

Katherine Applegate Curriculum Guide and Classroom Resources

Winner of the 2020 Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature –
Katherine Applegate

Lesson ideas for selected reading: *Endling the Last* by Katherine Applegate

Prepared by Laura Raphael, MA, MLIS, Children's Services Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library



While you can find some information on Katherine Applegate's web site (<https://katherineapplegate.com/>), her Twitter account (@kaauthor) is a richer place for her frequent comments and insights.



Katherine Applegate ✓
@kaauthor

Follow



I write to see where I've already been. I read to see where I might yet go. A good book is like GPS for the soul. #whyiread #hc200

Another terrific way to get to know Katherine Applegate and be introduced to “Endling the Last” is this recent (April 2018) interview with School Library Journal (<https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=3-questions-katherine-applegate>)

3 Questions for Katherine Applegate by Kiera Parrott

1. In your new book, [Endling: The Last](#), our hero, Byx, is the last dairne, a species of intelligent creatures who look like dogs but speak and walk upright. How did the idea for Byx and the dairne develop?

One of the amazing things about fantasy is the chance to design worlds from scratch, and that means the great fun of creating new species. Dairnes are, I suppose, a nod to my lifelong love for dogs. Not only are they sentient and able to communicate fluently with humans, they’re bipedal, have a pouch like a kangaroo, and can glide like flying squirrels.

And—oh, yeah—they can tell when you’re lying. (*Told* you it’s fun.) I loved getting to know Byx. She’s naive and full of self-doubt, but when faced with an unimaginable future where she may be the last dairne left alive, she finds incredible reserves of courage and a devoted cadre of friends.

2. This is not just a “cute talking animals” tale. Byx and her companions witness and endure horrifying things, including that early, gut-wrenching scene when Byx loses her family. Why was it important for you to tackle issues such as genocide and ecological destruction?

Sometimes we find our books in dreams. Or in news stories. In the people we know (or the ones we wish we didn’t). But the idea for this series came from a single, newly coined word: *endling*. An endling is defined as the last member of a species or subspecies. The word is so new that you won’t find it in many dictionaries, but it’s not likely to fade away: sadly, we’re in the midst of what many are calling Earth’s “sixth great extinction,” almost all of it man-made.

There’s something so excruciatingly poignant about the idea of losing the last of a species. I wanted to talk about that honestly with kids, and that meant not shying away from some dark moments. But that darkness is leavened by hope. And when it comes to caring about the future of our planet, believe me, kids are on the front lines. They learn early about global warming, shrinking habitats, and endangered species. (Thank you, teachers and librarians.)

Kids can handle a fictionalized world where animals are in trouble. They already live in a real one. Sometimes I think the best part of school visits is the feeling I always carry away with me: if anybody can save our planet, it’s these kids.

3. How have life and your writing process changed since winning the Newbery?

I think others may have noted this same paradox: it changes everything and nothing. The “everything” part first. The Newbery keeps your book alive. It means avoiding the dreaded remainders table and gaining eternal life on the “pretty stickers” shelf.

But above all, it means children clutching a dog-eared copy in a long signing line just so they can tell me *Ivan* was the Best Book Ever. But the “nothing” part remains unchanged. The recalcitrant blank page and the inevitable doubt and the frequent frustration and the astronomical coffee bills. But always, always, always...there’s the joy. And another book to be written.

Features of This Novel

SUMMARY: Believed to possess mythical powers as the youngest member of her doglike dairne pack, Byx fears she has become the last of her species when her family is hunted to near-extinction, forcing her to band together with a ragtag group of animals and humans who help put into motion events that could trigger war throughout their kingdom.

CHARACTERS:

- **Byx:** the youngest of her family, the protagonist Byx is a “dairne” – a creature with dog-like characteristics. Byx is highly curious, intelligent, and eager to find other dairnes.
- **Tobble:** a “wobbyk” or small creature with large ears and a deep loyalty to Byx on their journey.
- **Khara:** a human girl who is first a captor and then a helper to Byx and Tobble.
- **Gambler:** a “felivet” or panther-like creature who joins the group. Sly and strong.
- **Luca:** a human who is first a helper and then a betrayer of the group.

GENRES:

While Katherine Applegate is arguably best known for her realistic fiction, this is firmly rooted in the **FANTASY** genre, with a completely made-up world, including entire species, ecosystems, governments, and more. Additionally, there is a strong **ACTION** element as Byx and her friends travel in and out of adventures, with lots of nail-biting cliffhangers.

