

THE LIARS SOCIETY

CURRICULUM GUIDE

ABOUT *THE LIARS SOCIETY*

by Alyson Gerber

The Inheritance Games and *One of Us is Lying* for middle grade beloved author Alyson Gerber's new series is an unforgettable mystery featuring a secret society, a mysterious island, and dangerous family secrets.

Weatherby is a fish out of water. When she lands a scholarship to the prestigious Boston School, she's excited to be in the same world as her dad, whom she's never met, and make real friends. But Weatherby has a secret she'll risk everything to protect, one that could destroy her new life.

Every member of Jack's wealthy and privileged family has made their mark at the Boston School. Everyone, that is, except for Jack, who is entirely mediocre. He's desperate to prove his worth to his influential father. But Jack has a secret of his own . . . one with the power to ruin everything.

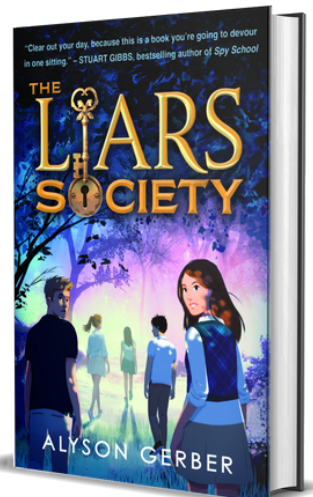
When the money for their school trip to a private island exclusive to Boston students is stolen, Jack and Weatherby are invited to play a high-stakes game and solve the mystery of the missing money. If they win, they'll be selected to join the oldest, most powerful secret society in the world and they'll be Boston royalty forever. If they lose . . . well, they better not lose.

Beloved author Alyson Gerber crafts an unforgettable mystery that asks are some secrets and lies impossible to overcome?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alyson Gerber is the author of *The Liars Society* series and the critically acclaimed novels *Focused*, *Braced*, and *Taking Up Space*. A former marketing director, Alyson earned her MFA in creative writing at the New School. She grew up in New England and now lives in New York City with her family.

Alyson's books have a total of five starred reviews between them, have been nominated for eleven state book awards, are Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selections, and have been picked as Best Books of the Year by many publications, including *Today Show*, *Booklist*, and *Kirkus Reviews*. Follow her @AlysonGerber and at alysongerber.com.



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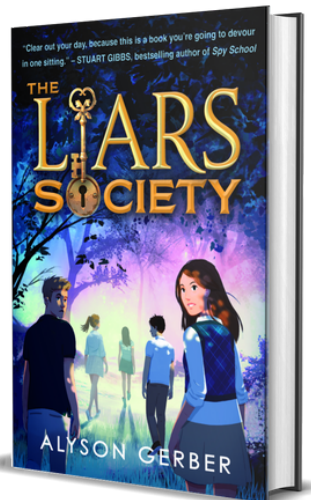
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VOCABULARY WORDS

- Regatta (p.1)
- Mainsail (p.3)
- Maneuver (p.5)
- Coddling (p.16)
- Osmosis (p.53)
- Chalet (p.67)
- Annex (p.78)
- Tentatively (p.89)
- Initiation (p.111)
- Legacy (p.111) (p.268)
- Vandalized (p.126)
- Sabotaged (p.129)
- Irrelevant (p.141)
- Alibi (p.153)
- Challah (p.161)
- Protege (p.196)
- Nondisclosure agreement (p.174)
- Landfill (p.237)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On page 2, Weatherby talks about how normally she'd feel flustered but when she's near the water, she feels brave. What makes you feel brave?
2. On page 12, Weatherby says, "All I have to do is lie, and I can go to the Boston School." Do you think she should lie or tell the truth? Why? Have you ever had to choose between telling the truth to do the right thing or telling a lie to get something you really wanted? What did you do? Did you regret your choice?
3. On page 13, Ford says a win is a win. Do you think that's true? Is *any* win really a win? Even if you cheat?

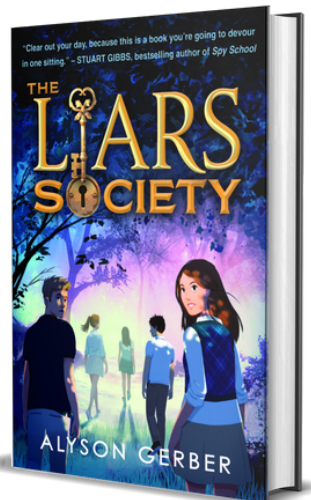


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4. On page 43, Weatherby says that when she's out on the water with Skip she is unfiltered and sometimes says "secret things." What kind of secret things do you think Weatherby says? Are there times when you blurt out things that you wouldn't normally say?
5. Trust Before Truth. Truth Before Tradition is the motto of Last Heir. What do you think that means?
6. How does the Boston School differ from your school? How is it similar?
7. On page 77, Weatherby says her mom is always tired when she wants to talk about her dad. Why do you think that is? Do you think her mom is hiding something or do you think she just doesn't want to deal with the memories?
8. Who do you think stole all the money for the field trip? What makes you think it's that person?
9. Have you ever been to a country club before? What do you know about them? Is it somewhere you think you'd enjoy going? How do you think Weatherby feels going there for the first time with girls who go all the time?
10. What's your impression of Jack's Uncle Yates?
11. On page 105, Jack says, "I watched Pres go from a person who cheated to a cheater." What is the difference? Is someone who cheated a cheater or is being a cheater more involved than that?
12. On page 131, it says that the sailing team's reputation matters as much as their record. Do you think that's true? Do you think it's equally as important to show up looking good as it is to win? Why or why not?
13. Why do you think Weatherby's mom is so insistent that Weatherby understands that she is not to talk to any adults (police, principal, teachers, etc.) without her mom there? Why would that be so important?



