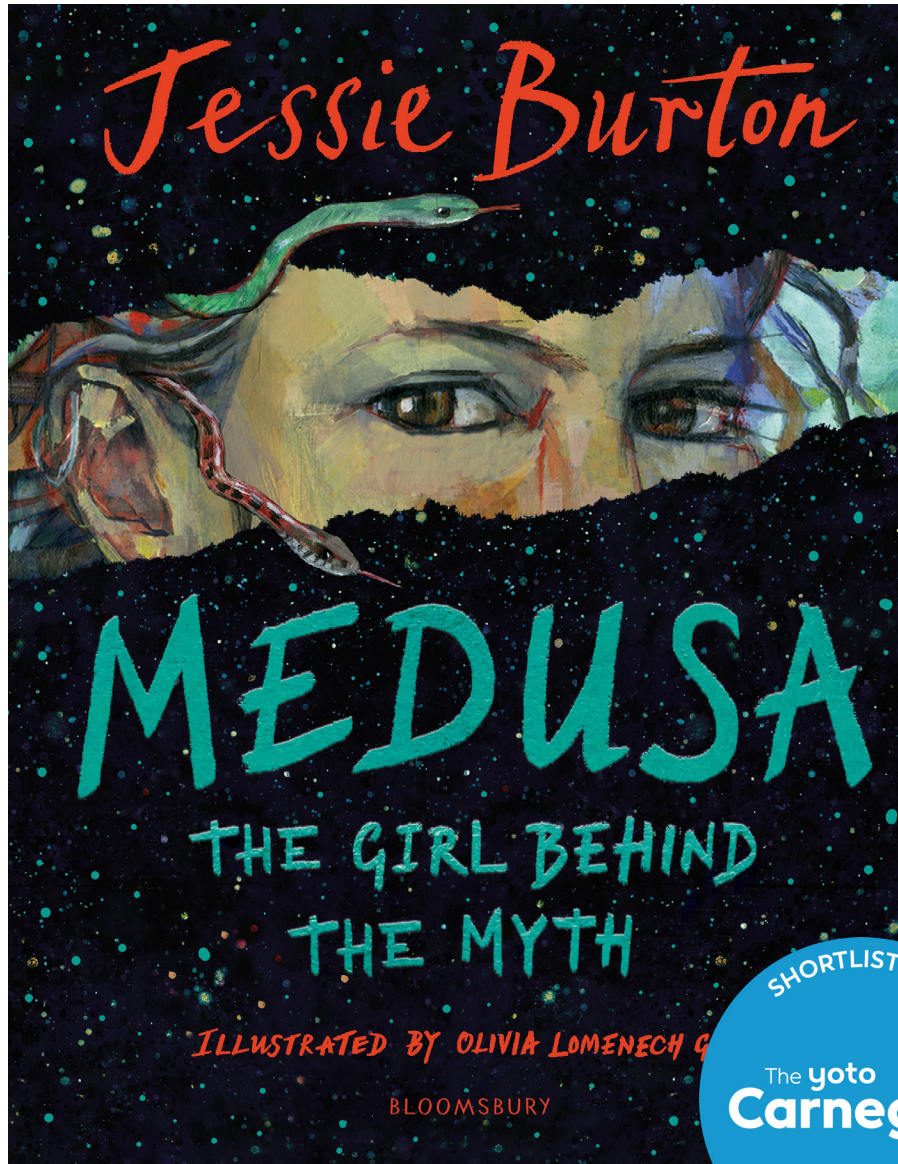


The yoto Carnegies



The Yoto Carnegie Shortlist 2023 Shadowing Resources

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Carnegies



**The Yoto Carnegie Shortlist 2023
Shadowing Resources**



About these resources

All of these tasks are designed to be completed in small discussion groups. However, they can easily be done individually. Instead of talking about the tasks, students can write down and keep a record of their ideas.

Before Reading

10-20 minutes

- Discuss what you think Medusa will be about based on these extracts. You should structure your discussion around the questions below.
 - What other novels do you think it will be like?
 - What genre of novel do you think it will be?
 - What sense do you get of where and when it will be set?
 - If you had to identify three likely themes, what would they be?

Extract 1

If I told you that I'd killed a man with a glance, would you wait to hear the rest? The why, the how, what happened next? Or would you run from me, this mottled mirror, this body of unusual flesh? I know you. I know you won't leave, but let me start with this instead: a girl, on the edge, a cliff, her strange hair blowing backwards in the wind. A boy, down below, on his boat. Let them spill themselves out to each other ...

Extract 2

I looked out to the horizon. Nearly dusk. Stheno and Euryale, my sisters, would be back soon. What would Perseus say when he saw them looming from the sky – and what would they make of him? We could have a dead boy on our hands. I was going to have to make a decision. Fast.

