The Book of Arralan – The Land Beyond – Book 1

Notes for Sensitive Listeners

Dear listener,

When I was a child, I didn't like how lots of stories had scary or sad or suspenseful bits. It worried me. I always wanted to know characters were going to be safe, and if things got too intense, I stopped. I don't want you to feel this way with my stories, but I also want to help you get past those bits so you can learn how stories are made and why they have these bits in them.

If you get worried at any point in my stories, come to this sheet, and it will let you know what's coming and how it resolves.

Stories need tense moments so at the end you feel like you've been on an adventure with the characters, but I will explain more about that in the stories as I tell them.

Here is a list of the chapters and little helpings (in **bold**) to help you know when to expect tough spots and how to get through them.

(Spoilers Alert)

Chapter 1: The Book

Two boys, Kai and Yan, stumble upon a magical world in their grandfather's dusty old book.

In this chapter, you may worry about how the boys will find their way home. They do find their way home. They do it by thinking of all the things they love about it.

Chapter 2: The Castle

Kai and Yan find a castle, but does anyone live there?

In this chapter, you may worry about who lives in the castle. It's a friendly person called Kester who becomes a great friend of theirs.

Chapter 3: Kester

Kai and Yan finally solve the mystery of the empty castle.

Chapter 4: The Forest People

Kai and Yan venture through the rainforest and meet the forest people.

Chapter 5: Bonnie Birds

Kester sends the word out to the others in Arralan.

Chapter 6: Sophia

Kai shows Arralan to his friend Sophia.

In this chapter one of the children feels left out of a game and cries, but Kai lets her into a secret and shows her the magic book, which makes her happy again.

Chapter 7: Zula

While the children are waiting for the birds to return, they spend the day with Kester's sister at the animal rescue sanctuary.

Chapter 8: The Quest

The children embark on a quest to help save Arralan.

Chapter 9: New Lands

The children travel to different parts of Arralan in pairs, each on their own quest to find the crystals.

In this chapter you may worry for the children as they head off into unknown lands. This is an important part of the story though. Nothing bad happens to them in this chapter, but the characters feel worried, so you may feel those feelings too.

Remember my promise at the beginning of the book. They will be safe and well in the end.

Chapter 10: The Volcans

Oren and Arthur meet terrifying-looking beasts that turn out to be quite the opposite of what they seem.

In this chapter, things seem quite frightening for a moment as they meet some very scary-looking beasts. You will soon discover they are actually lovely, and one of them, Sniz, ends up being one of the most loved characters in the Arralan series. He is so lovely despite how he looks.

Chapter 11: The Swamp Troll

Yan, Willem and Captain have to face a fierce swamp troll to cross the river. Will they find his weaknesses and get across?

There is a swamp troll in this chapter who is bad tempered and it's feels very tense when they come face to face with it. Willem scares him away by saying a magical word…. Shall I tell you what it is? He says Boo! It's actually quite funny in the end, and it turns out the troll just wanted friends anyway.

Chapter 12: The Crystal Chemist

Kai and Sophia meet a chemist who makes crystals. Can he help them?

Chapter 13: Sniz's Birthday

Oren and Arthur stay for Sniz's birthday when his insists they must celebrate his special day with him.

Chapter 14: The Maze

Yan, Willem and Captain must pass through a maze of riddles that blocks their path.

Chapter 15: The Shadow Gnomes

Kai, Sophia and Unicorn meet some unusual gnomes who have in their possession a very interesting treasure.

In this chapter you may worry for a moment who is making shadows in the tunnel. It's actually small shadow gnomes, who try to look scary by casting shadows. They are no threat at all. Did you know you can tickle them by tickling their shadows!

Chapter 16: Sacha

The children need to ask Sacha the spider for help, despite Sniz's fear of her.

If you don't like spiders, you might worry a bit in this, but Sacha is a lovely spider who helps them out. If you are feeling nervous about her, you are not alone; so is Sniz.

Chapter 17: The Carrion

When it seems like there is no way through the forest, Yan, Willem and Captain meet a herd of Carrion who might just be able to help.

There is a moment of distress in this chapter when Captain gets stung. He gets stung by nettle trees, but the children find some dockleaf-type plants and cure him.

Chapter 18: The Galley Girls

Kai and Sophia meet pirates.

In this chapter, they meet pirates, but they are lovely pirates who become their good friends.

Chapter 19. Smoll's Island

When a storm blows them adrift, Kai, Sophia and the Galley Girls find an island. A special island.

If stormy seas worry you, there is a storm, but they are in the hands of seasoned pirates, and all ends well.

Chapter 20: Through the Tunnel

Oren, Arthur, Sniz and Snoz find their inner courage and do a very brave thing.

This chapter has a few moments that are tense as the Mora arrive in Arralan. At one moment it looks like Snoz is in danger, but they soon realise the Mora are only interested in gold and nothing else, so they soon leave her alone.

Chapter 21: Stuck in the Mud

When Captain gets stuck in the mud, Willem calls on the locals for help.

Captain gets stuck in the mud, but they soon meet some funny folk who help them.

Chapter 22: The White Lands

Kai, Sophia and Arian enter the White Lands.

This might seem worrying. They are sneaking in, trying not to be seen, and they do get spotted, but it's by someone kind who helps them.

Chapter 23: The Red Crystal

Oren and Arthur and Sniz find the Red Crystal, but retrieving it from the dragon's lair isn't an easy job.

This chapter has a scary dragon in it, but it turns out the dragon is blind and Sniz finds a very funny solution to distracting it so the boys can sneak in and get the crystal.

Chapter 24: Mudslide

Yan, Willem and even Captain enjoy a fun-filled day with the mud trolls.

Chapter 25: The Story of Jorn

Hilda tells the children how Jorn came to be so feared and powerful.

There isn't anything particularly scary about this chapter but it's a more serious chapter with more serious themes. It's all about how Jorn ended up being the way he is.

Chapter 26: Bringing the Red Crystal Back

Oren and Arthur need to bring the Red Crystal to Kester, but will this be a goodbye for Sniz?

This feels a little sad when they think they may have to say goodbye to Sniz, but they don't. Sniz is allowed to join them in the end.

Chapter 27: Cara and the Yellow Crystal

Yan, Willem and Captain must face Cara the enormous serpent if they want to get their hands on the Yellow Crystal.

A large snake tries to capture Captain, but Yan charms it with a flute, and all ends well.

Chapter 28: Capturing the White Crystal

Hilda, Arian, Kai and Sophia enter Jorn's Castle and attempt to take the White Crystal.

This is one of the most tense moments in this book. There is high suspense as Kai tries to get the White Crystal from Jorn. There is a cliffhanger ending to this chapter, but I promise they will all be fine!

Chapter 29: Flopcorn

The children relax at the castle and Sniz shows them how to make flopcorn.

HEALTH AND SAFETY WARNING: This chapter involves ceremoniously jumping over a fire. Don't do this in real life. It's dangerous.

Chapter 30: The Yellow Crystal Comes Back

Yan and Willem return to the Kinda Kingdom with the Yellow Crystal.

Chapter 31: Leaving the Whitelands

The children leave the Whitelands in a hurried escape.

In this chapter, there are moments of very high suspense as the children escape Jorn's castle. Sophia returns again and this causes extra suspense, but they are all fine and get away. What's more, they manage to get the White Crystal!

Chapter 32: From the Heart

We round up season 1 with the children sharing a Kinda tradition of gratitude.

If you find that your children needed help with any other chapters not highlighted here, please let us know so that we can add notes for future listeners.