

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



FOREVER TWELVE

BY STACY McANULTY

★ “An intriguing premise, complex characters, and a compelling mystery make for a series opener that will leave readers desperate for the next entry. . . . Fantastic.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“The appealing boarding school setting, cliffhanger ending, and thematic focus on how to cultivate strong, long-lasting friendships are sure to invest readers in this paranormal series opener.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

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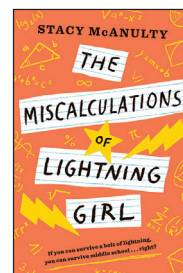
AT THE ELITE West Archer Academy, all the students are gifted, but four are exceptional. Though the Evers look twelve, they're actually centuries old, possessing knowledge and talents that make them extraordinary. And boarding school is the perfect cover for their brilliance—and their secret.

It's supposed to be a typical year in the anything-but-typical lives of these “kids” . . . until Ivy Stewart shows up. She resembles an Ever who went missing more than seventy years ago. And Ivy could be the key to unlocking their curse.

But ambitious Ivy is at West Archer to achieve her own extraordinary goals, and nothing will distract her. Or so she thinks! With the desperate Evers determined to find answers, and her former classmate—and laid-back cool guy—Ronan determined to protect her, Ivy soon finds herself swept up in a mystery only she can solve.

Will her life be changed forever . . . and ever?

ALSO BY STACY McANULTY



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ✿ The story opens in a classroom with students taking a math test. What do readers learn about Ivy's personality from this scene?
- ✿ Ivy attends New London Middle School but is intrigued by West Archer Academy. What are the differences between the two schools?
- ✿ What makes Ronan's life at Haywood House unique?
- ✿ Compare the reasons that Ivy and Ronan are both interested in West Archer Academy. What do each of them hope to gain from attending the prestigious boarding school?
- ✿ When visiting West Archer, Ivy meets Abigail. Abigail originally thinks that Ivy is Grace, Abigail's best friend. What clues in chapter four hint that Abigail may not be like the other students interested in attending West Archer?
- ✿ Both Ronan and Ivy are excited to have been accepted to West Archer. Describe how Ivy's family and Ronan's family prepare for each student to leave home.
- ✿ What shocking information does Abigail reveal about herself when she and Ivy play "two truths and a lie?" What do you predict that Abigail will share about her life when she and Ivy talk more?
- ✿ Ivy is torn between her curiosity about Abigail's life and her desire to follow the school rules when Abigail invites Ivy to the roof of the dorm in the middle of the night to meet her friends. What would you choose to do if you were in Ivy's situation?
- ✿ What information about the Evers and their attendance at West Archer is revealed in chapter 14?
- ✿ Why is Ronan dreading his thirteenth birthday? How does he discover what he fears is true?
- ✿ Ivy is skeptical of all that Abigail has shared about her age and her past. How does Ivy investigate Abigail's claims?
- ✿ In your opinion, what is the most interesting part of Abigail's origin story?
- ✿ What comes of Ronan's psychic connection with Ivy after he spills hot chocolate on her in the library café?
- ✿ In chapter 43, Ronan learns that psychics can't see the future of shadow people and that trying to read them drains the psychic's energy. How do you predict this piece of information will figure into the story's plot?
- ✿ What role does Este play in Ivy's admission to West Archer? How does the entrance exam cheating scandal pose a moral dilemma for Ivy?
- ✿ Betty's notebook becomes key to discovering what happened to Grace. Discuss how Este's reaction to the notebook creates another huge problem for Ivy.
- ✿ What twist granting immortality is revealed when everyone is on the roof of the dorm at the end of the story? Who had a hand in Grace's disappearance from the Evers?
- ✿ Ronan and Ivy begin the story as distanced classmates in middle school. By the end of the story, the two have bonded through their unique talents and situation. Discuss what happened to change the nature of the friendship between Ronan and Ivy.

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

MAKE A VISION BOARD

Ivy's vision board is one of the important items that she brings to West Archer when she moves into the dorm. She has arranged the collage with pictures and words that match her goals of attending a prestigious college and becoming a member of the Supreme Court. What are your own goals for the future? Cut out magazine pictures, photos, and quotes and design a vision board to represent your goals. Share your board with a small group in your class.

RENAME CHAPTERS

Each chapter is labeled with a character's name to show from whose point of view that chapter is based. Select your favorite chapters and make a list of the main ideas/events within them. From this list, create new titles for the chapters that reflect the important information shared within them. Share your chapter titles along with your reasoning with your class.

PAST ENCOUNTER

As Ivy learns the true ages of the Evers, she discovers that each member of the group has lived through important historical events and met many famous people. Este, for example, describes how she helped Charles Dickens with his writing long ago. If you were an Ever, who would you liked to have met in the past? Write a first-person narrative piece about this imagined encounter.

OPINION PIECE

Is immortality a curse or a blessing? What would you do if you could live forever? Write an opinion piece about the pros and cons of immortality. Include a clearly stated opinion along with reasons and examples to support your opinion. Prepare a counter argument for those who might have an opposing opinion.

YOUR OWN WEST ARCHER ASSIGNMENT

Ivy is a dedicated and hard-working student at West Archer Academy. In Ivy's US history class, she is assigned to write about an American hero. Reread chapter 58 to see the details of the assignment and to become familiar with how Ivy's class defines a true hero. Choose your favorite American hero and gather research about this person's life and accomplishments. Assemble your facts into an informational report.

IVY'S BIG DECISION

At the end of the story, Ivy is faced with an enormous decision about her future. What do you think she should do? Make a pro and con list for each choice and then make a decision. Write a speech or monologue to explain and defend your position.

The discussion questions and activities in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Name: _____

CAPTURING THE CONFLICT

Conflict is the struggle or opposition in a story. This struggle can be found between characters, against society, and within a character. Find examples of these three different types of conflict in *Forever Twelve*.

TYPE OF CONFLICT	EXAMPLE FROM THE STORY
CHARACTER VERSUS CHARACTER	
CHARACTER VERSUS SOCIETY	
CHARACTER VERSUS SELF	

Name: _____

CHARACTERS AND THEMES

How do the main characters in *Forever Twelve* change and develop over the course of the novel? Think about how you'd describe the characters listed below at the beginning of the story and at the end of it.

IVY	RONAN
At the beginning of the novel: _____ _____	At the beginning of the novel: _____ _____
At the end of the novel: _____ _____	At the end of the novel: _____ _____
ABIGAIL	ESTE
At the beginning of the novel: _____ _____	At the beginning of the novel: _____ _____
At the end of the novel: _____ _____	At the end of the novel: _____ _____

The theme of a story is the underlying message, lesson, or concept that the author wishes the reader to learn through their storytelling. Common literary themes center around love, revenge, friendship, coming of age, redemption, forgiveness, courage, and regret. Do you notice any similarities in how the characters change over the course of the novel? Talk to a partner about any patterns you observe and craft a sentence or two describing what you believe to be the theme of *Forever Twelve*.

THEME _____

Name: _____

QUOTABLE CHARACTERS

The words that characters speak and think help define who they are. These words also help readers make connections to the characters. Hunt through the story to locate quotes from the characters that fit the categories below.

A QUOTE THAT SEEMS IMPORTANT



SAID BY:

Why does this quote seem important? _____

A QUOTE THAT REALLY RESONATES WITH YOU



SAID BY:

Why does this quote stick with you? _____