Extract 3

I felt the clash of my two selves, new and old, burdened and carefree, hideous and beautiful. How was it possible to be all these things at once?

Extract 4

The gods are mad at best.

Extract 5

... there's only so long you can wear the mask before the skin beneath it starts to curdle. Before you contort into a half-self. And you can't go back. Time doesn't work like that.

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The Eternal Return of
Clara Hart The Eternal Return
of Clara Hart The Eternal Return
of Clara Hart The Eternal Return
of Clara Hart The Eternal Return
of Clara Hart



"What a voice.
An amazing debut."
– Sue Wallman,
author of *I Know You Did It*

LOUISE FINCH

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During Reading

WARNING: DON'T READ THE QUESTIONS BEFORE READING EACH SECTION!

Read up to the page number listed and then answer the questions. You will probably need to spend about 5-10 minutes answering each set of questions.

The page numbers are based on the Little Island paperback edition of the book, first published in the UK in 2022.

Read to the end of page 33

- Which characters have we met so far? What are the relationships like between them?
- On page 13, Spence experiences déjà vu, and the sub-headings are labelled '1.1', '1.2', etc. Revisit your ideas about the front cover and the title – can you add anything to your predictions now?
- How did you feel when you read the opening of this novel? Which moments stood out to you as particularly important, shocking, or unexpected?
- What are your initial feelings about Spence and Anthony?

Read to the end of page 58

- Why do you think the author might have chosen to structure the novel like this? What do you think the relationship is like between the structure of the story and the ideas that the author is exploring?
- In Spence and Anthony's Philosophy class, Mr Barnes asks them to consider a thought experiment: 'the idea that this universe and our lives recur in an identical form an infinite number of times [...] if this were true, would we react with joy or despair?' Try out the experiment for yourself. What do you think is the purpose of this thought experiment?
- How do the male characters talk about girls and women in this novel? Which words or phrases stand out to you as particularly significant?

