

Teacher's Guide to *Treecat Wars* by David Weber and Jane Lindskold



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Recommended reading levels: This book is recommended for grades seven and up. There are some scenes containing violence and descriptions of injuries. The book would be particularly effective for classes exploring themes of identity and connections between characters and setting.

Biographical information on David Weber and Jane Lindskold:

- **Jane Lindskold** was born in 1962 and received a Ph.D. in English from Fordham. Soon after, she began teaching at Lynchburg College. Now a full time author, Lindskold is the

author of the Breaking the Wall series and the Firekeeper saga. She lives in New Mexico and loves reading from a wide range of time periods and genres.

- **David Weber** was born in 1952 and lives in South Carolina. Before writing full time, Weber worked in advertising and public relations. He is the author of the Honor Harrington series and other novels, including *The Apocalypse Troll*. Weber has also collaborated on novels in series such as Flint's 1632 series.

Biographical resources about on the web:

- You can read more about Jane Lindskold at:
 - Jane Lindskold's site: <http://www.janelindskold.com/>
 - Jane Lindskold's blog: <http://janelindskold.wordpress.com/>
 - Facebook author page: <https://www.facebook.com/janelindskold>
 - Science Fiction database entry: http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?Jane_Lindskold
- You can read more about David Weber at:
 - David Weber's site: <http://www.davidweber.net/>
 - Honorverse author entry: http://honorverse.wikia.com/wiki/David_Weber
 - Science Fiction database entry: http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?David_Weber
 - Science Fiction encyclopedia entry: http://sf-encyclopedia.com/Entry/weber_david

Suggested class activity:

1. Read T. S. Eliot's poem about cat names at: http://allpoetry.com/poem/8453755-The-Naming-Of-Cats-by-T_S_Eliot and think about cats having different names for different occasions. Would it make sense that cats would have names independent of the names given to them by humans? If so, how do you think they would get those names, and why?
2. Think about what it means to be a Person. Come up with a list. Then research animals to see how many of them share some of these qualities. Does it make them people? How do we decide? What would it mean to treat an animal the same way as a person?
3. Many situations and events look very different from different points of view. View images involving more than one possible point of view, such as this image from Flotsam and explore the questions below: http://scalar.usc.edu/anvc/flowsofreading/3_1_point-of-view?path=3-

[negotiating-cultural-spaces](#). Then, find your own image that could change in interpretation based upon point of view and share it with others. How important is point of view when evaluating a situation? Does understanding another point of view help or hurt? Explain your reasoning.

Background to the Star Kingdom series: The Star Kingdom novels serve as prequels to Weber's Honorverse series. The books focus on the relationship between Stephanie Harrington and her treecat Lionheart. Their bond helps both of them navigate the world of treecats and the world of humans on the planet Sphinx and nearby worlds. Stephanie Harrington is an ancestor of Honor Harrington of Honorverse.

Plot Summary: Impressed with their actions during the previous fires, Ranger Shelton offers an opportunity for Stephanie Harrington and Karl Zivonik to attend forestry classes on Manticore. They will be the youngest to attend, but Ranger Shelton worked hard to make this happen and for Stephanie to be able to take Lionheart, the treecat bonded with her. Once there, Gwendolyn Adair approaches both of them to speak in front of her foundation about treecats, but Gwendolyn's motives are not about educating people about treecats as much as about obtaining treecat land for human development. Back on Sphinx, Jessica, Stephanie's best friend, and Anders, Stephanie's boyfriend, find themselves together a lot while helping a team from the Adair Foundation study treecats on Sphinx. In the treecat culture, two clans sharing a territory boundary come into conflict over limited resources from the fires and an impending long winter. Their conflict leads to violence, and, eventually, aid from the humans. For the treecats and the humans to share resources on Sphinx, both will have to work harder to understand and appreciate the sentience of the other.

Character Sketches:

Stephanie Harrington – Stephanie is the protagonist of the novel. She has a bond with a treecat named Lionheart, and their bond provides them with insight into both worlds. Stephanie enjoys being outdoors and working with the forestry service.

