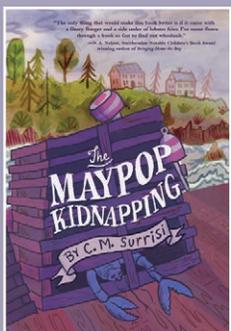




C. M. Surrisi lives in Asheville, North Carolina, with her husband Chuck, two rascal Cavalier King Charles Spaniels named Sunny and Milo; and Harry, the Prince of Cats. She is a graduate of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults. *The Maypop*

Kidnapping is her first novel. It draws from her memories of summers in Maine.



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C. M. Surrisi

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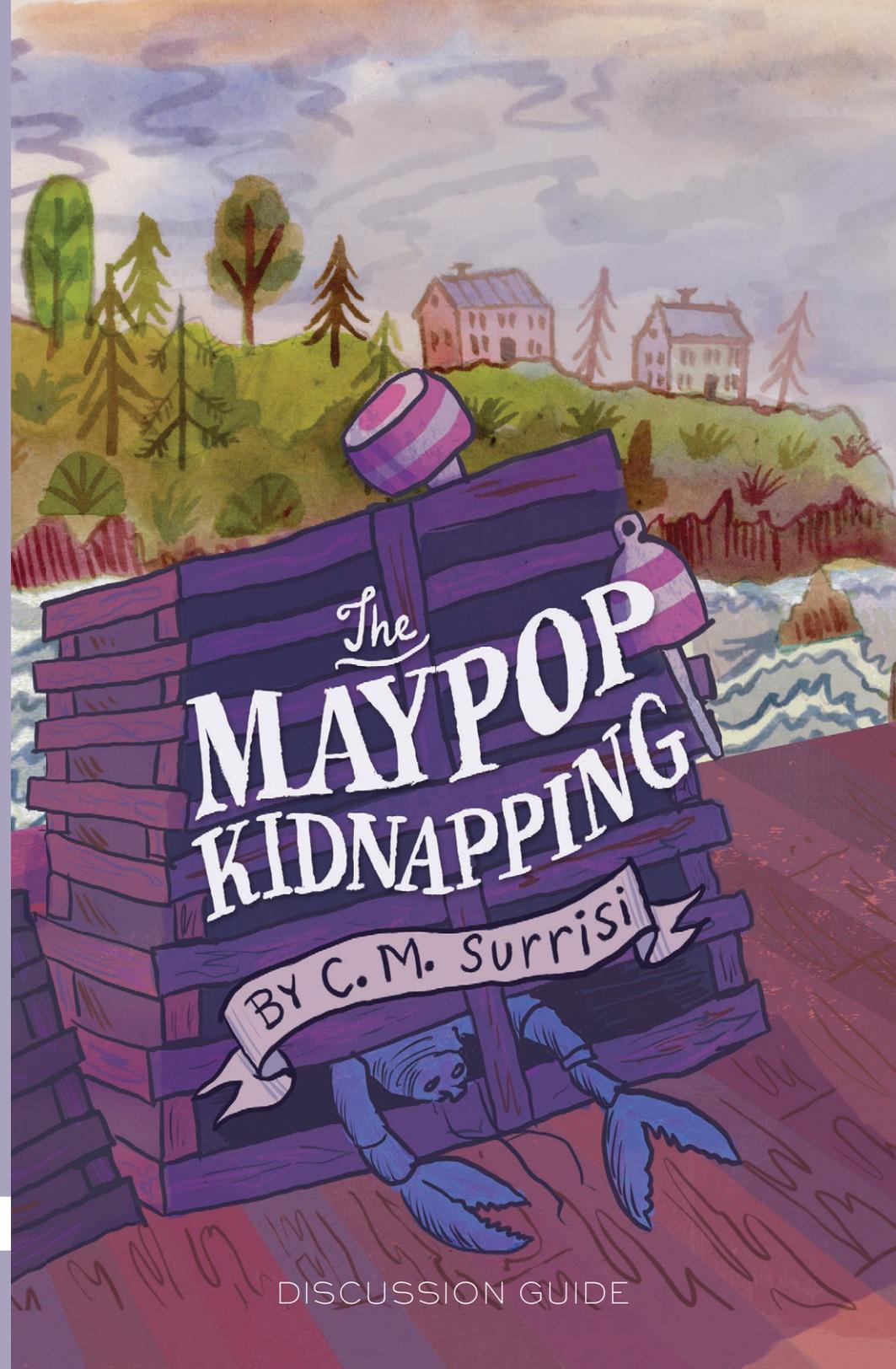
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DISCUSSION GUIDE

In the coastal village of Maiden Rock, Maine, Quinnie Boyd's teacher has disappeared. Quinnie thinks it's a kidnapping case, but her mom, the town sheriff, doesn't believe her. Still, Quinnie's going to follow her instincts that something's wrong.

Her investigation takes her through a damp and smelly marsh, a lobster pound, and more of Maine's messiest places. She even gets help from her glamorous new neighbor, Mariella. As the girls hunt for clues around Maiden Rock, they encounter a cast of unlikely characters. And if Quinnie's hunch is right, the search may lead them right into danger . . .

This hilarious and page-turning debut is the perfect whodunit story for middle school sleuths.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What kind of place is Maiden Rock, Maine? What makes it a good setting for the story of a kidnapping and investigation?
2. Who is Zoe? Where did she go? Why is this hard for Quinnie?
3. What jobs does Quinnie's mom have? How does this change the way Quinnie relates to her mom?
4. Why doesn't Quinnie's mom share her concern for Ms. Stillford when she doesn't show up to the first day of school? What makes Quinnie's mom change her mind?
5. What does Quinnie find at Ms. Stillford's house that makes her think she has been kidnapped? What do the things she notices show about her relationship with Ms. Stillford?
6. What is different about Ms. Stillford's house when Quinnie's mom comes? Why is this not enough evidence for her mom to start investigating?
7. Who are the people Ben and Quinnie decide have motive, means, and opportunity to have kidnapped Ms. Stillford? Why are they the prime suspects?
8. What options do Quinnie and her mom come up with for what might have happened to Ms. Stillford? Are any of them close to what actually happened?
9. Why doesn't Quinnie's mom think that love is a valid motive for kidnapping?
10. How does Quinnie feel about Ella at first? Why? How do her feelings change, and what experiences help her change her mind?
11. Who does Quinnie think the mystery texts are from? Why does she think that? Who are they actually from?
12. When and why does Quinnie decide to start her own investigation into Ms. Stillford's disappearance?
13. What do Quinnie and Ella find at Owen Loney's lobster pound? What do they conclude? Are they right?
14. What motive could the rockers have had for kidnapping Ms. Stillford? Does Quinnie think this is probable?
15. Why did the rockers want the nuns' tea?
16. Why did the nuns kidnap Ms. Stillford? Is it really "kidnapping?" What do they call it?
17. Why doesn't Ms. Stillford want to press charges against the sisters for kidnapping her? Why doesn't Quinnie's mom agree?
18. What does Quinnie learn through the process of going off on her own to solve the mystery? What do her parents learn?