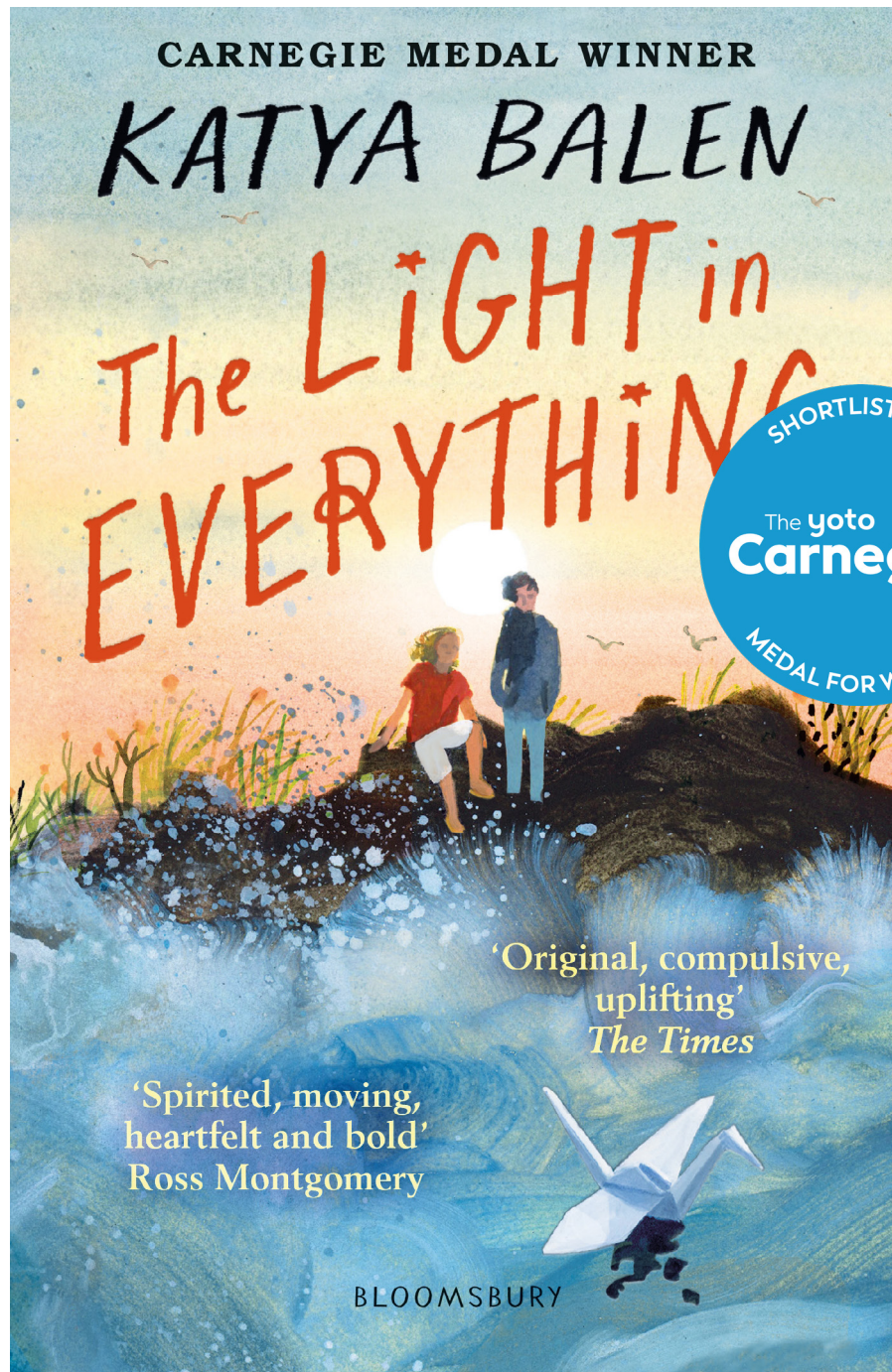
Read to the end of page 93

- What are your thoughts about:
 - The hierarchy that exists within the school community
 - The ways the writer hints at a pervasive culture of misogyny in the school and wider society
 - The connection between Spence's experience of bereavement and Clara's recurring death
 - The ways Spence's character is developing so far.

Read to the break on page 118

- The scenario that plays out the 'fifth time' is more extreme – what are your thoughts about this?
- Mr Barnes mentions Sci-Fi when Spence asks him about a 'key' for stopping the time-loop. In which genre would you place this novel, and why?
- What stands out to you as particularly significant in this part of the novel?

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Exploring the book further

Use one or more of these tasks to explore *The Light in Everything* further.

Other characters

The novel is told through the voices of Tom and Zofia and their narrative takes us through the entire story.

Choose a moment in the novel that interests you and write how a different character might tell this part of the story. Here are some examples of the kinds of moments you might choose:

- How Fiona feels when she first meets Zofia.
- How Fiona feels when the baby is born.
- How Dommo feels when she realises Zofia shut the door on the boat on purpose.
- How Marek responds to Tom's stress and anxiety.
- What Cameron thinks of Tom when he starts at his school.
- When Ms Laghari tells Tom and Zofia about the baby being born.

Spend 20-30 minutes on this activity.

A poem about nature

There are many moments in the novel where the setting is described in vivid detail. The natural environment is an important feature of the story and connects to the feelings and emotions of the characters and their lives.

- Select 4-5 moments in the novel where Katya Balen describes the beach, the sea or the sky and write them down. These could be words, phrases or longer sentences.
- Using the quotations you have selected, write a poem.
- Share your poem with a partner or group and discuss what you notice about how nature is presented. What are the similarities or differences between your poem and others?

Spend 10-15 minutes on this activity.

Zofia or Tom?

Write a list of adjectives to describe each of the two protagonists.

Discuss your ideas and decide which character you would most like to be friends with and why.

Spend 10-15 minutes on this activity.

Make an Origami Crane

At the end of the book are some visual instructions for how to make your own paper crane.

Using a square piece of paper, have a go at making your own paper crane.

Discuss why you think Tom finds doing origami so comforting. Did you feel the same when you had a go?

Spend 10-15 minutes on this activity.

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After Reading

Initial Thoughts? **10-15 minutes**

Spend time discussing some or all of the questions below.

- What are your overall impressions of this novel?
- Which moments stick most in your memory and why?
- Which characters do you like best and why?
- Which other novels does it remind you of and why?
- How gripping did you find the story?
- What are your thoughts about how the book was written?
- Based on reading *When Shadows Fall*, how likely are you to read other novels by Sita Brahmachari?

What's *When Shadows Fall* about?

- 15-20 minutes
- Spend one or two minutes writing down a single sentence that begins: '*When Shadows Fall* is about ...'
- If you are working in a group, share your different sentences and discuss.
- Next read the sentences below that give further ideas about what the novel is about.
- If you are working in a group, spend 5-10 minutes sorting the ideas, from the one you agree with most to the one you agree with least.
- Finally, decide on the idea you agree with most. It can be one from the list or your own. Write down a few ideas about how *When Shadows Fall* relates to your chosen idea.

***When Shadows Fall* is about...**

- Growing up and learning who you are.
- The importance of the natural world.
- The reality of life for some people.
- Friendship and learning who your true friends are.
- Getting through different difficulties.
- The lives of three distinctive characters.
- Moral lessons for the reader.
- The importance of hope.