

Book Club Discussion Guide



Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger, Page 1 (May 2022)

Elatsoe

By Darcie Little Badger

About the author:

Darcie Little Badger is an Earth scientist, writer, and fan of the weird, beautiful, and haunting. She is an enrolled member of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas. Her Locus Award-winning debut novel, *Elatsoe*, was a National Indie Bestseller, named to over a dozen best-of-year lists, and called one of the Best 100 Fantasy Novels of All Time by TIME. Her second novel, *A Snake Falls to Earth* was longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature and received a Newbery Award Honor.

Source: Publisher's website (<https://www.levinequerido.com/>)

About this book:

Elatsoe—Ellie for short—lives in an alternate contemporary America shaped by the ancestral magics and knowledge of its Indigenous and immigrant groups. She can raise the spirits of dead animals—most importantly, her ghost dog Kirby. When her beloved cousin dies, all signs point to a car crash, but his ghost tells her otherwise: He was murdered. Who killed him and how did he die? With the help of her family, her best friend Jay, and the memory great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother, *Elatsoe*, must track down the killer and unravel the mystery of this creepy town and its dark past. But will the nefarious townsfolk and a mysterious Doctor stop her before she gets started? A breathtaking debut novel featuring an asexual, Apache teen protagonist, *Elatsoe* combines mystery, horror, noir, ancestral knowledge, haunting illustrations, fantasy elements, and is one of the most-talked about debuts of the year.

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Source: Publisher's website (<https://www.levinequerido.com/>)

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you enjoy about this book?
2. What have you read that is similar to this book?
3. What are some of the major themes of this book?
4. What do you think the author was trying to accomplish with this novel?
5. Who was your favorite character? What did you appreciate about him/her?
6. Think about one of the minor characters in the story. Why did the author include him/her?
7. Is the setting of the story important to the book? In what ways?
8. Are you satisfied with the ending? Why or why not?
9. Have you ever experienced anything similar to the action of this novel?
10. Did you find this book a quick read? Why or why not?
11. What were your concerns about this book?
12. What scene do you remember best? Why do you think that is?
13. If this book was made into a movie, who would you cast in the title roles?

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14. If the book you are discussing has chapter titles, take a second look. Why do you think the author selected those titles? Are they hints to what's going to come in the chapter? Are there any that didn't make sense?

Source: Multnomah County Library (<https://multcolib.org/talk-it-book-groups-kids>)