



A THREE LETTER NAME

by Annie Lisenby

Discussion Guide for the Classroom

1. Which character did you connect with most in *A Three-Letter Name*? Why?
2. Els and Samuel learn to live with a new disability. What has your experience been with disabilities? For you personally or through a friend or family member?
3. In Els's village, women were deemed lower class and lower contributing, and more so in Samuel's village. Do you see any reflections of this in your community? What has been your experience with gender roles and expectations?
4. Els's best friend Amli was with her through everything, even when Els was angry at her situation. What qualities do you look for in a friend?
5. Samuel struggled with the fluctuation of pity and expectations from his parents. Share any ways in which your family, teachers, adults in your life have done something similar.
6. Els and Samuel both had to overcome physical and emotional challenges. What challenges have you overcome? Are you facing a challenge now?
7. If you could change one thing about the world where Els and Samuel live, what would you change?
8. Let's get creative: Draw an outline of how you think the island looks. Identify landmarks, homes, and anything else you read about or imagined was in this world.
9. Let's get creative: Sketch one of the characters or settings from the book. Or search for images online and create a digital collage.