

A Curriculum Guide to  
**Dust Lands 2: *Rebel Heart***  
By Moira Young

This curriculum guide correlates to the following Common Core State Standards: (RL.9 – 12.1, 4, 5) (SL.9 – 12.1)

**Prereading Questions/Activities**

1. Discuss your understanding of and experiences with dystopian literature (either film, novel, or short story). What common characteristics do dystopias share?
2. The word *rebel* is generally viewed with negativity. Is being rebellious always bad? Explain.

**Discussion Questions**

1. The story opens with Jack on his way to the Lost Cause. What business does he have there and what happens when he arrives?
2. Who is Molly and what relationship does she have with Ike? What has happened to Ike?
3. Who are the Tonton and why are they to be feared? How have they reorganized since the death of their leader, Pinch?
4. Why is Saba nicknamed “the Angel of Death”?
5. Saba; her twin, Lugh; her younger sister, Emmi; and their friend Tommo had set out to meet Jack beside the Big Water after a hard fight with the Tonton, and they should have arrived weeks ago. However, they are stuck in the Waste. What happened to delay their travel? Describe the Waste. What obstacles do they now face?
6. Since she rescued her brother from the Tonton at Freedom Fields, Saba has noticed a difference in him. What does she see? What seems to anger him and why? Does the reader know what happened to Lugh at Freedom Fields?
7. Saba is haunted by Epona and sees her in visions. What happened to Epona and why does she haunt Saba? What other ghosts haunt her and why? Does Saba have telepathic powers? Explain.
8. Who is Tracker and when does he appear? How do he and Saba’s crow, Nero, come to Saba’s aid?

9. When Saba, Lugh, Tommo, and Emmi reach the Snake River, what do they find? Who is the Sky Speaker and how does she attempt to help Saba?
10. Who is Maev and why does she come to find Saba? What happens to Maev in the end?
11. Why is the heartstone important to Saba? Explain the symbolism it holds for her.
12. The Lost Cause is in New Eden. Why is Saba determined to go there? Why does she set out alone?
13. What is the Wraithway and what trials does Saba encounter as she travels it? How is Wraithway an appropriate name for the area?
14. On their way to New Eden, Saba, Lugh, Maev, Tommo, and Emmi meet up with a driver (Slim) who has a camel and wagon. Describe the driver and his gear. In what way does he provide comic relief? Who is he and why does he assist the group? What surprising role does he play?
15. What do Saba and the others find when they reach the Lost Cause? What do they learn from Molly?
16. What is Sector Nine and why does the group go there? Who are Cassie and Bram, and why do they assist Saba and the others?
17. When Jack finds Emmi, what does he do? What reaction does Saba have?
18. What is Weeping Water? Why does Saba go there?
19. Who is DeMalo? Is his affection for Saba genuine? Explain. Why is Saba drawn to him?
20. Describe the group's journey to Resurrection. Why are they going? What plan do they have? Explain how their plan unfolds.
21. How does Saba respond when she sees Jack for the first time? When she encounters him again at Resurrection? What conflicting feelings does she have? How do her feelings/attitude toward him change by the end of the story?

### **Questions for Further Discussion**

1. What events remain unresolved in the story that point to a possible concluding novel?
2. Jack appears only briefly in the opening scene but returns toward the end of the book. How does the author keep the reader engaged with his character given he is "off page" so much?

Why did the author choose to start the novel with Jack when the majority of the novel is about Saba? Support your response with evidence from the text.

3. The story has a depressing, dystopian setting. Find an especially descriptive scene of the Waste, and identify key words that contribute to a dismal mood.

4. How does the rule of three come into play in the story? What significance might this rule play in the final installment of the trilogy?

5. How does the author build suspense and/or intrigue in the story? (For example, does any character keep the reader guessing? Are there events that cause the reader to keep turning pages? If so, what are they, and how does the author engage the reader by using these events?)

6. Find a scene in which one word, followed by a period, constitutes a line. Why does the writer use this style? What effect does it have on the reader?

7. The story ends with a character observing Saba and Jack from the rocks. The character feels hurt, betrayed, and deceived. Who might this character be and what might happen in the next installment of the Dust Lands? What inferences can you make from this last passage?

8. The book is divided into several sections: Jack, The Waste, One Month Later, The Snake River, The Wraithway, New Eden, The Lost Cause, Sector Nine, Weeping Water, The Road to Resurrection, Resurrection. What biblical allusions do you see in the story? Is this a story about rebirth? Salvation? Why or why not?

*Guide written in 2013 by Pam B. Cole, Professor of English Education & Literacy, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA.*

*This guide, written to align with the Common Core State Standards ([www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)), has been provided by Simon & Schuster for classroom, library, and reading group use. It may be reproduced in its entirety or excerpted for these purposes.*