



Ghost Queen

Teacher Guide

Teen vlogger Malika needs to get enough followers to monetize her ghost-hunting videos and make money to support her struggling family. But when she risks spending the night in the notoriously haunted Bhangarh Fort, her encounter with a cursed princess and her wicked captor teaches her that there are worse fates than death.



About the author:

Mahtab Narsimhan is an internationally published, award-winning author of over twenty critically acclaimed books. Mahtab writes for all age groups—from picture books to young adult novels—many of which have been shortlisted for the Silver Birch, Red Maple, SYRCA, MYRCA and CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens awards. She is deeply committed to representation and inclusivity in her work.

Themes:

- ◇ Hubris and its consequences
- ◇ Greed
- ◇ Ambition vs Ethics
- ◇ Betrayal
- ◇ Power Dynamics and Control
- ◇ Ambition
- ◇ Cultural Heritage and Respect
- ◇ Pride
- ◇ Truth and Skepticism
- ◇ Identity
- ◇ Relationship Dynamics
- ◇ Deception



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Questions:

1. How does Malika's motivation to achieve social media fame affect the outcome of her story? What commentary might this make about modern society's obsession with viral content?
2. Compare the power dynamics between Malika and Veer before and after entering the fort. How does Malika's forceful behavior toward Veer affect their experience?
3. In what ways does the use of social media and ghost-hunting content creation help create an engaging story? How might the story differ without it?
4. What role does skepticism versus belief play in this story? How might the characters' initial disbelief in the supernatural influence their fate?
5. How do the consequences of breaking rules about sacred or historical places play out in this story? What broader messages might this convey?
6. The story features Rani Ratnavati, a historical queen, and Singhya, a dark mystic. How do their characters and motivations reflect or contrast with modern values and behaviors?
7. Consider the theme of ambition versus respect for tradition. How do the characters' choices reflect this conflict?
8. The story explores the price of fame and viral content. What risks have you seen influencers, celebrities and other public figures take for social media success? Would you seek out social media fame yourself?

