

# FULL MOON LAGOON

## Study Guide

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## FULL MOON LAGOON

### Study Guide

#### Story Synopsis

*Full Moon Lagoon*, set on Cortes Island, is the story of three twelve-year-olds who dive into the mouth of Manson's Lagoon at midnight under a full moon and accidentally access a portal through time. Maddy, her best friend Cat, and Cat's twin brother, Duncan, dive into the slipstream and resurface in 1941.

They meet First Nation grandmother, Malila, who advises them that they must find and complete a "task" before they will be able to return to their own time. When they witness her friend's fishing boat being impounded by the RCMP, that task is slowly revealed: warn the Tagawa family about the impending internment of Japanese Canadians.

When Malila is pulled away by her midwife duties, the children are left to visit the Tagawas on their own. At a frustrating crossroad in the journey, they meet Newt, a local boy who grudgingly divulges the shortcut to the Tagawa farm but warns them against using the path that cuts through the property of Crazy Bill.

Ignoring Newt's advice, they soon find themselves captured by Crazy Bill who believes the Chinese Canadian twins must be "Jap spies." He ties the children up in a rat-infested woodshed overnight. Their rescue centers on Newt, who has been worried since they parted ways, but also involves Duncan's "superpowers" — the extra abilities he possesses as a result of his hearing impairment.

Newt joins the quest in order to visit his friend Yoshi Tagawa, who has been absent from school in the days following the recent bombing of Pearl Harbour.

As they spend time with the Tagawas, the children become more certain of the task; they must help this family get away while there is still time. But how can three children convince a couple to abandon their home? Yoshi directs a magical shadow puppet play and with the help of all the children, convinces his parents that they must try to flee.

A dramatic confrontation at the dock is left unresolved as the three travellers access the portal and return to their own time. Malila agrees to leave them a message, buried deep in the sand. The children make it back to the present and find the letter which tells them that the Tagawas escaped. From the letter, Maddy also learns that Newt was actually her Grandpa Paul as a boy. And from her amazing adventure, she learns what fear and intolerance can become under the right — or wrong — circumstances.

## Words to Watch For

### Chapter 1

1. **vital organs** (p. 1): the main organs inside the body necessary for life, such as the heart, lungs, and brain.
2. **prone** (p. 2): likely to do or get something.
3. **lagoon** (p. 7): an area of sea water separated from the sea by a sand bar.

### Chapter 2

1. **sabotage** (p. 10): to intentionally damage or destroy something.
2. **naïve** (p. 11): too quick to believe something.

### Chapter 3

1. **salal** (p. 20): common bush in Northwest forest with shiny dark green leaves and small blue berries.
2. **silhouette** (p. 20): dark outline of someone or something against a lighter background.
3. **arbutus** (p. 22): a broadleaf evergreen tree (or bush) also known as “Madrone”.
4. **protruded** (p. 23): stuck out.
5. **bioluminescence** (p. 23): when a living organism produces and emits light.

### Chapter 4

1. **moccasins** (p. 30): a soft-soled shoe made of leather.
2. **eerie** (p. 31): a mysterious strangeness.
3. **leprechaun** (p. 32): a type of fairy in Irish folklore.

### Chapter 5

1. **theory** (p. 39): a set of ideas or facts that attempts to explain something.
2. **burrito** (p. 39): a tortilla wrapped or folded into a cylinder shape to completely enclose the food within it.
3. **negotiated** (p. 41): found the way through a difficult path.

### Chapter 6

1. **nettles** (p. 51): an edible plant.
2. **portal** (p. 53): a gateway.
3. **rustic** (p. 54): made in a plain and simple fashion.
4. **frigid** (p. 57): very cold.

## Chapter 7

1. **marooned** (p. 59): stranded; left behind.
2. **gnawed** (p. 59): chewed.
3. **coincidence** (p. 60): something interesting that occurs completely by chance.
4. **galoshes** (p. 64): rubber boots.
5. **troller** (p. 65): fishing boat.
6. **impounded** (p. 67): seize and take legal custody of something.
7. **internment** (p. 67): to confine or imprison large groups of people without a trial.
8. **kimonos** (p. 69): traditional Japanese garment.
9. **barracks** (p. 69): temporary shelters for groups of people.