Karl Zivonik – Karl and Stephanie worked together for the forestry service in the past. Together, they leave their home planet of Sphinx for Manticore for more traditional courses of study for future rangers. Karl is a little older than Stephanie and sometimes feels he is in her shadow.

Lionheart a.k.a. Climbs Quickly – Lionheart is the treecat bonded to Stephanie. Originally of the Bright Water clan, Lionheart, like all treecats, can read Stephanie's mood and react accordingly, giving her support when needed. Even though Lionheart's bond with Stephanie keeps him in the world of humans most of the time, he remains in contact with treecats and helps various clans when possible.

Chief Ranger Shelton – Shelton is the chief ranger on Sphinx. He believes in the potential of Stephanie and Karl and pulls many strings to provide them with important training. While they are gone, he coordinates efforts with various groups studying treecats.

Jessica Pheriss – Jessica is Stephanie’s best friend and is bonded with a treecat she calls Valiant. Jessica is part of a large family, and she spends a lot of time looking after her siblings. When free, she enjoys being in nature.

Valiant a.k.a. Dirt Grubber – Valiant is the treecat bonded to Jessica. When not with Jessica, Valiant enjoys collecting plant specimens and experimenting with how some plants grow.

Richard Harrington – Richard is Stephanie’s father. Because of Stephanie’s bond with Lionheart, Richard has been able to study treecats and is the expert on the health and care of treecats.

Anders Whitaker - Anders met Stephanie when he came to Sphinx with his father. His father and a team of other academics came to study the treecats, and Anders and Stephanie spent quite a bit of time together. Eventually, they became boyfriend and girlfriend. When Stephanie leaves for Manticore for her studies, Anders remains on Sphinx and tries to help his father and other researchers.

Bradford Whitaker – Dr. Whitaker, Anders’s father, is an anthropologist who studied treecats on Sphinx for his university until an incident of poor judgment forces him to return home and explain his actions and choices. When he returns, he attempts to rebuild his team and continue his work.

Marjorie Harrington – Marjorie is Stephanie’s mother and believes Stephanie’s chance to study on Manticore will be a good experience for her. She studies plant life on Sphinx and enjoys sketching images of life on Sphinx throughout the various seasons.

Keen Eyes – Keen Eyes is a treecat still in the wild at the beginning of the novel. He is scouting different areas for his clan, the Swaying Fronds clan, as the area where his clan lived was ravaged by the fires.

Oswald Marrow – Oswald lives on Manticore and works for Gwendolyn Adair. Together, they hope to ensure that the scientific community does not see the treecats as sentient or as a species that should freely interact with humans.

Gwendolyn Adair – Gwendolyn lives on Manticore and plots to ensure a negative perception of treecats, mainly for her own personal gain and ambitions connected to land on Sphinx. She uses her connections to sabotage Stephanie’s visits on Manticore, but she often underestimates Stephanie.

Nimble Fingers – Nimble Fingers is a treecat from the Trees Enfolding Clan. While still young, Nimble Fingers scouts with an older member of the clan, Swimmer’s Scourge. Nimble Fingers meets Keen Eyes and tries to befriend him. He wants to help, but he also does not want to go against the wishes of his own clan.

Swimmer’s Scourge – Swimmer’s Scourge is an older member of the Trees Enfolding Clan. He does not trust Keen Eyes and wants Keen Eyes and his clan to stay away from their territories. He worries there will not be enough resources for their own clan to survive the long Sphinx winters.

Eric Flint – Eric Flint is the owner of the Red Letter Café, which is a preferred restaurant on Sphinx for the gliding club and others. Stephanie places one of the clues to Anders's birthday present at the café.

Duff DeWitt – Duff is an assistant on the Adair Foundation team. He takes an early interest in treecats and oversteps his boundaries by interviewing Jessica's siblings alone with leading questions.

Naomi Pheriss – Naomi is Jessica's mother. She works with Marjorie Harrington and collects samples and records plant growth.

Buddy Pheriss – Buddy is Jessica's father. He and Naomi have a large family on Sphinx and support Jessica's desire to work with the Adair Foundation as they learn about treecats.

