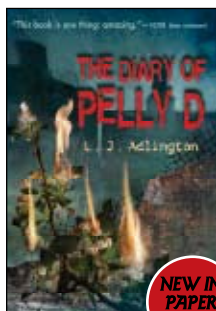


Novels by L. J. Adlington



NEW IN
PAPER-
BACK

The Diary of Pelly D

Tr 978-0-06-076615-3 • \$16.99

Lb 978-0-06-076616-0 • \$17.89

Pb 978-0-06-076617-7 • \$8.99

★“Adlington has crafted an original and disturbing dystopian fantasy told in a smart and sympathetic teen voice.”
—ALA Booklist (starred)

“In this story-within-a-story, 14-year-old worker Toni V unearths the diary of the once pampered, popular 15-year-old Pelly D and, through her entries, discovers the disturbing history of the war and ethnic cleansing that led to his job clearing a bombed-out plaza.”
—Publishers Weekly



NEW

Cherry Heaven

Tr 978-0-06-143180-7 • \$16.99

Lb 978-0-06-143181-4 • \$17.89

In a future world, Kat and Tanka J move from a country torn by civil war to one that appears to be an egalitarian utopia. But things aren't always as they seem....



About the Author

L. J. Adlington graduated from Cambridge University and since then has lived and worked in Japan and Spain. She now runs a theater group in York, England, where she teaches “hands-on” history lessons at museums, schools, and historical sites. Her first novel, *The Diary of Pelly D*, is based on her longtime fascination with historical diaries—particularly war diaries—and was selected for the American Library Association's Best of the Best Books for Young Adults.



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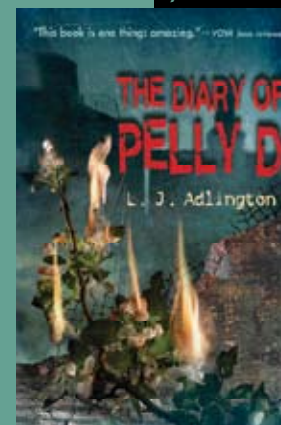
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This guide was prepared by Laura Williams McCaffrey, a library consultant and children's book author, East Montpelier, VT.

Reading Group Guide



The Diary of Pelly D and Cherry Heaven

by L. J. Adlington

About the Book: *The Diary of Pelly D*

Toni V, a member of the Demolition Crew, is digging through war rubble in City Five's plaza when he discovers a book wrapped in brown paper. Instead of reporting the book to his superior or throwing it away, Toni V begins to read. It is the diary of Pelly D, a girl he's never met.

Pelly D writes that she's sick of arguments over genes and gene testing. All she wants to do is shop, swim, and win over dreamy Ant Li. That is, until the government requires testing and stamps everyone's hand with permanent color-coded gene labels. Then the government institutes new rules—different sets of rules for people with different gene stamps. Pelly D starts to care a lot about gene testing, and the more she cares, the more Toni V wants to read about her, about the war that caused the mess he's clearing away, and about stamps like the one on his own hand.

Discussion Questions

1. Pelly D's diary begins: "This is the diary of Pelly D. It's totally secret, so if you're reading it I HATE YOU ALREADY." Should Toni V have continued reading anyway? Why or why not? Under what circumstances is reading someone's private diary all right? When would reading it be wrong?
2. Pelly D eventually has trouble accessing the Internet and the information on it. In the real world, how do governments limit access to the Net and its information? How else might you be limited from accessing information online? What are acceptable limitations, and what are unacceptable ones?
3. Why might people caught in tragic situations, as Pelly D and Marek T both are, want to write diaries? Why would they want people to find and read their diaries? In what situations might you want to write a diary for someone to read?
4. Why do people in Pelly D's world think genes make some people superior to other people? In our world, do genes make some people superior? Why or why not?
5. How are the political issues or events in *The Diary of Pelly D* similar to those in the real world? How are they similar to historical issues or events? Why might science fiction authors choose to create stories with events similar to real-life ones?

About the Book: *Cherry Heaven*

Ten years after City Five's war, orphans Kat and Tanka J relocate with their guardians to the peaceful New Frontier, where they move into a beautiful orchard called Cherry Heaven. Despite the orchard's renowned cherries and sensational view, Kat is uneasy. She keeps seeing shadows and footprints near the trees. She is particularly disconcerted when she learns that the orchard was the site of a terrible tragedy—one involving the kind of gene racism she and her family hoped to leave behind in City Five.

Meanwhile, in an oppressive factory that isn't supposed to exist in the egalitarian New Frontier, a girl named Luka seals bottles and plots her escape. Luka can't remember much about the outside world, but she wants to get away so that she can see the sky, swim, have a real birthday with presents, and eat juicy cherries like those at Kat's Cherry Heaven. She also plans vengeance for the misery she's had to endure.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the rules in Luka's factory, and how does she know them? How do you know the rules in your home and school? Which of your home or school rules are important but never mentioned aloud or discussed? Why might families or institutions have such rules?
2. How does the New Frontier advertise to convince immigrants to settle there? In what ways are these advertisements true, and in what ways are they false? How do immigrants coming to the U.S. learn what to expect here? Are their expectations accurate? Why or why not?
3. How do Kat and Tanka support each other, and how do they annoy each other? Why do you think their relationship is so complicated? In what ways do people in your life both support and annoy you? When they annoy you, why do you continue to care about them?
4. Is Luka crazy or only so traumatized that she doesn't always think as clearly as she should? What kind of person do you think she'll become? Are people who've survived terrible events eventually able to live normal lives? Why or why not?
5. Why do various characters in *Cherry Heaven* have trouble remembering events in their pasts? What events in your life do you have difficulty remembering? Why do you think you have forgotten aspects of them?

The Diary of Pelly D and Cherry Heaven Extension Activities

1. Consider the ways in which the world of Pelly D, Luka, and Kat changes over time. How do you think your town or city will change over the next 100 years? Pretend you're a historian living in the future and that you want to create a documentary examining your town or city's last 100 years. Write a script for your documentary.
2. Luka often tells her story as though speaking a poem or rap, with rhymes, alliteration, and consonance. Compose a poem or rap about an important event in your life.
3. In the world L. J. Adlington creates in *The Diary of Pelly D* and *Cherry Heaven*, human beings have gills. How might humans in the real world physically change in the next 1,000 years? Pretend you're a scientist living 1,000 years from now. Write a scientific report describing how humans have evolved during the twenty-first century.
4. L. J. Adlington cleverly sprinkles clues throughout her stories about her characters, their pasts, and the history of their homes. Invent a mystery for a story you're writing. List the clues you want to include in the story. Write a plan for when, where, and how you'll reveal the clues.

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