## Chapter 8

1. **expectantly** (p. 75): anticipating something.
2. **migrating** (p. 76): moving from one region to another.
3. **hermits** (p. 77): people who prefer to live alone.
4. **precariously** (p. 81): unstable.

## Chapter 9

1. **persisted** (p. 86): continued stubbornly.
2. **menacing** (p. 88): suggesting the presence of danger.
3. **assets** (p. 88): useful things.
4. **disorienting** (p. 94): something that makes someone feel confused.

## Chapter 10

1. **intercepted** (p. 98): to stop someone who is on their way somewhere.
2. **halo** (p. 99): a ring of light around or above the head.
3. **monitored** (p. 100): to watch carefully.
4. **combustible** (p. 102): capable of catching fire and burning.
5. **kindling** (p. 104): material that can be used to start a fire.
6. **pyre** (p. 104): a pile of burnable materials.

## Chapter 11

1. **grimace** (p. 110): a facial expression which conveys disgust or discomfort.
2. **reassuringly** (p. 110): done in a way that provides confidence and/or comfort.
3. **ravenous** (p. 117): extremely hungry.

## Chapter 12

1. **scenario** (p. 122): an outline of a possible course of action.
2. **tentatively** (p. 125): to say something in a careful or uncertain way.

### Chapter 13

1. **puppeteers** (p. 131): people who entertain with puppets.
2. **projector** (p. 132): a device for showing films or images on a screen or other surface.
3. **shamisen** (p. 133): a Japanese musical instrument that looks like a lute.
4. **bachi** (p. 133): triangular piece of wood used to play the shamisen.

### Chapter 14

1. **lulled** (p. 136): caused someone to feel calm or even sleepy.
2. **rhythm** (p. 136): a pattern of sounds, words, or musical notes.
3. **rumoured** (p. 138): when a fact or piece of news (true or invented) spreads quickly from person to person.
4. **evacuation** (p. 138): the process of moving people from somewhere dangerous to somewhere safe.

### Chapter 15

1. **inspection** (p. 143): the act of looking at something or someone very carefully to make sure everything is okay.
2. **retaliated** (p. 144): to do something harmful to someone because they have done something harmful to you.
3. **tolerate** (p. 146): to accept behaviour you don't agree with.
4. **zodiac** (p. 148): an area of the sky through which the sun, moon, and most of the planets appear to move, divided into twelve equal parts, each with a name and symbol, and each connected with an exact time of year.
5. **oblivious** (p. 150): not aware of something going on around you.
6. **precise** (p. 152): exact and accurate.
7. **resonated** (p. 152): filled with a particular quality.

### Chapter 16

1. **efficiently** (p. 157): working quickly and effectively in an organized way.
2. **roused** (p. 161): woke someone up.
3. **amplified** (p. 164): made louder.
4. **presumably** (p. 164): indicating what is likely true.

### Chapter 17

1. **chaos** (p. 168): a state of total confusion.
2. **wrench** (p. 168): tool to tighten or loosen bolts.

### Chapter 18

1. **adrenalin** (p. 174): a hormone produced by the body, for example when you are frightened, angry, or excited, that makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react.
2. **elapsed** (p. 175): time gone by.

## Study Guide Questions

### Chapter 1: Turtle Island

1. What information does Chapter 1 provide about the setting?
2. What characters are introduced in the first chapter? Describe what you know about each one.

### Chapter 2: The Evil Twin

1. Who is the Evil Twin? Who do you think considers him “evil” and why?
2. How did Duncan get his nickname? What does Draggin think his nickname is?
3. How does Draggin learn about the plan to go lagoon-diving?
4. Why does Draggin want to go with the girls?

### Chapter 3: Slipstream

1. Why does Maddy think it must be hard for her grandma to be on Cortes without Grandpa Paul?
2. Why did the kids swim toward the arbutus tree rather than the rock?
3. What do you think causes Maddy to shiver at the end of the chapter?