However, Applegate marries these two genres to a deeper exploration of character, feelings, and relationships that are key features of **REALISTIC FICTION**. Readers will deeply identify with Byx’s personal and emotional challenges as well as triumphs. (And Tobble, Byx’s furry sidekick, has a really wonderfully “human” scene at the end.)

Approaches to Teaching “Endling the Last”

“Endling the Last” cries out for three particular approaches to teaching in a group setting:

- Pre-teaching key vocabulary
- Reading aloud
- Building knowledge about habitats, ecosystems, and extinction

Pre-teaching key vocabulary will help students better concentrate on the story when they encounter these words and enjoy the narrative without getting hung up on difficult words. Additionally, “word knowledge is world knowledge” and will introduce readers to new facts and ideas. See Appendix B for a list of difficult words per chapter.

Reading aloud a chapter or two per day will allow you to provide vocabulary support and check for understanding, but more importantly, “Endling the Last” is a cracking good story with lots of action-packed scenes and emotional interludes that works well to sustain attention and make students eager to hear more. You can pair reading aloud with your students reading along in their

own books, but be sure to tell them not to read ahead! But if they do read ahead (they totally will), tell them not to spoil it for the rest of the class.

Building background knowledge about habitats, ecosystems, and extinction, while not necessary, will enhance your students' understanding and enjoyment of the novel immensely. Byx is possibly the last (an “endling”) of her species (dairnes), one of six fictional species, but the idea that habitats affect living organisms and ecosystems can be destroyed and species made extinct is very firmly a theme of the novel. See “Lesson(s): Habitats, Ecosystems, Extinction” for resources to build this knowledge.

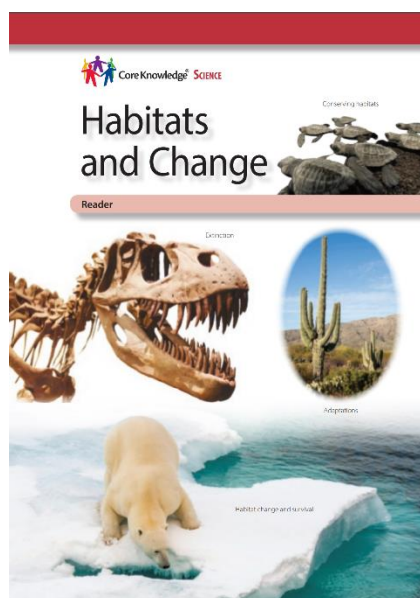
Lesson(s): Habitats, Ecosystems, Extinction

Building background knowledge is crucial to increase reading comprehension.

The Core Knowledge Foundation (www.coreknowledge.org) is an organization that has been creating free curriculum in the areas of science, social studies, and reading for more than 30 years.

The Grade 3 “Habitats and Change” unit has excellent student chapters to read as well as teacher support and related lesson plans and enrichment activities.

For a full implementation of this unit, Core Knowledge recommends 26 instructional periods, but a simple approach to build knowledge for this novel is to read a chapter a day (there are 10 chapters) and discuss each “Big Question” and possible answers.




Habitats

Chapter 1

Living things need food, water, and shelter. All living things must live in places where they can get what they need. A **habitat** is the natural place where an organism lives. A habitat provides an organism with what it needs to **survive**, or stay alive.

There are many parts that make up a habitat. For example, land and water are parts of a habitat. Land can provide organisms with things like food and shelter. Weather is part of a habitat, too. Temperatures make places livable or not livable. If places get too hot or too cold, organisms might not be able to survive there.



A coral reef in the ocean is a clownfish's habitat. The fish can get food there. It has a place where it is protected from being eaten by other animals.

Big Question
What do all habitats have in common?


Vocabulary
habitat, n. the natural place where an organism lives
survive, v. to stay alive

Nature and Changing Ecosystems

Chapter 4

Habitats are the places where organisms live. The living things in a place interact, which means they affect each other. The place itself also affects the living things. An **ecosystem** is all the living and nonliving things in a certain place and their interactions.

Sometimes an ecosystem changes. This change can happen fast. It can also happen very slowly. When a change happens, some living things may have trouble getting what they need. Some organisms will survive the change well. Some will have to work harder to meet their needs. Others will leave or even die.



This bird gets shelter and finds food from trees in its ecosystem. What might happen to the bird if a change kills all the trees in the forest?

Big Question
How do natural changes to an environment affect the organisms that live there?

