

The background of the cover is a scenic sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water's surface. In the foreground, the bow of a canoe is visible, with a paddle resting inside. In the upper right corner, a bald eagle is shown in flight, its wings spread wide. The title text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Hannah & the Salish Sea

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Study Guide

HANNAH AND THE SALISH SEA

SYNOPSIS:

In the second volume of her Hannah trilogy, summer has arrived, and fourteen-year-old Hannah Anderson is excited about spending it with Max (who has been giving her stomach butterflies lately). But things are happening in Cowichan Bay that Hannah can't explain. When a mysterious accident leads her to a nest of starving eaglets, she meets Izzy Tate, a young Metis girl staying in the village for the summer. Why is Izzy so angry all the time, and is it just a coincidence that she is the spitting image of Yisella, the Cowichan girl Hannah met the summer she was twelve? But Hannah has more questions. Why is Jack, her supernatural raven friend, bringing her unusual "gifts" in the middle of the night? Is it all connected to a ring of poachers and marijuana smugglers who have apparently moved into the valley? The eaglets are in danger and so are the Roosevelt elk. And what's with the *Orca 1*, the "supposedly" abandoned tuna boat anchored out in the bay? After Hannah and Max make a grisly discovery in the woods, they know they must take action. When Izzy agrees to join them on a midnight kayak trip, the three discover the poachers on the *Orca 1*, and they are soon in a fight for their own lives and the lives of the animals being hunted for their parts.

BEFORE READING:

Having **NOT** read *Hannah and the Spindle Whorl*

1. Where is Cowichan Bay located and what traditional First Nations territory is it in? (See if students know or can locate it on a map. Use the Internet for further visuals or information)
2. Describe the feeling you experience right before summer holidays, and one of your favourite outdoor places to spend time.
3. Have you ever had a friend whose culture was different than yours? If so, what was it? Did this person share any traditions that you found interesting?

Having read *Hannah and the Spindle Whorl*

1. Who is Poos? What does his presence in the future signify for Hannah?
2. Do you think time travel will be a part of Hannah and the Salish Sea? Explain your answer.
3. Describe the friendship between Hannah and Yisella. Do you think Yisella will be part of the Hannah sequel? Explain your answer.

DURING READING:

Chapters 1-3

1. At the end of chapter one, Hannah says, “Whatever, I’m okay with weird.” What is she referring to? Do you think you would like to live like Hannah? Why, or why not?
2. Izzy is a new point-of-view character. How is she different from Hannah?
3. Ravens are very important in First Nations culture. Make a prediction as to what Jack is trying to tell Hannah in the first three chapters.

Chapters 4-6

1. Why do you think Izzy hangs out with the people she does? What may be the consequences of what happens in the end of chapter 4?
2. How do you think Sabrina knew about Hannah’s time traveling experience? Do you think Hannah has a right to be angry with Max?
3. Izzy’s relationship with her mother is clearly very complicated. How is her relationship with her sister different?

Chapters 7-9

1. How does Hannah’s surroundings comfort her in chapter 7? Describe a place you like to go when you are upset.
2. When Izzy sees the toddler having a tantrum, she takes the side of the child. Why do you think this is? Why do you think she feels a special bond with the dog she meets?
3. How do Hannah and Max resolve their disagreement? Why does Max need Hannah’s help?

Chapters 10-12

1. Izzy describes her mother’s favourite legend. Explain what the legend is about, and why you think it is important to the story.
2. Why do you think Hannah and Sabrina are rivals?
3. Izzy finds the eaglets that have lost their mother. If you found an animal in need, what would you do?

Chapters 13-15

1. Izzy and Hannah have a “stand-off.” Why? Why are they both so interested in each other’s appearances?
2. Izzy doesn’t have a lot of money. What does she decide to spend hers on? Why do you think she made this decision?
3. Jack gives Hannah an eagle talon at the end of chapter 14. Where do you think the missing eagle’s body went, and what evidence leads you to this conclusion?