Scott MacDallan – Scott works at a clinic and has consulted Richard Harrington's notes on treecats. Bonded to a treecat named Fisher, Scott helps Jessica and Anders when they find an injured treecat and Dr. Harrington is away.

Fisher a.k.a. Swift Striker – Fisher is a treecat bonded to Scott MacDallan. He helps Keen Eyes recover from his battle injuries and, together with Valiant, tries to find a way to save the Landless Clan from a bitter winter.

Sumiko – Sumiko was Karl's girlfriend. She died in a terrible accident years before, but the event still haunts Karl to some extent because they argued right before the accident happened.

Guide to Part 1 - chapters 1-4

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms (note: some of these terms can be found on the wikia page below, as they comprise elements of the universe established in previous novels):
 - Manticore
 - treecat
 - telepathic
 - telemphatic
 - sentient
 - biosphere
 - contaminates
 - augment
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Research the impact of environment on animal life. How do changes in environment force changes in the species who live there? What are some examples from the past and present day?
 - Perform a thought experiment: If you could share a bond with another species, what species would you choose? Why? What would you hope to learn from such an intense bond, and what do you feel you could teach the other species about us?
 - Find out more about the Honor Harrington Universe at http://honiverse.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page . Weber and Lindskold write the Star Kingdom novels as prequels to the Honor Harrington series of novels. Knowing more about the universe created for this series will help you understand some of the practices on Sphinx and Manticore in the novel, such as adapting to different levels of gravity.
 - Research the Sphinx in Egypt. Why is this an appropriate name for a planet with treecats?
 - What does it mean to be telepathic or telemphatic? Investigate these abilities and some who claim to possess them. Does it seem like a trait you would want? Explain your reasoning.

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter One – Ranger Shelton offers Stephanie and Karl the chance to study forestry courses on Manticore for three months. While thrilled at the opportunity, Stephanie is worried about how her relationship with her boyfriend, Anders, will last without much contact. Stephanie is also worried about how her treecat, Lionheart, will adapt to a new world and how others will react to seeing a treecat.

- Chapter Two – Stephanie tells her parents and Anders about the opportunity to learn on Manticore. All agree that this opportunity would be a good one for Stephanie, even if all will miss her. Anders, in particular, struggles with his desire to be near Stephanie and his desire for her to make the most of this chance to study.
- Chapter Three – Stephanie’s parents agree to let her go to Manticore. On Manticore, Gwendolyn Adair and Oswald Marrow plan to sabotage her experiences there in order to benefit their own agenda, which is proving the treecats are not sentient beings and/or should not be considered safe around humans. Anders and Stephanie go gliding with their club, and Anders thinks about how much he will miss Stephanie when she is away.
- Chapter Four – Anders learns that his father can return to his studies on Sphinx and that those studies will keep both of them there for about six months, which makes Anders very happy. Accompanying Dr. Whitaker will be members from the Adair Foundation who have been given permission to study the treecats as well. Stephanie and Karl leave for Manticore to begin their studies.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. What rank do Stephanie and Karl have?
 - a. Ranger
 - b. Provisional Ranger
 - c. Volunteer Forester
 - d. No rank
2. Why have those closest to treecats decided not to tell others that treecats are telepathic and telempathic?
3. What is Richard Harrington’s profession?
 - a. Doctor
 - b. Ranger
 - c. Veterinarian
 - d. Anthropologist
4. What was Lionheart’s role in his clan?
 - a. Healer
 - b. Memory Singer
 - c. Scout
 - d. Hunter
5. Who does Climbs Quickly refer to as Bleached Fur?
6. What do treecats believe about human communication?
7. Why is Stephanie’s mother in favor of the studying on Manticore?
8. How do Stephanie and Jessica decide to explain the trip to Lionheart?
9. Why do Oswald and Gwendolyn believe that the experience on Manticore will be difficult for Stephanie and Karl?

10. Why is Swimmer's Scourge unwilling to help another treecat clan?
11. What is one food treecats love?
 - a. Celery
 - b. Lettuce
 - c. Berries
 - d. Onions
12. Why will Stephanie and Anders be unable to talk face-to-face once she leaves Sphinx?