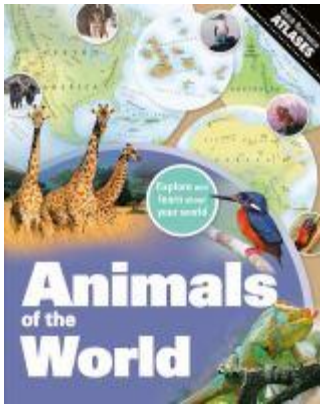
Vocabulary
ecosystem, n. all the living and nonliving things in a place and their interactions

Another, less structured and more exploratory approach is to gather books about habitats and ecosystems from your library and share them with your students through quick book talks. Break them into groups to read together (or on their own) and share what they learned with classmates.

Some great books that you can find at the Tulsa City-County Library include:

<p><u>Animal Atlas</u></p>  <p>Meet fierce snow leopards in the Tibetan mountains, giant helicopter damselflies in the rain forests of Central America, majestic eagles in the temperate forests of North America, and hundreds more fascinating creatures.</p>	<p><u>Through the Animal Kingdom</u></p>  <p>Uncover the mysteries of the animal kingdom in this incredible journey around the globe. Thirteen extraordinary habitats to explore. Thirteen unforgettable stories.</p>
<p><u>Where in the Wild</u></p>  <p>Animals are found in every environment around the world from the rain forest to the savanna to the desert. Some creatures, like butterflies and foxes, can survive in many different habitats. Lyrical text and stunning illustrations bring to life the inhabitants of these unique environment.</p>	<p><u>Baby Animals in Grassland Habitats</u></p>  <p>Cute baby coyotes, prairie dogs, bobcats, falcons, and bison are just of a few of the grassland animals featured. Young readers will learn about food chains, prairie weather, underground homes, and how animals stay safe in grasslands.</p>

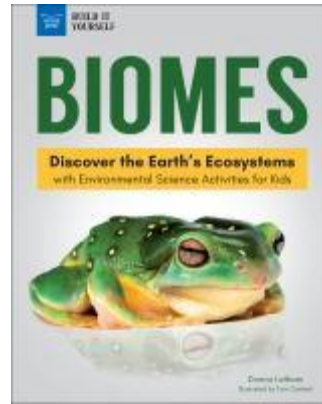
Animals of the World



Want to know if the Canada lynx lives in any other countries, or where not to go if you don't want to run into a venomous cottonmouth snake? This vibrant atlas is

packed with eye-catching images of animals and their ecosystems and territories.

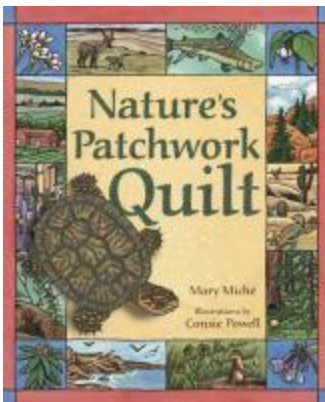
Biomes – Discover the Earth's Ecosystems



Discusses different types of biomes on Earth: forests, deserts, grasslands, tundra, mountains, oceans. Activities and projects include making a blubber mitt, a rainstick, a

tornado in a bottle, a food chain flipbook, a glacier, a cone bird feeder as well as experiments with erosion, acid rain, salt and seed germination and air quality.

Nature's Patchwork Quilt: Understanding Habitats



Like a quilt, each habitat in nature is composed of many interdependent pieces that form grand patterns and webs. The text introduces numerous key concepts in

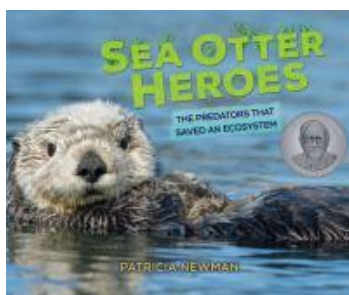
natural science, and the back material offers activities and ideas for teaching.

The Big Book of the Blue



Explores the unique habitat of the ocean. Alongside everything the young oceanographer needs to know, Zommer's charming illustrations bring to life some of the slipperiest, scaliest, strangest, and most monstrous underwater animals.

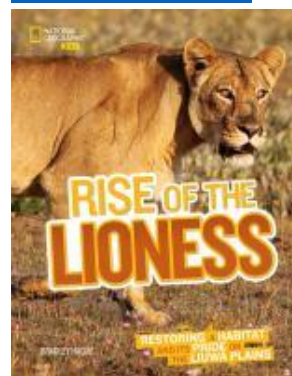
Sea Otter Heroes – The Predators that Saved an Ecosystem



Marine biologist Brent Hughes discovered a surprising connection between sea otters and sea grass at an estuary in

northern California.