### Chapter 4: Malila

1. Why are the kids searching the beach?
2. Describe Malila.
3. What does Maddy think is happening?
4. What does Draggin think is happening?
5. What do you think is happening?

### Chapter 5: Travelling

Chapter 5 introduces a new setting. Using either words or pictures, describe the home, clothing, and food which the kids encounter in this chapter.

### Chapter 6: Huckleberry Surprise

1. Describe at least one similarity and one difference that Maddy notices as she considers 1941 vs. 2015.
2. What other things do we learn about Malila in this chapter?

### Chapter 7: History Channel

1. Why do you think Chapter 7 is called *The History Channel*?
2. If you could time travel, what event in history would you visit and why?

### Chapter 8: Newt

Use words or a picture to show the girls tied up in the woodshed (include Crazy Bill in your scene).

### Chapter 9: The Plan

In a few sentences, retell a scene from Chapter 9 that shows us an example of Cat expressing her fear as anger.

### **Chapter 10: Escape**

1. How do the kids escape?
2. Why do they set fire to the woodshed?

### **Chapter 11: Year Travellers**

To Newt, a lighter seems ridiculous and unnecessary. Imagine you have met someone from the past. Describe a modern object that might seem ridiculous to them.

### **Chapter 12: The Message**

1. What clues made Yoshi *less* surprised to learn that the three kids are from the future?
2. What is Yoshi's plan for convincing his father that the message is real? Why does he think this will work?

### **Chapter 13: Rehearsal**

Design your own shadow puppet theater. Draw it, describe it with words, or build a model of it.

### **Chapter 14: Song of the Shamisen**

1. Retell the legend the kids made up for the puppet show.
2. Make a prediction about what will happen in Chapter 15.

### **Chapter 15: Boat Day News**

Make up a legend of your own about why there is a year of the pig on the zodiac, but no year of the cow. (Or any two animals you choose.) Read or tell your legend to your reading group or to the class.

### **Chapter 16: The Mob**

Write the answer to each question, as well as the page number where you found the answer.

1. What kind of horse do the Tagawas own?
2. How many sleepers was the hold of the fishing boat meant for?
3. Who built the Tagawa's house?
4. What did they have for supper?
5. What did Mr. Tagawa use to cut the chain holding the boat to the dock?

### **Chapter 17: Crazy Bill Again**

Make a prediction.

### **Chapter 18: The Letter**

List three important things Maddy learned from the letter and from her grandma.

## Chapter Questions with Answers

### Chapter 1: Turtle Island (pp. 1-7)

1. What information does Chapter 1 provide about the setting? *Turtle Island, Hague Lake, Cortes Island, 3 ferries from Vancouver.*
2. What characters are introduced in the first chapter? Describe what you know about each one. *Maddy- 12 years old, red hair, freckles, tall, lives on Cortes, best friend is Cat. Cat- 12 years old, black hair, short, Chinese-Canadian, lives in Vancouver, best friend is Maddy. Grant- Maddy's step-dad, software designer, uses wheelchair, Maddy doesn't like him.*

### Chapter 2: The Evil Twin (pp. 8–16)

1. Who is the Evil Twin? Who do you think considers him “evil” and why? *Duncan (Draggin). Maddy considers him evil because he always sabotages the girls' plans.*
2. How did Duncan get his nickname? What does Draggin think his nickname is? *Maddy and Cat take Duncan everywhere (“draggin” him along) because the twins' mom lets them do almost anything as long as they stay together. Draggin thinks his nickname is Dragon.*
3. How does Draggin learn about the plan to go lagoon-diving? *Draggin lip reads Cat's side of the girls' phone conversation through his binoculars.*
4. Why does Draggin want to go with the girls? *He's always wanted to try lagoon diving but is a weak swimmer and didn't want to embarrass himself in public.*

### Chapter 3: Slipstream (pp. 17–27)

1. Why does Maddy think it must be hard for her grandma to be on Cortes without Grandpa Paul? *Grandpa Paul grew up on Cortes. Maddy thinks everything would remind Grandma of him.*
2. Why did the kids swim toward the arbutus tree rather than the rock? *To counteract the current.*
3. What do you think causes Maddy to shiver at the end of the chapter? *Answers will vary.*