Answers:

1. B
2. Treecats have not yet been acknowledged as sentient, and those closest to treecats do not want officials to be intimidated or frightened by the ability of treecats. Some also do not want too many outsiders interfering in the life of treecats by trying to study them too closely.
3. C
4. C
5. Anders
6. Treecats believe that the inability of humans to communicate telepathically and telempathically makes them "mind blind," and keeps them from understanding each other fully.
7. Marjorie believes that the chance to learn will be good for her daughter. She also believes that Stephanie may be getting too attached to Sphinx, and she believes the chance to experience other places will broaden her interests.
8. Jessica and Stephanie decide to make a movie illustrating the trip so that Lionheart can be mentally prepared for the journey.
9. Gwendolyn and Oswald believe that Stephanie and Karl will be in over their heads on Manticore, mainly because they view life on Sphinx as less sophisticated. Also, they believe that Stephanie and Karl will struggle with the academics, as they will be the youngest by far and not all at the school want them to succeed.
10. He believes that his own clan will need all available resources to survive the long winters on Sphinx. His territory was also damaged in the fires.
11. A
12. The transmission lag would take too long, making a conversation frustrating.

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. Based on the descriptions in Chapter One, what do you believe are some of the most important aspects of treecats to keep in mind as you continue with the novel?
2. How have humans adapted to life on Sphinx? In particular, what struggles have humans had to face when striving to live on a new world, and how have they attempted to adjust?
3. Based on details from these chapters, what do you think Dr. Whitaker did during the fires to cause such disappointment? What makes you think this?

4. When switching over to the treecat point of view, Lionheart's name turns to Climbs Quickly, and Stephanie's name turns to Death Fang's Bane. Why do you think the names change? What does the treecat point of view add to our understanding of events so far?
5. Why do humans reckon time on Sphinx in two different ways – by season and by T-month? How long is a T-month?
6. Keen Eyes does not believe that the human presence of Sphinx has been good for Shinx. What are some of his reasons? How does this perspective add to our understanding of the situation on Sphinx?
7. Jessica and Stephanie are best friends, but they are very different. Compare and contrast Jessica and Stephanie. What do you think keeps them close friends? What differences do they have that can benefit the friendship overall?
8. Knowing what we know about Gwendolyn Adair, do you believe the Adair Foundation to be objective? Explain your reasoning.

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. How does environment shape the life of humans and other species? Pick a region of the earth and study how the environment shapes the culture and other lifestyle choices by those who choose to live there. In addition, how do some animals adapt to environmental factors and changes?
2. While Stephanie believes the treecats are telepathic, humans are not presented with this ability. Instead, humans possess empathy. What is empathy? Why is it an important skill. Some believe that empathy will be the most important trait to have for future success. Why? What do you think about this claim?
3. Corporations often fund scientific research, but this is a controversial practice. Why? Research an example of corporate influence upon scientific work. Do you think corporations expect scientists to remain objective? Why or why not?

Guide to Part 2 - chapters 5-9

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - “Auld Lang Syne”
 - potsherds
 - anthropomorphize
 - forensics
 - aboriginal
 - territorial
 - vertigo
 - reverberated
 - metabolism
 - interlopers
 - indigenous
 - patronizing
 - misnomer
 - deciduous
 - propagates
 - yeoman
 - Diaspora
 - assimilation
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Research the psychological idea of displacement at this site: <http://www.enotes.com/topics/displacement> or the site of your choice. How does this theory apply to Dr. Whitaker’s situation? Why is it hard for Anders to accept?
 - Find out more about the process of vetting. Why do candidates and other high profile people need to be vetted? What information can be learned, and why is it important?
 - During the time of the novel, life on Sphinx transitions from late autumn to the beginning of winter. This means many of the animals are changing their behavior. What are some examples of animal migration in your part of the world? Why do animals change their habits and habitats based on weather?
 - Research the job of forest rangers today. What kind of training is required? What kind of work do they do? As you read this section, compare the members of the SFS to today’s rangers.

