

# Book Club: Comet in Moominland

*This is a book about the exciting time before the catastrophe, days when the sky became ever redder over Moomintroll, the little animal Sniff, Snufkin, the two Snorks, sister and brother, and the Hemulen. Extraordinary things happened to them on their dangerous journey, things that were terrible and yet at the same time fun, as they often are when we are little. Worst of all were perhaps the octopus on the dried-up seabed and Moomintroll's struggle with the poisonous Angostura bush. Or perhaps the lizard defending the garnets. And the most fun was perhaps the pearl-fishery and the great party, but you must decide that for yourself when you have read the book and know how everything went.*

– Tove Jansson

## Tuning in

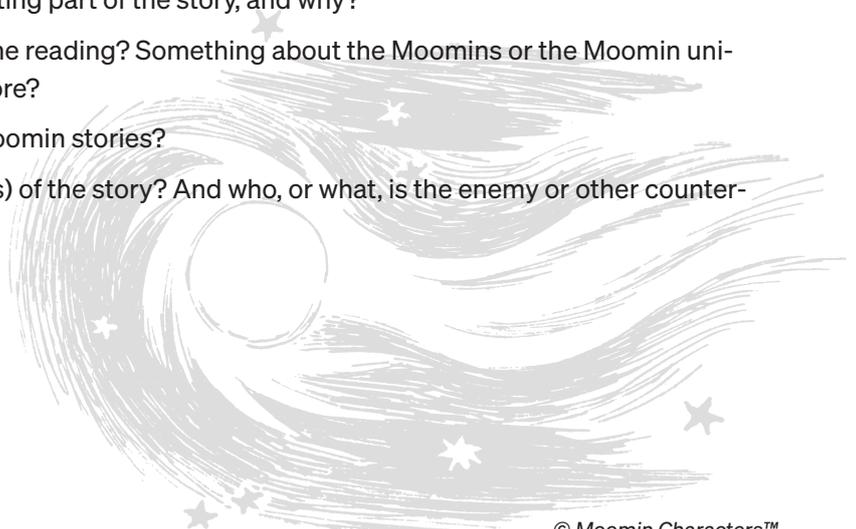
- What were your expectations of Comet in Moominland before starting to read it?
- What surprised you the most about the book?
- What three words would you use to describe this book?

## Themes

- Which of the following themes are, in your opinion, the most prominent in the story: courage, resilience, or curiosity? How was the theme presented and explored?
- How relevant or relatable are the themes of the book to your own life, or to society today?
- Which other themes do you find important or appealing?
- Are there any messages to be found in the story? Which ones?
- External threats and combating them are often present in the Moomin stories, how do you see them in Comet in Moominland? Can you see them as allegories for something in today's society?
- Another strong theme in this story is trust, how is it explored?
- The story is full of exploration and new discoveries. Which role do you see these parts play in the overall story?

## Plot

- What are some of your favorite scenes from the book? Why do they stand out to you?
- What is the most memorable or shocking scene or twist in the story, and why?
- What is the most satisfying or disappointing part of the story, and why?
- Did you have any aha moments during the reading? Something about the Moomins or the Moomin universe that you hadn't thought about before?
- How does the story compare to other Moomin stories?
- Who is/are, according to you, the hero(es) of the story? And who, or what, is the enemy or other counterforces?



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## Characters

- Who is your favorite character in this story, and why?
- Which character do you relate to or empathize with the most, and why?
- Which character do you dislike or disagree with the most, and why?
- Are there any characters you would like to give advice to? What would you tell them?
- Which character has the most interesting development arc? Why?
- Which of the side characters would you like to give a story of their own?
- What do the different relationships bring to mind? Moomintroll and Sniff? Moomintroll and his parents? Snufkin and the world? Moomintroll and Snorkmaiden? Snork and Snorkmaiden? The Muskrat and the rest?
- As the comet approaches, Moomintroll seeks knowledge, Snork wants to solve practical problems, and Snorkmaiden wants to dance. What would you want to do if the existence on earth, the way we know it, may end soon?
- Is there something else in the different characters' approach to threats that strikes your interest?

## Locations

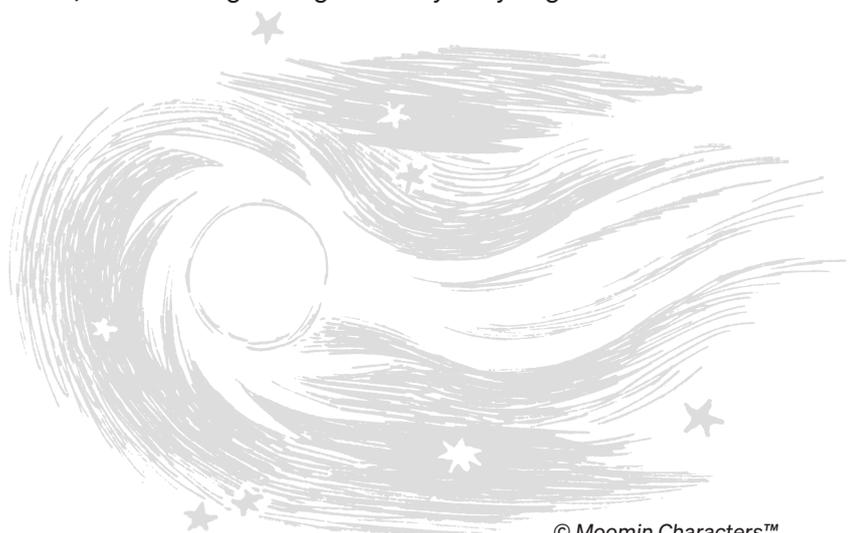
- The story mostly takes place in different locations in the outskirts of Moominvalley. Which place do you find most intriguing? Why?
- Which environmental description stayed with you after reading? What was it about it that touched you?
- Of the locations in the story - where would you like to:
  - ...sleep?
  - ...party?
  - ...contemplate?
  - ...hike?

## Illustrations

- Which of the illustrations do you find the most interesting? Why?
- How do Tove Jansson's illustrations contribute to the atmosphere in the story?
- Did you learn something new about the Moomin universe through the illustrations?

## After reading

- What life lessons do you take with you from this story, if any?
- Would you recommend this book to someone? Why or why not? If so, to whom?
- Rate Comet in Moominland on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Why did you give the book the rating you did?



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