

Teacher's Notes

Whisper

by Lynette Noni

Whisper is a compelling story about a young girl held captive in a secret underground facility and the risks she must take to harness the power of her voice.

SYNOPSIS

For two and a half years, Subject 684 — “Jane Doe” — has been locked underground in a secret government facility, enduring tests and torture. In that time she hasn’t uttered a single word. Not even her real name.

Jane knows that she is dangerous, choosing to remain silent rather than risk losing control of the monstrous power within her. She of all people knows what havoc her words can cause, the unlimited horrors she can speak into existence.

When the authorities put her in the care of the mysterious Landon Ward, Jane is surprised when he treats her like a person rather than a prisoner. Kind and compassionate, Ward’s protective nature causes her resolve to crack in spite of her best efforts to resist.

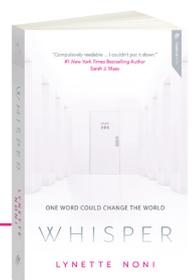
Just as Jane begins to trust him, a freak accident reveals the dangerous power she has concealed for years — but it also reveals the government has been keeping secrets of its own. Made aware her ability is at the heart of a sinister plot for vengeance, Jane must decide whom she will trust ... and whom she will help. Because suddenly, “finding her voice” is a matter of life and death.

Lynette Noni knows how to create compelling stories that appeal to devoted fantasy fans and general-interest readers alike. The extended metaphor about finding — and controlling — one’s voice and power will resonate with teens attempting to do just that.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Critically-acclaimed author Lynette Noni grew up on a farm in outback Australia until she moved to the beautiful Sunshine Coast and swapped her mud-stained boots for sand-splashed flip-flops. She has always been an avid reader and most of her childhood was spent lost in daydreams of far-off places and magical worlds. At a time when the YA fiction market was battling vampire love triangles, Lynette decided to start writing the stories she wanted to read. Five books and countless accolades later, Lynette’s popularity within the YA fiction market continues to skyrocket.

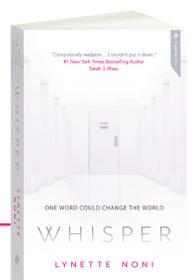


CLASSROOM DISCUSSION GUIDE

There are a number of themes in *Whisper* including identity, trust, imagination, power and the notion of truth.

Open a discussion with your class using some of the following questions:

1. How does Jane Doe's confinement in Lengard shape her identity?
2. Discuss the importance of imagination in the story as both a blessing and a curse for the protagonist.
3. Colour symbolism plays a significant part of illustrating Jane's experience in Lengard and beyond. Discuss the colours she sees and their importance in painting the story.
4. How important is the notion of truth in the story and how much is this influenced by knowledge? Do you think there is one single truth or multiple truths in the book?
5. Consider the theme of trust within the story. When does Jane begin to trust Ward? Which major events cause Jane to trust or mistrust those around her?
6. Jane embarks on a transformative journey of finding her voice and place in the world. When does Jane truly discover her voice, and what does she decide to do with it?
7. Discuss the ways in which the story explores how characters' perspectives on reality become their realities.
8. A number of power shifts take place in *Whisper*. Who holds the power? What do you think the author is trying to say about a world where those with 'special powers' are rendered powerless?



DYSTOPIAN FICTION AND THE MODERN WORLD

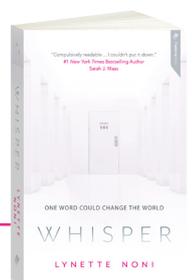
Dystopian fiction is a genre that often explores social and political structures as metaphors for possible futures humankind can move towards or away from, depending on its choices.

Augmented reality is defined as an enhanced version of reality where live direct or indirect views of physical, real-world environments are augmented with superimposed computer-generated images over a user's view of the real world, thus enhancing one's current perception of reality
- <http://www.realitytechnologies.com>.

With augmented reality becoming a reality in our modern world, how can the characters and situations in *Whisper* be used to explore the effect it might have in our world?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Think back to a scene in the book that you enjoyed but would like to have continued or included more detail. Rewrite the scene or extend it.
- Do you think the book could have ended another way? Write an alternative ending to the story.
- Imagine discovering you have the power to alter reality. Imagine how it would feel using your five senses. In as much detail as possible, write what it would feel like.
- Some reviewers have highlighted that the book's tagline, 'one word could change the world' doesn't adhere strictly to the story as a word doesn't actually have to be spoken, but thought, to cause its intended effect. Do you think the tagline still works? What alternative tagline(s) could be used to entice the reader to read the book?



AU EDITION



US EDITION



The book covers for the Australian and American editions of *Whisper* are very different. Which one do you think works best? Why do you think different covers were used? What would you have done differently and which book covers have you seen lately that appealed to you?

FURTHER READING

- *The Girl With All The Gifts* - M.R. Carey
- *The Divergent* series - Veronica Roth
- *Shatter Me* series - Tahereh Mafi

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