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter Five – Dr. Whitaker returns to Sphinx, and he and Anders discuss the past experiences. Dr. Whitaker apologizes for his actions, and Anders begins to hear about some of the new visitors coming from the Adair Foundation.
- Chapter Six – For Anders’s birthday, Stephanie left him a scavenger hunt that guides him to several places that carry a special meaning for the couple. Unfortunately, Stephanie did not count on new migration patterns, and Anders had to try and retrieve a clue from a midst of rock ravens, leaving him in danger.
- Chapter Seven – Anders finally gathers all the clues and receives his present from Stephanie. Keen Eyes continues to look for a new home for his clan, as they will not survive the winter where they are currently located. Stephanie tries to fit in during her classes but feels that some do not want her there because of her age.
- Chapter Eight – Members from the Adair Foundation arrive on Sphinx. Stephanie tries to contribute to class but ends up making a mistake and feels humiliated. Jessica and Valiant meet the new team and let the team see a treecat. Valiant senses that at least one member of the new team has an ulterior motive for being on Sphinx.
- Chapter Nine – Jessica takes Anders to visit Dr. Hidalgo with Valiant, and Dr. Hidalgo believes that treecats are sentient. He does not believe that humans should interfere in treecat culture, which upsets Jessica. Keen Eyes and Nimble Fingers discuss the effects of the fire on both of their clans, but the coming of Swimmer’s Scourge cuts their conversation short.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. Why was Anders ashamed of his father?
2. Anders was so preoccupied with missing Stephanie and seeing his father that he forgot:
 - a. School
 - b. Work
 - c. Eating
 - d. His birthday
3. What does Valiant enjoy doing when there is free time?
 - a. Climbing trees
 - b. Gardening
 - c. Eating
 - d. Swimming
4. How does Anders save himself from more injury from the rock ravens?
5. How is Jessica helping Dr. Whitaker and the SFS in Stephanie’s absence?

Answers:

1. Dr. Whitaker let Anders down when he put the whole team at risk, and Anders feels that his father should have worked harder to protect his son.

2. D
3. B
4. He pushed the weight control slide to make himself lighter, allowing himself to float out of range.
5. Jessica and Valiant plan to accompany the Adair Foundation team on some of their expeditions. This will give them some time around a treecat, but it will also provide a way for a treecat to sense the motives of the new team.

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. Dr. Whitaker returns and asks his team to question his authority. How does this demonstrate a change in Dr. Whitaker's behavior? Do you believe that Dr. Whitaker has grown from his experiences? Explain your reasoning.
2. Humans named many items on Sphinx with names based on similar items on Earth, such as the oak. What is the reasoning behind this, and how does it help the reader picture life on Sphinx?
3. Gwen compares the treecats to aboriginal human cultures. Does this mean that she believes they are not as sophisticated as she appears to be? Based on what you know about treecats, evaluate Gwen's opinions about this species.
4. People sometimes fear what they do not understand, and Stephanie believes this may be why some people on Manticore will not allow Lionheart to accompany Stephanie to different places. What are some reasons Stephanie provides for their fears? What are some modern-day examples of people letting their fears get the best of them about the unknown?
5. How are treecat clans structured? What seems to be the main roles, and how are decisions made? How does the clan structure explain why Nimble Fingers feels he cannot help Keen Eyes more?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. Dr. Whitaker worries that some people may not view treecats objectively and will instead begin to anthropomorphize them. What does this mean? Read about anthropomorphism here: <http://education-portal.com/academy/lesson/anthropomorphized-animals-meaning-lesson-quiz.html#lesson> or at a site of your choice. Why do humans tend to anthropomorphize? Based on your research, is Dr. Whitaker's concern valid? Explain your reasoning.
2. How does a Parliamentary system work? Explore this system of government and compare and contrast it to a democracy.
3. Dr. Hidalgo expresses concern about too much contact between treecats and humans. This reminds Anders of his reading on the history of humans and the implications of assimilation. What does it mean for a group to assimilate? What are the risks involved?