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14. When the news breaks about Harper, their friend group stops talking to her because she wasn't honest with them. Do you think they handle the situation the right way?

15. Weatherby has a lot of empathy for Harper and is concerned about her well-being. She knows what it's like to be alone and afraid. She knows what it feels like to worry about money. Has there ever been a time where something bad happened to someone you knew and you knew just exactly how they felt? What was that like? Did it make you more compassionate?

16. On page 145, Harper starts explaining how she has the look of being wealthy without actually spending a lot of money. She gets her clothes from thrift stores. She rides in her aunt's car. Do you think there's pressure to look like you have a lot of money or to wear the right brand or kind of clothes?

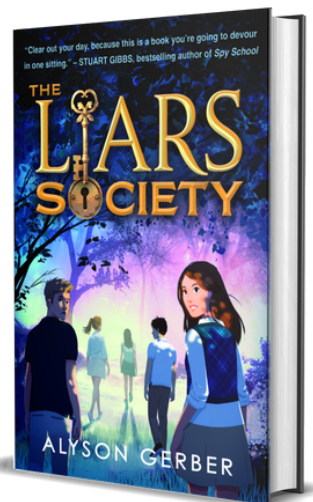
17. On page 185, Weatherby says that it hadn't occurred to her that being part of her dad's world might mean that she's not always in the same world as her mom. Do you think that's true? What is different about the two "worlds" and what is similar?

18. On page 269, Jack says, "What are you supposed to do when someone you should be able to trust is lying to you?" That's a great question. What *are* you supposed to do when someone you should be able to trust lies to you?

19. On page 228, the kids discover the Hunt family secret password is Weatherby. What do you think this means? Why? What clues can you connect to your theory?

20. How do you feel finding out who Weatherby's dad actually is? Are you happy or angry? Did you see it coming or were you surprised?

21. Why do you think Weatherby's mom wants her to erase what she saw on the island from her memory? What's the right thing to do? Is it an easy decision or is it more complicated than that? Why?



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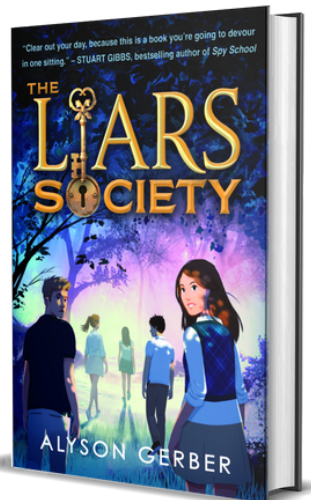
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22. Jack's dad is complicated. He lies. He manipulates. He is making people sick for the sake of profit. But he also tried to help Weatherby by paying for her school and getting her in. Do you think he can be trusted? Is he a good guy or a bad guy? Defend your answer.

23. What does it mean to be a Hunt?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Compare and contrast Weatherby and Jack. Create a chart to add to as you go through the book.
2. Boston is known for its delicious food including clam chowder, lobster rolls, and all kinds of other things. Research foods that Boston is famous for and then have students plan an authentic New England meal complete with recipes. You could even have everyone bring in a dish taste test.
3. STEM Challenge: Design and build a sailboat with found materials (aluminum foil, popsicle sticks, egg carton, etc.). The boat needs to float and it needs to move with the wind. Put the boats in tubs of water and use a desk fan to blow them to see which boats sail and which ones sink. As an extension to this, have students research drag and buoyancy and when they are both advantageous for sailing and when you want to avoid it. (Scholastic has a "Build-a-Boat" STEM challenge handout that could be adapted. You can find it here: https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/blogs/genia-connell/migrated-files/stem_build_a_boat_challenge.pdf)
4. What kind of clothes do you need for sailing? Research what is best to have and then design Weatherby and the Boston School sailing team new team sailing uniforms.
5. The Hunt family has a lot of "Huntisms" like "Ignore. Deny. Threaten." Find all the "Huntisms" and create more positive sayings for those types of situations that encourage the Hunts to do what is right.



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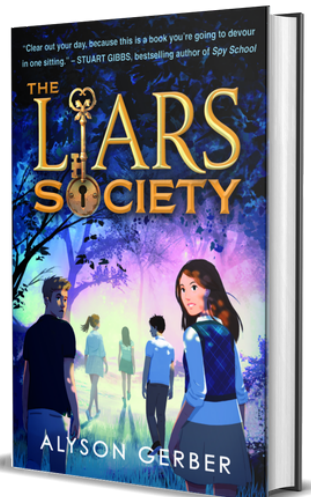
6. Analyze the poems that come from Last Heir.
7. Research secret societies at boarding schools and universities. What can you find out about them if anything? Do they really exist?
8. Research the impact that dumped chemicals have on the environment and the people who are exposed to them. Design a campaign to raise awareness about these issues.
9. Have students group together to design their own secret societies. What are the qualifications to get in? What does the secret society do? Create a name, logo, slogan, and a secret handshake or hand signal.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Sailing Terms Everyone Should Know:

<https://asa.com/news/2021/07/07/sailing-terms-you-can-use/>

This guide was created by Carrie Friday, award-winning Media Specialist in Florida.



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