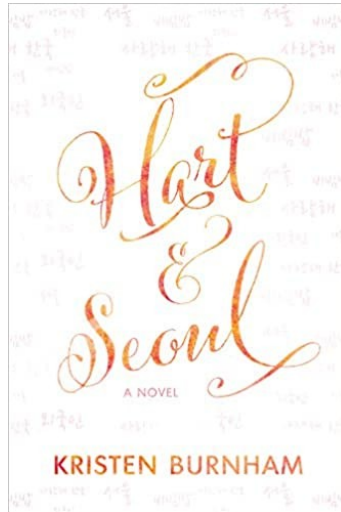


Kristen Burnham



Hart & Seoul Discussion Questions Grade 6-12

1. The narrator, Merilee Hart, is introduced right away in first person narrative. What are the benefits to using first person narrative versus third person? What are the cons?
2. How would you describe Merilee's voice? How does her voice influence the story?
3. How does the author use details and sensory language to bring scenes to life? What scene stood out to you the most, and why?
4. How is the reader introduced to Lee Hyung-kim? How does the author use dialogue and descriptions to show his character through Merilee's eyes?
5. Lee Hyung-kim experiences culture shock when visiting his aunt. How does the author demonstrate this, especially through first person narrative? Were you able to recognize those moments? What stood out to you?
6. This is described as a romantic dramedy (comedy + drama). How do the humor and drama enhance each other?

- 7. Successful comedy is propelled by the characters' virtues and flaws, in situations that are relatable. Think of the funniest book that you've read, or the funniest movie that you've watched (or both!). What makes it so funny?**
- 8. There are multiple conflicts throughout the book. How is the reader introduced to each one, and how do they build on each other?**
- 9. Merilee longs to be a comic artist, but her dad doesn't approve. Have you ever wanted to do something, but are afraid of rejection? How does Merilee overcome this challenge?**
- 10. Lee Hyung-kim feels trapped by his fame. How does that make him a relatable character? And how does it affect his mental illness?**
- 11. What did you think of the Storm Chasers? What do you think they represent?**
- 12. The story takes place over several months. How does the author convey that?**
- 13. Where you satisfied by the ending? Did it feel realistic to you?**
- 14. Do you think the author has set things up for a sequel? If so, what do you think the author will develop more?**