Guide to Part 3 - chapters 10-16

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - intrusiveness
 - repercussions
 - Neoclassic architecture
 - ragamuffin
 - filament
 - vehemence
 - formidable
 - precedent
 - pacifically
 - jurisprudence
 - unscrupulous
 - hindrance
 - gaunt
 - tempest
 - berserker rage
 - anathema
 - reconciliation
 - mercurial
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Research conservation methods for animal and plant life. How do we protect their natural way of life?
 - Perform a thought experiment: Imagine you are observing human life through the perspective of an animal, such as a dog, cat, or bird. How would that animal describe human activity? What would the animal call humans?
 - Find out more about the effects of wildfires on forest life, including the plants and animals. How long does it take for regrowth to take place? Where can displaced animals go?

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter Ten – Gwendolyn meets Stephanie and Karl at the school and invites them to a dinner with the board. Anders and Jessica attend a concert return to overhear Duff DeWitt questioning Jessica's younger siblings about life with a treecat without an adult present. Even worse, DeWitt's questions encourage a negative response. Jessica's father interrupts the interview and sends DeWitt home. Stephanie and Karl attend the dinner with the Adair Foundation.

- Chapter Eleven – Stephanie’s speech to the foundation impressed many in attendance, much to the disappointment of Gwendolyn and Oswald. Anders and Jessica went to collect samples for Jessica’s mother. Keen Eyes goes to find a treecat from his clan, Red Cliff, but learns that Swimmer’s Scourge killed him and dumped him on land belonging to Keen Eyes’ clan.
- Chapter Twelve – Anders and Jessica go to collect samples for Jessica’s mother when they encounter a dead treecat. Valiant realizes that one treecat has killed another, which saddens him as it is against custom. Stephanie and Karl’s professors discuss how well both are doing in their coursework.
- Chapter Thirteen – Keen Eyes reports to his clan elders about the murder of Red Cliff, and discussion begins. They begin to build a net to capture Nimble Fingers in hopes that they can bring him back to the clan so that he can see their suffering and convince his own clan to either take them in or let them pass through. Gwendolyn and Oswald discuss Stephanie’s successes in school and with the Adair Foundation, which prompts Gwendolyn to move forward with the idea of advocating a reservation for treecats.
- Chapter Fourteen – The plan to bring back Nimble Fingers worked. Once he saw the suffering of the other clan, he felt great sympathy. Unfortunately, before a plan could be made, Nimble Fingers’s clan arrives and a war is about to begin. Anders realizes he has romantic feelings for Jessica, and he struggles with how to handle his feelings. While they talk, they find another injured treecat.
- Chapter Fifteen – Jessica, Anders, and Valiant find the place in the forest where the treecat war recently ended. They find one treecat alive, treat him as best they can, and then take him to Scott Macdallan, a man who has read the notes written by Stephanie’s father about treecats and is bonded to a treecat.
- Chapter Sixteen – Scott, Anders, and Jessica believe that there are two different groups of treecats involved in the violence based on the differences in their overall state of health. Stephanie wants to come home immediately to help when she hears about the treecats, but Karl convinces her to stay and finish her studies.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. Who ended DeWitt’s questioning about treecats?
 - a. Anders
 - b. Toby
 - c. Jessica’s father
 - d. Dr. Whitaker
2. Why does Oswald consider Stephanie a “PR campaign’s worst nightmare”?
3. What is the real reason Gwendolyn and Oswald want to disparage the treecats?
4. Why does Keen Eyes fear that Red Cliff is dead after some early searching?
5. Which plant appears to be recovering early from the fires?
 - a. Crown Oak
 - b. Picketwood

- c. Rowan
 - d. None of the above
6. Why does Anders consider Jessica's father useless?
 7. Why must Keen Eyes project such harsh feelings of anger and grief to attract Nimble Fingers?
 8. How does Valiant help the injured treecat while Anders and Jessica treat him?
 - a. He brings herbal remedies
 - b. He paces and keeps watch for more violence
 - c. He brings food
 - d. He purrs

Answers:

1. C
2. Stephanie is smart, mature for her age, and cute. He believes that seeing Stephanie and Lionheart together will win over the hearts of anyone who has to vote on acceptance of treecats.
3. Gwendolyn is interested in land on Sphinx, and she fears that Parliament will give it to the treecats.
4. He found Red Cliff's blood and tufts of fur.
5. A
6. Jessica's father does not provide much for his large family, often causing them to make sacrifices.
7. He hopes that such strong emotions will compel Nimble Fingers to ask about the event, even if Nimble Fingers is not supposed to talk to the outside clans.
8. D

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. Gwendolyn mentions an incident on planet Barstool. What happened there, and why does she connect it with the human awareness of treecats on Sphinx? Do believe this is a fair comparison? Explain your reasoning.
2. We learn more in this section about the bond between treecats. How strong is the bond? What are some examples of the strength of this bond?
3. Why do you think treecats refer to themselves as Persons? What does this mean about the word "person" and who it could apply to?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. Gwendolyn discusses the option of reservations for treecats to keep them separate from humans and to move them from land that she wants to cultivate for her own purposes. What are some examples of moving living things to a reservation and off their home territories? What happens to those put on reservations?

2. Anders asks the question in Chapter Twelve, "What makes something a weed, anyhow?" His question sparks a discussion about perspective. What does make a plant a weed? What kinds of plants are weeds to some but maybe not others? If not everyone agrees on what a weed is, what other categories outside of plant life, like pets for example, are also based more on perspective than a universal criteria?
3. Valiant does not want Jessica and Anders to discover that one treecat has killed another. Why is it important to Valiant that the humans do not see the treecats as violent? What concerns him about this?
4. When the two treecat clans go to war, the narrator explains the process involved in mentally preparing themselves to battle their own kind. In many ways, this parallels efforts made in human wars. Research war propaganda to find similarities between what happens with treecats and what happens with humans.

Guide to Part 4 - chapters 17-22

Prepare to Read...

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - chronic
 - despondent
 - sluggish
 - bureaucratic inertia
 - fretfulness
 - luxuriate
 - scimitar
 - protocols
 - philanthropists
 - menace
 - quelled
 - incoherent
 - superseded
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Research nomadic tribes. What causes them to move? How do they transport a whole society?
 - Perform a thought experiment: If you could rename yourself, your friends, and family in the way that treecats name each other, what would those names be? Why would you pick them? Which method of naming do you prefer and why?
 - Some decisions are momentous decisions. Looking back, those decisions helped shape human events afterwards either positively or negatively. One example would be decisions about segregation during the Civil Rights Movement. What are some other momentous decisions, and how did they shape society? What are some decisions today that could change society, and how do we know we are making the right choices?

Chapter Summaries:

- Chapter 17 – Stephanie and Karl plan for another foundation dinner. This time, Gwendolyn arranged for Lionheart to attend as well. Valiant tries to understand why Jessica and Anders are not acting on their feelings for each other. Together, Valiant, Jessica, and Anders find the Landless Clan. Valiant shares with the clan the news of Keen Eyes and is able to gain permission to take Jessica and Anders into the clan. Once there, all three are deeply saddened by the suffering of the Landless Clan.
- Chapter 18 – Stephanie prepares for the big dinner with the Adair Foundation. On the way there with Karl, her parents, and Lionheart, the group was attacked and had to fight off men intending to steal Lionheart. Afterwards, Stephanie decides to attend the event for the foundation.

- Chapter 19 – Jessica, Anders, and Valiant bring supplies to the Landless Clan. After a while, Valiant wants Jessica and Anders to take Nimble Fingers towards his own clan. On the way, they are attacked by Swimmer’s Scourge. Valiant subdues him and they bring him back to his clan.
- Chapter 20 – Valiant and Nimble Fingers speak to the clan. The clan agrees to let the Landless Clan pass through, provide some supplies, and send a memory singer to train the young memory singer there, but they will not let the Landless Clan assimilate with their own. Anders conveys his true feelings to Jessica. Both are concerned about Stephanie’s reaction to this news, and Anders wants to tell her in person. The humans try to find a way to move the Landless Clan to a territory that would support them through the winter.
- Chapter 21 – Stephanie and Karl return to Sphinx. Anders tells Stephanie that he is in love with Jessica. Valiant informs Lionheart of the events on Sphinx while Lionheart was away with Stephanie. Karl tries to console Stephanie. Together, Stephanie and Karl meet with Ranger Shelton about transporting the Landless Clan, and Shelton agrees to help but wants the treecats to choose their location. The two treecat clans part ways, and the Landless Clan gains memory singers to help train Tiny Choir.
- Chapter 22 - The Landless Clan moves to a location that reminds them somewhat of their home before the fires. Anders and Stephanie agree to remain friends. Lionheart and the other treecat bonded to humans discuss the importance of relationships between humans and treecats.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions – multiple choice / short answer questions to test reading comprehension:

1. In the culture of treecats, who is Survivor?
 - a. Keen Eyes
 - b. Nimble Fingers
 - c. Swimmer’s Scourge
 - d. Fisher
2. How does Anders come to the conclusion that the Landless Clan is “poor”?
3. Why did Gwendolyn orchestrate the attack on Stephanie, her family, Karl, and Lionheart?
4. Once at the Landless Clan, who does Valiant want Anders and Stephanie to help heal first?
 - a. The youngest
 - b. The most injured
 - c. Nimble Fingers
 - d. Tiny Choir
5. What do Jessica and Anders name Nimble Fingers?
 - a. Scout
 - b. Guide
 - c. Hunter
 - d. Keen Eyes
6. Why has Jessica decided to be a doctor?
7. How does Stephanie take the news that Anders is in love with Jessica?
8. Keen Eyes makes a bond with which character?
 - a. Anders

- b. Ranger Shelton
- c. Song Spinner
- d. Karl

Answers:

1. A
2. From his work with his father, Anders understands what kinds of material goods a healthy and prosperous treecat clan should have, such as gourds. He does not see any of this kind of evidence.
3. She hoped Lionheart would kill the attackers, showing the world that treecats are very dangerous and need to be separated from humans.
4. C
5. B
6. Jessica finds meaning in helping heal others.
7. Stephanie initially feels betrayed, but she tries to accept things when Lionheart communicates to her that Anders feels very badly about how this happened.
8. D

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions –

1. Valiant does not understand why Anders and Jessica are not acting on their feelings, in part because he believes that these kinds of emotions would not happen with treecats. How do treecats handle emotion differently? Which way of dealing with emotions do you prefer? Why?
2. Valiant thought to himself “a clan was its memory singers, for they held all its shared history.” What does he mean by this? How important is understanding the history of a culture in understanding a culture’s actions today?
3. During the attack, Lionheart wants to defend Stephanie in any way possible, but Stephanie wants him to restrain himself from killing any of the attackers. Why? How does this decision impact future events?
4. Nimble Fingers does not heal fully before he tries to leave for his own clan. Why? What is he afraid of?
5. Like Lionheart, Valiant restrains himself and does not kill Swimmer’s Scourge during the attack, even when he could. Are his reasons the same as Valiant’s? What are we learning about treecats based on their choices in these moments?
6. Karl tells Stephanie that Anders and Jessica “don’t belong to you.” What does he mean by that, and why does it help console her?
7. Given what we have learned about Karl and Keen Eyes, why do they make such a good bonded pair?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry-Based Exploration:

1. When Jessica sees the Landless Clan, she feels they are “emotionally beaten” as well as starving. How can the mindset of a person affect a person’s body and health?
2. In this section, both Lionheart on Manticore and Valiant on Sphinx feel that they missed earlier signs of an ongoing attack because their focus was elsewhere. Could this be a treecat version of choice blindness? Find out about choice blindness here and explain your answer:
<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/brain-games/videos/choice-blindness/>
3. What kinds of considerations must be made when moving a whole society? As the humans are trying to determine the best location for the Landless Clan, research all the components necessary to move a society from one place to another beyond just available food and water. If you were going to move, what would you want in a new location?
4. How do we know when we have the best interests of animals in mind? The humans believe they are helping the Landless Clan find a new home, and the treecats agree. What contemporary examples can you find of humans interfering with animal life in the belief that it is best for the animals? Were the humans right? How can we tell?