

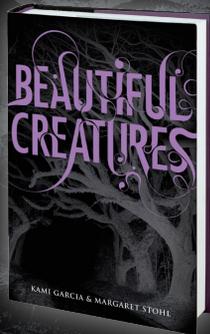


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They both live in Los Angeles, California, with their families. *Beautiful Creatures* is their debut novel.

Ethan Wate is haunted by dreams of a girl he's never met. When Lena Duchannes moves into his small southern town of Gatlin, Ethan is inexplicably drawn to her. And he is determined to uncover the strange connection between them, even if it means uncovering the one secret that could change everything.



BEAUTIFUL CREATURES
By Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl
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BEAUTIFUL CREATURES



*There were no surprises
in Gatlin County.
We were pretty much the
epicenter of the middle
of nowhere.
At least, that's what I thought.
Turns out, I couldn't have been
more wrong.
There was a curse.
There was a girl.
And I was in love with her, even
though I didn't know her.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Macon Ravenwood calls Mortals beautiful creatures, saying, “You think you can change things. Stop the universe. Undo what was done long before you came along” (p. 446). Sarafine calls Mortals disgusting creatures (p. 517) and says she wanted to show Lena the “true nature of Mortals. How easily they can be influenced, how vindictive they are” (p. 518). Who do you agree with? Why? Why do you think this book is entitled **Beautiful Creatures**?
2. A quote from Martin Luther King Jr. appears on the page preceding the first chapter. How do you see his statement connecting to this story?
3. What three words do you think describe Ethan best? Lena? Who in this story would you be friends with and why?
4. In what ways is your school similar and different from Jackson High?
5. Why did Ethan want to leave Gatlin? Can you relate to his feelings?
6. Why do outsiders get treated the way that Lena did?
7. Why was Ethan so hesitant about whether Lena was his girlfriend or not? When do they begin being boyfriend and girlfriend? How is their relationship typical and atypical? What qualities make someone a good girlfriend or boyfriend?
8. Was Lena’s disciplinary meeting fair? Explain. Why did the meeting happen? What did Marian Ashcroft mean when she quoted Martin Luther King Jr. during the meeting: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere” (p. 401)? Marian also quoted Voltaire: “It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere” (p. 401). What does the quote have to do with this story?
9. After the disciplinary hearing, Lena broke up with Ethan, telling him that they were different and from different worlds (p. 412). Do you agree with that reasoning? Can people from “different worlds” be together? Why or why not?
10. What did you think about the Jackson High Guardian Angels?
11. Lena and her family members have magical powers. Another power in the book is Ethan’s mom. She unlocks the study door for him, sets out books for Marian and turns book pages in a code for Ethan. Ethan says, “My mom was there, in some form, in some sense, in some universe” (p. 431). Do you believe that someone lives in some form after they die? Explain.
12. What do you think happened to Ethan’s mother? What makes you think this?
13. Ethan’s mom told him that “The right thing and the easy thing are never the same” (p. 330). Have you ever experienced this? Do you think this idea is true? Explain.
14. What is going on with Ethan’s dad? Do you think anything can help him?
15. Lena read from *The Book of Moons* that “without darkness there can be no light” (p. 409). What does this mean? Can you imagine all good, all the time? What would that be like?
16. Is Macon good or evil? Ethan says that Macon Ravenwood doesn’t do anything to help Lena (p. 446). Do you agree? Is Ridley good or evil? What makes someone evil?
17. What parts of the dreams do you think Macon Ravenwood took out of Ethan’s head? What didn’t he want Lena to know? Do you think it was right for Macon to do this?
18. **Beautiful Creatures** incorporates the Civil War into a present day story set in a small Southern town. What does this novel say about history? Is history always accurate? Explain.
19. Were Ethan and Lena in charge of their own fates? Do you believe that people are in control of their destinies or not? Explain.
20. What do you predict happens to Lena and Ethan during the next year?