Rise of the Lioness



Focusing on the last lioness in a Zambian wildlife refuge, looks at how the ecosystem has been impacted by the actions of humans and describes how lions are being reintroduced to the park.

Lesson: First Chapters Read Aloud

Even if you do not plan to read aloud the entire novel (perfectly fine!), reading the first four (relatively short) chapters of “Endling the Last” will introduce the main character Byx, set the scene for her big challenge, and tantalize your students to read more.

The audiobook version is voiced by award-winning voice artist Lisa Flanagan and can be borrowed from the library if you are looking for a read-aloud alternative.


Ask 3 key questions after finishing reading the chapter:

1. What do you know about the narrator?
2. What do you know about the world in this novel?
3. What is the main problem?

Lesson: Clue Collector

Throughout the novel, but in particular the first few chapters, readers learn more about the kingdom of Nedarra, including the different species, history, and problems. But Katherine Applegate doesn’t come right out and tell us everything – as readers, we have to search for clues that tell us more.

Make copies of the “Clue Card” template in Appendix C (see below), and ask students to be novel detectives and piece together the clues they find about this fantasy world and its inhabitants.

<h1>CLUE CARD</h1>	
	What I learned about the world of <u>Nedarra</u> :
	What page I found the clue on:

Lesson: Describe and draw

Katherine Applegate clearly had lots of fun creating new creatures for her fantasy world. Fortunately, her descriptions of each creature are fully detailed and help readers picture what these creatures look like.

An easy lesson would be to read each description and ask students to draw what they think each one looks like based on the descriptions.

Dairne, page 29:

"'Wolf family? Perhaps. But your fur is golden, much finer than a wolf's coat. Hmm. You can glide, like a flying squirrel. You have a pouch, like a marsupial. You have hands with thumbs, but doglike paws for feet. You stand erect, and you're a female.' "

Wobbyk, pages 26-7:

"I blinked away rain and stared at the wobbyk. He was small, perhaps a third of my size, and comical looking, especially in his waterlogged state. His silver-blue fur was bedraggled, as were his three tails. Huge white oval ears extended from his head like giant wings.

"Everything else about him was round: round head; round, protruding stomach; round eyes, big and shiny as river plums. Even his paws – white, like his ears and muzzle – were round as lily pads. The lower half of his face reminded me of a fox, with its black nose, long whiskers, and upturned mouth that looked perpetually amused. He wore a leather belt low on his sizable belly. Attached to it was a small drawstring pouch."

Natite, pages 132-3:

"The natite was smaller than a human, but larger than a dairne. Its head was shaped like a ship's bow, a bony ridge down the front separating two huge eyes the deep blue of the sky at day's end. Its mouth was a triangle, flattened a little at the top, its ears mere filigree placed high on the sides of its head. Below the ears were gills, three glaps of bloodred flesh that extended from the bottom of the ear down the neck.

"I tried not to stare too long at its body. It was vaguely human in shape, though it would never be mistaken for a human. Green flesh covered its powerful shoulders and chest, and two huge, writing tentacles rose from the creature's shoulder blades.

"The natite's body fused into a sort of fishtail covered in scales. The tail ended in horizontal flukes, but with a nasty surprise: rising between the flukes was a sort of spike perhaps a foot long, an ivory horn that was serrated along the bottom and glittering sharp at the point."

Terramant, page 157:

"It reminded me of a beetle, or perhaps a mantis. Far larger than either, far larger than I had imagined. Bigger than a dairne. Bigger than the humans I'd seen, though its size was mostly in length. It had a low, sleek body, wings folded like armor over its back, and six large hind legs, jointed and spiked like a spider's.

"The terramant's head was triangular, with two bulbous eyes. Around its mouth, which opened and closed with mathematical consistency, were four additional limbs, small but strong arms that each ended in a sharp, curved blade. The blades were useful, I suspected, for slicing through roots and soft earth under the ground. They could also be used to catch and eat various animals – including, according to the scary stories my older siblings had often told, dairnes."

Gambler the felivet pages 179-81:

"The felivet's reaction was startling. In less time than it would have taken me to cough, Gambler's pale blue eyes snapped open and he lunged with easy grace, landing at the cell door, teeth bared, claws extended. He was a lanix, huge and sleek, his coat pure black except for a series of delicate white stripes on his face. His long, muscular tail reminded me far too much of a serpent...

"A lifetime of terrifying tales about the huge cats would not allow me to relax. In seconds, Gambler could kill Luca and me with ease."

