through unexpected danger?
2. With nothing else to guide her but instinct, how is it possible that Ren made it to Holbox?
3. Refer to the first 3 chapters of *The Lords of Night*. Why is it ironic that Ren’s feelings are hurt by the comments being hurled at her on her alien blog?



4. Ren is crushed to hear from Marco how the other godborns had moved on, well into their own journeys. Is Ren entitled to feel lonely, maybe even forgotten, when she herself had not bothered to set up her new phone? Give details to support your answer.
5. Marco tells Ren he wants to win battles and be the best fighter in history. Ren tells him, "There are other ways to fight that don't include your fists" (page 21). Give an example of how a battle can be fought without the use of force. Help support Ren's statement by naming an important person in history that fought battles without physical force.
6. Though Marco is quite hostile toward Ren, she convinces him to meet her in Kansas to pursue the five rogue godborns. Marco agrees to do it but emphatically tells her that afterward he's coming home; he wants nothing to do with "quests, hunts, or other junk." Though he is the son of Nakon, the god of war, what reasons might Marco have to avoid hunts, quests, and battles? What do you believe is going on with Marco?
7. If Ren's shadows are her protection, explain how she was ensnared by the Fire Lord's shadow prison?
8. What do we know about Ren thus far that makes it highly likely that she is some sort of queen? Make a list of your reasons from the book to support your answer.
9. In Chapter 8, Ren states, "Anger is preferable to fear—it doesn't make you feel powerless" (page 41). List three reasons why Ren's statement is a good rule to follow. Then list three reasons why Ren's statement may not be a rule we should follow.
10. On page 50, Marco tells Ren, "You don't always make the right call . . . But your heart, it's too . . . trusting. Always getting in the way of the hard stuff." What does Marco mean by this statement, and do you agree? Provide examples from the book proving Marco right or wrong, depending on your answer.
11. How does the emergence of the Lords of Night affect Ren's shadow magic?
12. Ren believes that she has seen the translucent girl before but is unsure given the girl's nebulous state. If the girl is an astral traveler, she would have to be someone quite powerful to be able to separate her soul from their body. Give an explanation as to who you believe the translucent girl is and whether you believe she appears to Ren in order to help or hurt her.
13. Ah-Puch tells Ren that in order to understand her enemies, she must know their names and understand their powers. How is this similar to the voice on page 63 telling Ren "Maybe I now know your strengths. And weaknesses"?



14. As humans, we all face difficult decisions when our “heads” tell us to do one thing but our “hearts” tell us to do something different. On page 98, Ren realizes that “she didn’t have the luxury of being herself.” Analyze how Ren is responding to a similar struggle between her “head” and her “heart” as she starts her quest.
15. It is obvious that the lords are quite powerful since they are able to talk to Ren telepathically. What reasons would the lords have to lure Ren into a game instead of just outright taking her by force?
16. Edison loves to read books about inventions, which is why he named himself Thomas Edison. Having someone to look up to gives us inspiration to achieve great things ourselves. If you could rename yourself after a significant historical figure, who would it be and why?
17. Ren wants, more than anything, to prove to her online bullies that she is not a fake or loser. Winning the quest will be proof, at least to herself, that she is neither. Is Ren really being fair by placing so much pressure on herself? If a quest or game is lost, does that really mean a person is a loser? Explain.
18. Ren was not expecting to hear from Zane that Ah-Puch knew about the symbols and aliens. Ah-Puch had never mentioned this knowledge to Ren. Serena believes that Ren squandered her time-control power on a selfish god who had abandoned Ren during a time of need. Is Serena correct? Justify your answer.
19. In Chapter 24, Ren’s anger released dark and dangerous shadows. Does this outburst change your perception of Ren and her power? Give three reasons to support your answer.
20. “I am your queen” is all Ren has to say and the Prince Lord will spare her and Monty’s lives (page 168). Ren wants to save their lives, but it would mean assuming a role she says she does not want. Yet, Ren may also have selfish motives. What other motives might Ren have for agreeing to be queen of the Lords of Night?
21. *What have I done?* (page 172). Now that Ren and her friends are safe, the magnitude of the deal she made with the Prince Lord overwhelms Ren with dread. Write about a time you believed you made the best decision but soon regretted. What made your decision the wrong one?
22. While readers have information about most of the families of the main characters, there are some characters in this book for which we have little information, including who their parents are. Which of these characters is most likely to be the child of the Unknowns and the demon? Provide evidence from the book supporting your answer.



