

# The Forager Brothers: Ghost Light

## Book Club Quick Guide

A novel by Jessica Bora · Ages 8–12 · theforagerbrothers.vercel.app

### DISCUSSION STARTERS

*Pick a few. The best discussions go sideways.*

- Which brother are you more like — Dylan or Vin? Why?
- What was the single most surprising thing you learned about nature from this book?
- If your family had “legacy knowledge” like the Bisht family’s foraging, what would it be?
- The Cascades almost feel like a character in this book. Find a passage where the forest feels alive.
- Was there a moment when you were genuinely worried for the brothers? What made it land?
- The book mixes real science with a mystery plot. Did that mix work for you?
- Is there a place you know as well as Dylan and Vin know their trail?
- If you could go on one hike with the brothers — real or imagined — which trail?

### TRY THIS

*Small, doable, nature-forward. Great for families and classrooms.*

- Take a 15-minute walk and find **one thing** you have never noticed before. Come back and describe it.
- Start a one-page field guide of a plant, fungus, or bug near your home. Draw it. Name it. List three identifying features.
- Look up a real **bioluminescent fungus**. Why do scientists think it glows?
- Find a tree near you and imagine the **Wood Wide Web** under your feet — who is it connected to?

### THE REAL SCIENCE

- **Ghost mushrooms really glow.** Bioluminescent fungi produce light through a chemical reaction involving luciferin and oxygen.
- **Trees really do talk underground.** Mycorrhizal fungal networks let trees share water, nutrients, and chemical warnings — the so-called Wood Wide Web.
- **Ophiocordyceps is real.** The parasitic fungus that infects insects exists — and yes, it inspired video games and TV.
- **Chanterelles smell like apricots.** One of the easiest PNW mushrooms to learn by scent.

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Two brothers. One forest. A mystery spreading through the foothills of the Cascades. Dylan and Vin Bisht have been foraging the Pacific Northwest since they could walk — until a day at Seattle’s Wild Mushroom Show takes an unexpected turn and pulls them into a mystery that science can barely explain. A Pacific Northwest adventure for curious readers ages 8–12, packed with real mycology, ecology, and the kind of science that will change how you see the forest.

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— *The forest is waiting.* —

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