Lesson: Create a Seventh Species

After these fantastical descriptions of made-up animals, who wouldn't want to create a species in the way that Katherine Applegate has?

Ask your students to brainstorm, as a class or in small groups, what a 7th species for this world (or their own fantasy world) might look like.

TIP: Katherine Applegate seems to have chosen an animal that does exist in this world as a start to creating her new animals. For example, dairnes look a little bit like dogs while felivets look a little bit like cats – with important differences. When creating a new species, perhaps you should start with an existing animal and create something similar to it. For example, start with a penguin and then add other characteristics – neon orange spots, two horns, etc.

Lesson: Two Truths and a Lie

Dairnes are famously honest. Not only can they spot when someone else is lying, they themselves are unable to tell lies. Byx, however, discovers that she CAN lie, at least if it's to help save herself and her friends.

Using the party game “Two Truths and a Lie”, ask students to become one of the characters in the book (either in person/verbally or in writing) and give two statements that are true and one statement that is not true. Then have the other students in the class determine which statements are true and which are lies! This is a great way to check for understanding.

For example:

Byx:

- 1) Like other dairnes, I can glide (not quite fly) using my arms. (Truth)
- 2) I keep a picture of my parents in my pouch. (Lie)
- 3) My fur is so soft that poachers want to kill me. (Truth)

Book Reviews of “Endling the Last”

Booklist:

Grades 5-8 /* Starred Review */ In the land of Nedarra, six governing species reign supreme, but the dairnes—a cross between dog and sugar glider—are critically endangered. Hunted by humans to obscurity, the remaining dairnes have left their treetop nests for more concealed abodes on the ground. Byx is the runt of her pack and highly curious about the world around her. When she sneaks out to explore one day, she rescues a wobbyk (imagine a silvery-blue chinchilla) named Tobble from a group of poachers, only to return home to the horror of finding her entire pack slaughtered by human soldiers. Byx flees with Khara—the poachers’ young guide—and Tobble, but the unusual group is brought up short by unsettling news: Byx may be an endling, the last of her species. What follows is a dangerous, heart-stopping quest to stay alive and find an elusive island where dairnes are still rumored to live. Applegate (Wishtree, 2017) effortlessly constructs her fantasy world, briskly moving readers through its imaginative details while creating winning, unique characters. Readers expecting a whimsical animal adventure should be warned that the pervading tone is dark, calling attention to humans’ greed and lust for power. Yet, Khara proves a loyal friend, as do others in Byx’s unlikely crew. This epic series starter is a bracing, propulsive read that will be a challenge to keep on the shelf. -- Smith, Julia (Reviewed 3/1/2018) (Booklist, vol 114, number 13, p60)

School Library Journal:

/* Starred Review */ Gr 4–7—Byx has always thought of herself as last: last-born sibling, the youngest in her whole family, and least adept at all the skills valued by the caninelike "dairnes." But when her family, the last-known group of dairnes in Nedarra, is hunted down and murdered by humans under the rule of the villainous Murdano, she truly becomes the last—an Endling, the sole survivor of a species. Byx sets out on a desperate but hopeful journey in search of Dairneholm, a mythical settlement of dairnes. Along the way she is joined by an increasingly unlikely group of adventurers including Khala the human, a girl disguised as a boy with a mysterious past, and Tobble, the small and fiercely loyal wobbyk. Their mission becomes more dangerous as they discover the rue machinations behind the dairnes's eradication. Fantasy lovers are in for a treat with this smartly paced, enthralling adventure that pairs novel and exciting world-building with classic high fantasy tropes and political intrigue. Applegate's characters feel fresh and modern, and their questioning of the status quo will resonate with today's middle graders. Illustrations and maps will help young readers imagine the rich setting filled with fantastical creatures that vie for power in Nedarra. The heart and courage Byx and her companions must find within as they stand up against unimaginable odds will inspire and delight. VERDICT A sweeping fantasy epic for the middle grade set that will have readers clamoring for a follow-up. A first purchase.—Darla Salva Cruz, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY --Darla Salva Cruz (Reviewed 04/01/2018) (School Library Journal, vol 64, issue 4, p116)



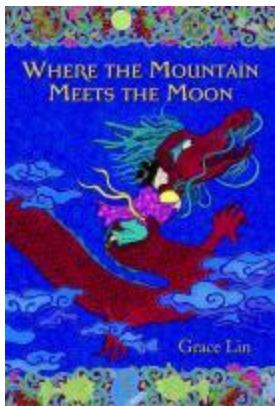
Publishers Weekly:

/ Starred Review */* The gripping first installment of Applegate's (The One and Only Ivan) new fantasy trilogy assembles a motley crew in a suspenseful, tautly drawn quest. The narrative centers on Byx, the 11-year-old runt of a litter of an almost extinct, threatened species of dairnes—highly intelligent doglike creatures who walk upright and can talk, glide, and distinguish any lie. When the curious Byx ventures beyond the confines of her pack's carefully hidden home, she saves a humorously polite creature, a wobbyk named Tobble, meets a 14-year-old tracker named Khara disguised as a boy, and misses the slaughter of her community that leaves her the last of her kind, an endling . The conflicting motivations of the strongly drawn characters prove compelling as Khara captures the grieving Byx and Tobble to take them to an island city to consult a scholar whom Khara believes will save Byx (while paying a hefty price). Persuasive emotional underpinnings give depth and urgency to the adventure as the team unites against sinister forces. Ages 8–12. Agent: Elena Giovinazzo, Pippin Properties. (May) --Staff (Reviewed 03/12/2018) (Publishers Weekly, vol 265, issue 11, p)

Related Novels

IMPORTANT: “Endling the Last” is the first in a planned trilogy. In [Endling the First](#), the adventures continue when Byx and her friends continue their quest to uncover the truth of the legends of hidden dairnes, and soon find themselves unlikely leaders of the simmering rebellion.

If you are looking for more books similar to *Endling the Last*, you might want to consider these titles:

 The cover of 'The Wonderling' by Mira Bartok features a fox-like creature with one ear, wearing a dark jacket, set against a green and yellow background with decorative elements.	<p>The Wonderling by Mira Bartok</p> <p>Follows the experiences of a foxlike foundling with one ear who endures an oppressive life in an orphanage for part-animal humans until an expected act of courage leads to a friendship and a quest to discover his destiny.</p>
 The cover of 'The Unicorn Quest' by Kamilla Benko shows two young girls in a dark, magical setting with a glowing unicorn head in the background.	<p>The Unicorn Quest series by Kamilla Benko</p> <p>In an antique-filled mansion, sisters Claire and Sophie find a ladder to the magical land of Arden, where wraiths roam freely, unicorns have disappeared, and the guilds of magic no longer trust each other.</p>
 The cover of 'Where the Mountain Meets the Moon' by Grace Lin depicts a red dragon flying over a blue river with a small boat, set against a backdrop of mountains and a full moon.	<p>Starry River of the Sky series (starting with Where the Mountain Meets the Moon) by Grace Lin</p> <p>Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.</p>

Appendix A: Harper Collins Discussion Guide

Find the full Educators Resource Kit at www.endlingbooks.com. Here are the discussion questions in the Kit:

Discussion Questions

Before reading: Why does diversity matter among people and among species of animals and plants?

1. Katherine Applegate has created a detailed world with a well-defined social structure, a history, and a mythology. Explain who the governing species are and how they relate to each other. What is the mythological history about how this arrangement was created? Why are other species considered lower than the governing species?
2. Describe Byx and how she ends up on her quest. What makes her a good protagonist? How does she change throughout the course of the novel? Come up with five adjectives to describe her. Discuss why you think the author chose to have Byx narrate the story instead of using a third-person point of view.
3. Byx is known in her family for her curiosity. Her mother says, "I love that you ask so many questions" (p. 10). What role does her curiosity play in the story's plot? Give examples of when she's curious and what difference it makes.
4. Byx and the other dairnes can detect lies. How does that affect her life? When does the ability help her on her travels? When does it hurt her? How do humans feel about this special ability of the dairnes? Explain how Byx's own ability to lie helps her and her friends.
5. Tobble explains the Wobbyk Code after Byx saves his life. What does "code" mean in this context? What is the Wobbyk Code? How do Byx and Tobble meet? Describe Tobble, his background, his personality, and the characteristics of his species. How does Tobble show courage? What is a stibillary and why do Byx and the others perform one for Tobble?
6. Describe how Byx meets Khara. She's a mysterious figure when Byx first encounters her. Why does she pose as male? Why is she working for poachers? What is her family history? What are her goals? Explain how her relationship with Byx changes over the course of the novel.
7. Byx recounts that, "My father had a saying: 'To rush is not necessarily to arrive.' He said it to me often." (pp. 19–20). What did Byx's father mean by this? What are times in the novel that Byx rushes? What are the consequences of those actions? Are there times when she rushes but doesn't arrive?
8. When did Byx, Khara, and Tobble first meet Renzo, and what did they think of him? What is their next encounter? Describe his personality and his occupation. How does magic help him? What role does he play in their quest? How does he change by the end of the story?
9. "The dairnes so true,/So free of greed,/May come and go,/Take what they need" (p. 125). Khara sings these lines about the original place of the dairnes among the governing species. What do the lines mean? Why did Byx's packelder, Dalyntor, call the ability to detect lies "a burdensome gift" (p. 126)?
10. Where is Cora di Schola? How does Byx get there and what is her reaction to the town? Describe the tower, its different levels, and what they are used for. Who is Ferrucci and how does Khara know him? Why does she take Byx to him? Why does Ferrucci betray Khara and Byx?