23. What makes this quest so personal to Ren that she is willing to go through the ominous maze of the Dark Mercado, risking her life and the lives of others?
24. In Chapter 30, Ren is scared when her shadows cast themselves off. Yet, for a fleeting moment, Ren wants to feed their cruelty. What is causing Ren's judgment and magic to shift?
25. We know Ren's mother is Pacific and her father was only human. How, then, could Ren have inherited this shadow magic she possesses?
26. In Ren's presence, Seven Death tells Ah-Puch you cannot kill the Lords of Night because it "would also mean killing pieces of [Ren]" (page 216). Knowing this, what possible strategy could Ah-Puch take to save Ren and put an end to the Lords of Night?
27. Ren and Edison seem to have a connection throughout the novel. What makes them so compatible?
28. In Chapter 33, a thought comes to Ren: "Negative thinking always equaled bad energy, and bad energy has always equaled unwanted consequences" (page 232). Create a statement that is the opposite of Ren's statement. How can you use your new statement to make sure you experience happiness?
29. Explain the purpose of Pacific's appearance to Ren in the Maze of Nightmares.
30. Centeotl makes it clear to Ren that being queen of the Lords of Night does not mean she will rule them. If this is true, then what would be the purpose of Ren's role as their queen?
31. Monty tells Ren that when hunters face difficult situations, their strength grows. Monty always wanted to achieve and acquire the Herculean strength, and now that she has it, she's relieved that she's not broken. Can a human achieve this kind of Herculean strength, too? Provide examples of people who have exhibited this type of strength.
32. Describe what you believe is happening to Ren internally that is making her susceptible to the forbidden magic of the Dark Market.
33. Though Ren has a plan for vanquishing the Lords of Night, she comes up with an alternate plan in case she sides with the lords. Were you in her shoes, would you do the same? What other alternatives are there for Ren?
34. Evaluate Zyanya's statement "Nothing wrong with darkness as long as you control it" (page 283). Do you agree or disagree with her statement? Defend your answer.

35. The Obsidian Blade rightfully belongs to Ezra, but Ren is the one who found it. Though Ren's need is great for the Obsidian Blade, why should Ezra not be entitled to have it given that it was created by her mother, Yohualli? If it were up to you, who would you give the blade to knowing that Ezra and Ren each have a need for it?
36. What does Jade mean when she tells Ren that her friends wear the invisible scars of her friendship and love? Are true friendships just about pure love for a friend or do true friendships sometimes have "scars"? Explain your answer.
37. Ren is left holding the Obsidian Blade after Zyanya disappears with Jade. Select one of the two statements and complete the answer:
- A: Ren is now powerless holding the Obsidian Blade because _____.
- B: Ren is now powerful holding the Obsidian Blade because _____.

POST-READING WRITING PROMPTS

1. Readers often develop a fondness for characters in books. In *The Lords of Night*, the last arrow that Monty lets fly pierces Ren's heart, and also pierces the heart of the reader. However, we know the story has not ended! Imagine that you have been selected to write the second book that follows *The Lords of Night*. How would you start the next book, beginning from where the first book ended? Write the opening paragraph to book two, describing what you believe happens next.
2. As Ren walks through the Dark Market, she is drawn to several items of forbidden magic. Which one of the following would you choose, and why are you most drawn to it over the others?
 - A. Cacao bean: Make a dream come true
 - B. Honey love potion: Make someone fall in love with you
 - C. Beetle of immortality: You will live forever
 - D. Flower of knowledge: Know the secrets of the universe
 - E. The godly bean: Create your own prophecy





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

J.C. CERVANTES (www.jccervantes.com) is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Storm Runner*, which *Booklist* called “a rip-roaring adventure” in a starred review. Her first novel, *Tortilla Sun*, was a 2010 New Voices pick by the American Booksellers Association and was named to Bank Street’s 2011 Best Book List. Jen grew up in San Diego and was fascinated by stories about Maya gods and magic. Follow her on Facebook, Twitter: @jencerv, and Instagram: #authorjccervantes.

ABOUT THE GUIDE WRITER

This guide was written by Maribel Castro, a former school and academic librarian, currently serving as the director of technology and information services at Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Castro has served on several reading list committees, served as president of the Texas Library Association, and was a member of the executive board of the American Association of School Librarians. She is the child of migrant workers from Mexico who did not have much in terms of wealth but got her a library card, opening up a rich world of words and thoughts. Castro believes that children of diverse backgrounds deserve to be reflected in the pages of the books they read.

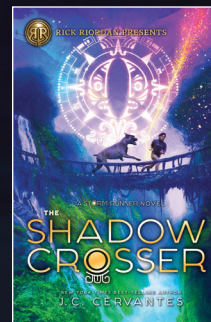
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Hardcover
978-1-368-06656-3
\$16.99

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