Chapter 16-18

1. What is a metaphor? What is Ramona’s metaphor for life? Explain Izzy’s reaction to Ramona’s wisdom.
2. Hannah has been collecting a lot of evidence regarding some interesting occurrences in Cowichan Bay and the surrounding area. List the evidence and try to make connections of what it all may mean.
3. Izzy has discovered Hannah and Max investigating the abandoned boat in Cowichan Bay. Why do you think she avoids them?

Chapter 19-21

1. Have you ever had a gut feeling, similar to the one Hannah has about the Orca I? What was it, and what did you do about it?
2. Izzy is making friends despite her best efforts. Do you think living in Cowichan Bay is a positive experience for her? Explain your answer.
3. Hannah and Max discover who has been poaching the animals around Cowichan Bay. They also discover that the poachers are after the eaglets Izzy is taking care of. What should Hannah and Max do?

Chapter 22-24

1. Why does Buzz say “Your word against mine, beautiful... and like they’re going to believe *you*” to Izzy? What does that imply about Izzy?
2. In what ways does Izzy surprise Hannah in chapter 23? Izzy is struggling with her identity and her heritage. Why do you think this is?

3. Izzy has a strange experience in the Victoria museum. Who do you think Taatka is? What do you think is the significance of Izzy seeing the spindle whorl move?

Chapter 25-27

1. Why does Hannah believe Izzy's experience in the museum? Do you think Izzy would believe Hannah if she told her about her time travel experience two years earlier? Why or why not?
2. What does Taatka mean when she says, "I was stubborn until I stopped to listen"? What do you think she's hinting at. Why does Ramona call her a "smart woman"?
3. Sometimes it is difficult to trust someone. What secrets do Hannah and Izzy tell each other that prove they trust each other?

Chapters 28-30

1. How are Hannah and Max different from Izzy's Salt Spring Island friends? What do Hannah, Max and Izzy have in common?
2. Why is Hannah high strung in Chapter 29? Why does Max show up? How do you think their plan is going to work out?
3. Why do you think going aboard the Orca I is so important to Hannah, Max, and Izzy? Is there a cause or an organization you really believe in?

Chapters 31-33

1. Why doesn't Hannah leave when Max and Izzy tell her she should? She is brave, but puts herself in a lot of danger. Describe a moment when you had to be brave in the face of danger.
2. Why are Buzz and Kelso dangerous? Do you think that the kids will figure out a way to outsmart them? If so, how?
3. How does thinking of Yisella help Hannah be brave? Write about a person in your life whom you think is brave, and why they inspire you.

Chapters 34-37

1. Why do you think Riley risked everything he had to help Hannah, Izzy, and Max? What kind of person is Riley?

2. What will Hannah’s dad think of the whole scene on the Orca I, and of Hannah putting herself in danger? Do you think he will be proud? Why or why not?
3. How has Izzy grown since the beginning of the novel? How have her relationships with people changed?
4. In the last chapter of *Hannah and the Salish Sea*, Hannah decides she wants to go back to the cave where she time-travelled in the first novel. Why do you think she wants to go there? Why is this place important to her?

AFTER READING:

SAY: Discuss with a partner how Hannah and Izzy are similar, and how they are different. Be sure to touch on their different cultures and ancestry. Teachers may want to use a “Think, Pair, Share” format to generate a list of character traits on the board.

WRITE: From the perspective of Hannah, write a letter to Yisella. Refer to important moments and characters seen in *Hannah and the Salish Sea*.

DO: Find a traditional Coast Salish legend. Choose one of the following activities based on the legend of your choice.

- a) Convert the legend into a comic book.
- b) Create a short film based on the legend.
- c) Make a board game based on the legend.

DRAW: Create a poster representing Izzy’s artistic influences. Make sure to combine modern concepts with traditional First Nations artistry.

Hannah & the Spindle Whorl is the first book in the HANNAH series:

<http://ronsdalepress.com/books/hannah-and-the-spindle-whorl/>