11. Who is Luca and when does Byx meet him? At first, Luca appears to be helping Byx and her friends. Give examples of his helpfulness. What are Luca's real intentions? Find places in the text that foreshadow those real intentions. How does Luca betray them and why does he do it?
12. What are some general characteristics of felivets? Recount the scene in which Byx meets Gambler. Why is Gambler imprisoned? Why does Byx insist on helping him escape? Describe Gambler, his abilities, and his personality. How does Gambler prove to be important on Byx's journey? How does his attitude change, especially towards Tobble?
13. Describe enemies besides Luca that Byx and her friends face, including the Knight of Fire, the Pale Soldiers, and others. What are their abilities and what threats do they pose? How do the friends evade them or escape from them? How does evading enemies move the plot forward?

Extension Activities

LIKE THE DAIRNES. Changes over time, and the expansion of human territory and activities around our planet, have led many species extinct or in danger of extinction, not unlike the dairnes. Ask students each to find an extinct or endangered species that interests them, research it through digital and print sources, and create a multimedia presentation to give to the class.

KEEPING BYX'S JOURNAL. Byx starts to keep a journal, saying, "Whenever it came time to rest, I wrote down my impressions of the day or drew pictures" (p. 226). One page shows an excerpt (p. 265). Students should each choose a different chapter or two and write journal entries about it from Byx's point of view, including pictures. Bind the pages together of all the student work in chronological order to create a continuous journal.

WORDS OF WISDOM. Byx mentions several sayings, including "To rush is not necessarily to arrive" (pp. 19–20) and "Only fools know both the beginning and the end of the story" (p. 127). Have students find other sayings in the text. Then hold a

discussion about these sayings as well as traditional sayings that your students have heard, what they mean, and why sayings are part of a culture. Then have each student interview older relatives and friends to collect at least five sayings and what they mean. Designate a bulletin board for posting these.

CHART THE WORLD. The intricate social structure helps create a fully realized world in *Endling*. Have students create an organizational chart to show the different species, with the governing species on top and the others below, as described in the novel. For each species where it's known, the chart should list some important characteristics. Have students compare their charts to see if there are differences.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? The fully realized world that Applegate has created also includes a lot of new words such as names of animals, plants, food, ceremonies, places, and so on. Ask students to each create a glossary for the novel that includes proper nouns. Talk about the uses of a glossary and have students find examples in other books.

Appendix B: Key Vocabulary Words

These are just some of the words in each chapter that you may want to pre-teach before reading “Endling the Last.”

<p>Chapters 1 & 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runt • Dwindling • Resentment • Cowering • Opposable • Slaughter • Devastated • Venture • Poacher • Abandoned • Vulnerable • Despot • Listless • Migration • Whelp • Hunch • Trek • Intimidating • Colony • Glide • Plains • Enticing • Extinct 	<p>Chapters 3 & 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerge • Squat • Crude • Placid • Besieged • Surge • Doomed • Menacing • Looming • Respite • Feeble • Peril • Imposing • Quiver (n.) 	<p>Chapters 5 & 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defy • Plummeting • Blustery • Trajectories • Trident • Filament • Stout • Futile • Bedraggled • Waterlogged • Protruding • Leaden • Concealment • Shale • Warble • Demeanor • Skittish
<p>Chapters 7 & 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concealing • Gaunt • Depart • Converse • Stature • Thrice • Neglected • Grimace • Jest • Intimidating • Potential • Intriguing • Luxurious • Indulging 	<p>Chapters 9 & 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposed • Instinct • Void • Recesses • Treacherous • Summit • Careening • Mayhem • Motley • Wield • Chain Mail • Conical 	<p>Chapters 11 & 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrained • Carcass • Lolloped • Assaulted • Tines • Penetrated • Intently • Debating • Unbidden • Feign • Eavesdropper • Scoffed • Eerie