### Chapter 4: Malila (pp. 28–35)

1. Why are the kids searching the beach? *They are searching for their bags, clothes, towels, shoes.*
2. Describe Malila. *Malila is older, hair in a long, thick braid, wrapped in blanket, wearing calf-length moccasins.*
3. What does Maddy think is happening? *Maddy thinks she is dreaming.*
4. What does Draggin think is happening? *Draggin thinks it's a practical joke.*
5. What do you think is happening? *Answers will vary.*

### Chapter 5: Travelling (pp. 36–44)

Chapter 5 introduces a new setting. Using either words or pictures, describe the home, clothing, and food which the kids encounter in this chapter. See p. 41, 42

### Chapter 6: Huckleberry Surprise (pp. 46–58)

1. Describe at least one similarity and one difference that Maddy notices as she considers 1941 vs. 2015. *Similarities: outhouses, deer for lawn mowers. Differences: amount of “stuff”*
2. What other things do we learn about Malila in this chapter? *Malila was “watching” for messengers at the lagoon; she is a midwife; she is kind.*

### Chapter 7: History Channel (pp. 59–73)

1. Why do you think Chapter 7 is called *The History Channel*?
2. If you could time travel, what event in history would you visit and why?  
*Answers will vary.*

### Chapter 8: Newt (pp. 74–84)

Use words or a picture to show the girls tied up in the wood shed. (Include Crazy Bill in your scene.) See p. 82.

### Chapter 9: The Plan (pp. 85–95)

In a few sentences, retell a scene from Chapter 9 that shows us an example of Cat expressing her fear as anger.

### Chapter 10: Escape (pp. 96–108)

1. How do the kids escape? *Newt came back for them.*
2. Why do they set fire to the wood shed? *To create a diversion for Crazy Bill so Draggin can rescue Newt from the cabin.*

### Chapter 11: Year Travellers (pp. 109–120)

To Newt, a lighter seems ridiculous and unnecessary. Imagine you have met someone from the past. Describe a modern object that might seem ridiculous to them. See p. 109.

### Chapter 12: The Message (pp. 121–129)

1. What clues made Yoshi *less* surprised to learn that the three kids are from the future? *Their clothes, water shoes, Draggin’s watch, the way they talk, and a strong “feeling.”*
2. What is Yoshi’s plan for convincing his father that the message is real? Why does he think this will work? *Shadow puppets: father believes they’re “magical and sometimes deliver important messages.”*

### Chapter 13: Rehearsal (pp. 130–134)

Design your own shadow puppet theater. Draw it, describe it with words, or build a model of it.

### Chapter 14: Song of the Shamisen (pp. 135–141)

1. Retell the legend the kids made up for puppet show. See p. 136.
2. Make a prediction about what will happen in Chapter 15.

### **Chapter 15: Boat Day News (pp. 142–154)**

Make up a legend of your own about why there is a year of the pig on the zodiac, but no year of the cow. (Or any two animals you choose.) Read or tell your legend to your reading group or to the class. See p. 148.

### **Chapter 16: The Mob (pp. 155–166)**

Write the answer to each question, as well as the page number where you found the answer.

1. What kind of horse do the Tagawas own? *Clydesdale. p. 156*
2. How many sleepers was the hold of the fishing boat meant for? *Two. p.157*
3. Who built the Tagawa's house? *Mr. Tagawa. p. 159/160*
4. What did they have for supper? *Bannock and stew. p. 160*
5. What did Mr. Tagawa use to cut the chain holding the boat to the dock? *Hacksaw. p. 162/163*

### **Chapter 17: Crazy Bill Again (pp. 167–170)**

Make a prediction.

### **Chapter 18: The Letter (pp. 171–181)**

List three important things Maddy learned from the letter and from her grandma.

- *Tagawas escaped*
- *Malila bought the Tagawa farm for \$1*
- *Newt grows up to be Grandpa Paul*