<p>Chapters 13 & 14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terse • Extinguished • Guttural • Acquainted • Translucent • Fabled • Entrust • Gauge • Carnivorous • Decisive • Metabolism • Wafted • Scenic • Nimble • Melodious • Seafaring • Destination 	<p>Chapters 15 & 16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infinitely • Muster • Sardonic • Encrusted • Indistinguishable • Terror • Astonishment • Writhed • Rank • Putrid • Carcass • Sinuous • Stench • Chastened • Mired • Peevish • Chasm 	<p>Chapters 17 & 18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incantations • Imperial • Conjured • Sincere • Scabbard • Interjected • Dire straits • Vulnerable • Penance • Adhered
<p>Chapters 19 & 20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquiesce • Intrepid • Valor • Navigate • Relic • Moronic • Heave • Forage • Fret • Stealthy • Frugal • Pondering • Odorous • Conviction 	<p>Chapters 21 & 22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undignified • Meandered • Dubious • Estuary • Exploit • Maxims • Illusion • Resigned • Ramshackle • Filigree 	<p>Chapters 23 & 24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disembark • Berth • Palanquins • Pungent • Boisterous • Proprietor • Incredulous • Raucous • Carousing • Revelation • Wager
<p>Chapters 25 & 26:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resigned • Gnarled • Arrayed • Cavernous • Tomes • Transcribed • Officiate 	<p>Chapters 27 & 28:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evade • Vast • Seething • Perimeter • Jeering • Conviction • Mantra 	<p>Chapters 29 & 30:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discern • Miasma • Skeptically • Travesty • Livery • Nonchalance • Allegiance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masqueraded • Arthritic • Dungeon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infallible • Apparent • Conceal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraud • Obliteration • Boisterous • Spectacle • Delineated
<p>Chapters 31 & 32:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascending • Negotiations • Treaty • Salvation • Manifestations • Cunning • Crude • Anticipation • Heave • Synchronization • Superiority 	<p>Chapters 33 & 34:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue • Throng • Conniving • Hoax • Veer • Unison • Excrement • Vectoring • Eaves • Sinewy • Linger • Renegade • Conspiracy • Exterminate • Inevitable 	<p>Chapter 35:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port • Rickety • Smugglers • Sentient • Debris • Conjure • Ingratiate • Instincts • Quest • Premature
<p>Chapters 36 & 37:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relish • Protest • Specimen • Adequate • Adapt • Unsheathe • Vertical • Onslaught • Punctuate • Retaliation • Placating 	<p>Chapters 38 & 39:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate • Disemboweled • Ornately • Tribute • Amend • Vouch • Evasively • Recounted • Relinquished • Torrent • Miasma • Stealth • Awestruck • Undulating • Spectacle • Encompassing • Doggedly • Stamina 	<p>Chapters 40 & 41:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converged • Billowed • Obscured • Diverted • Fragmented • Enigmatic • Deniable • Placating
<p>Chapters 42 & 43:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferential • Imposing 	<p>Chapters 44 & 45:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prehensile • Parody 	<p>Chapters 46 & 47:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shackle • Manacles

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promontory • Crenellated • Churning • Habitation • Throng • Curtly • Sinecure • Furtive • Protruding • Festooned • Contempt • Talisman • Contraband • Basalt • Crenellated • Facsimile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fervently • Insignia • Assailant • Leverage • Hilt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grout • Ornate • Inestimable • Exertions • Courtiers • Attired • Treachery • Motives • Procured
<p>Chapters 48 & 49:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interminable • Devious • Tenuous • Emit • Manipulate • Perfidy 	<p>Chapter 50:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vouched • Efficient 	<p>Chapters 51 & 52:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regret • Slunk • Erratic • Inferior • Sullen • Smoldering • Tendril • Subsided • Illusions • Tethered • Inured
<p>Chapters 53 & 54:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resisted • Abashed • Deigned • Opaque • Ford • Opinionated • Mundane • Chalices 	<p>Chapters 55 & 56:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desolate • Specimen • Relentless • Orb • Conceivably • Haphazardly • Dilute 	<p>Chapters 57 & 58:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuned • Relish • Beached • Invasive • Belligerent • Recalcitrant • Diversion • Indistinct • Heedless • Inferno
<p>Chapters 59 & 60:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marvel • Plunder • Exile 		

Appendix C: Clue Cards

CLUE CARD



What I learned about the world of Nedarra:

What page I found the clue on:

CLUE CARD



What I learned about the world of Nedarra:

What page I found the clue on: