

Princess Juniper



BOOK CLUB KIT

*WITH LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES, DISCUSSION QUESTIONS,
CHEESE BISCUITS, AND EVER SO MUCH MORE!*

ABOUT THE BOOK CLUB KIT

In the middle-grade novel **Princess Juniper of the Hourglass** by Ammi-Joan Paquette (Philomel Books), all Princess Juniper wants is a country of her own. So when rumblings of unrest start in their kingdom, the king decides to grant Juniper’s wish and sends her and a group of friends to a small, idyllic corner of the Hourglass Mountains until trouble blows over. Once there, Juniper discovers that ruling a small country—even just for the summer—is quite a bit harder than she'd expected!

From the discussion questions to the leadership activities in the “Princess Juniper’s Guide to Building a Country or, How to be a Leader Through Sound Thinking, Strong Relationships, and More Than a Few Mistakes,” readers are asked to compare their experiences to that of the intrepid princess and to imagine a kingdom (or real-world scenario) where they, too, could make a difference. *Best for ages 8-13.*

To make your book club experience richer, this kit offers ideas to:

- Introduce the book with suggested readings, themes and read-alikes. (Page 4)
- Promote the book club with a poster and suggested calendar copy. (Pages 5 & 14)
- Discuss the book with chapter-by-chapter questions. (Pages 7-13)
- Prepare for your book club with ideas and tools for:
 - Holding a Skype Q&A with the author. (Page 5)
 - Leading fun-filled leadership activities. (Page 15-22)
 - Cooking projects for book club setting and eating. (Page 6)

ABOUT THE BOOK

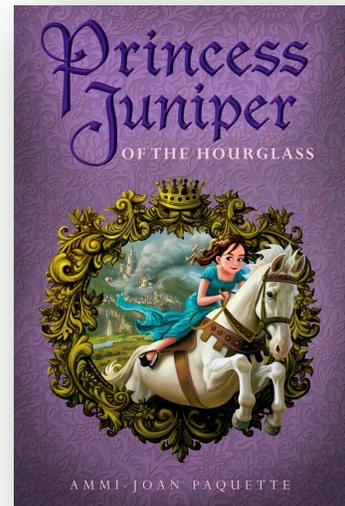
Princess Juniper of the Hourglass

By Ammi-Joan Paquette

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For her thirteenth nameday, all Princess Juniper wants is a country of her own. So when rumblings of unrest start in their kingdom, the king decides to grant Juniper’s wish and sends her and a group of friends to a small, idyllic corner of the Hourglass Mountains until trouble blows over. Once there, Juniper discovers that ruling a small country—even just for the summer—is quite a bit harder than she'd expected, especially when her bullying cousin Cyril challenges her rule. But the most difficult part is still to come. Juniper and her friends discover that her father's kingdom is at war. The only way to stay safe is to remain in the Hourglass Mountains much longer than planned. Juniper may have her own country after all...but what will that mean for the kingdom of Torr?



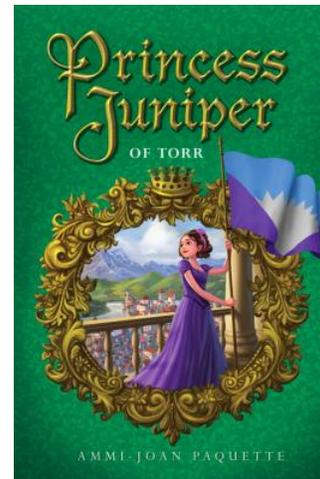
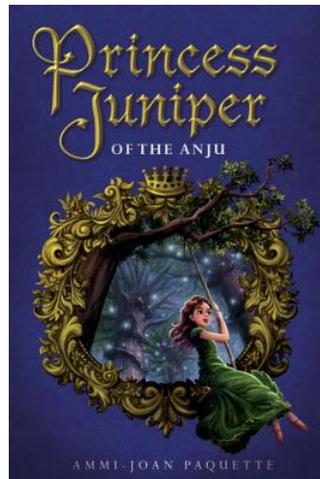
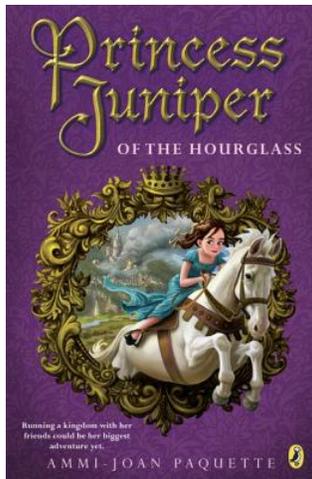
PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"A gently adventurous and luxuriously detailed romp." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"With elements from William Golding's **The Lord of the Flies** and Paul Fleischman's **Westlandia**, this story can be enjoyed by those who love princess stories and adventure tales....A rollicking tale that will please a wide range of readers." —*School Library Journal*

"This...dramatic and humorous novel...involves some entertaining twists and paves the way for more lighthearted intrigue ahead." —*Publishers Weekly*

EXPLORE THE SERIES



Juniper may have secured her kingdom, but danger—and adventure—are far from over. The **Princess Juniper Series** continues with **Princess Juniper of the Anju** (Book 2) and **Princess Juniper of Torr** (Book 3). Look for them at AJPaquette.com.

"Full of princesses and dragons, the latest volume in this series offers adventure that will set readers' hearts racing and put smiles on their faces." —*School Library Journal*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ammi-Joan Paquette spent her formative years moving from place to place, which left her with an insatiable curiosity about the wide world and everything in it. A voracious reader since early childhood, she's thrilled to now be able to share her stories with readers everywhere. She lives outside of Boston, Massachusetts, where she balances her own writing and her day job as a literary agent. Visit her on the web at www.ajpaquette.com

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

To get your book club interested in the novel, you may choose to do a short read-aloud from **Princess Juniper of the Hourglass**. Set the scene by explaining...

Thirteen-year-old Princess Juniper is the heir to the throne of the kingdom of Torr. Each year she is able to request a birthday present or “Nameday gift” from her father the king. Her idea for this year’s gift may seem like a frivolous game of a princess “playing house,” but that game may in fact alter the entire course of her kingdom.

Read from the novel starting from page 21, “Sitting across the long mahogany table” and read through to page 23 ending with, “A great deal of it.”

THEMES

Themes within the book include: Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Adventure, Friendship, World Building, and Coming-of-Age.

READ-ALIKES

Whether you are trying to recommend **Princess Juniper of the Hourglass** to a book-club reader or suggesting a next read after **Princess Juniper of the Hourglass**, here is a list of read-alike titles:

Classics books that inspired author Ammi-Joan Paquette include:

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Alanna: The First Adventure by Tamora Pierce

The Secret Island by Enid Blyton

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Other read-alikes include:

Princess Academy by Shannon Hale

The Goose Girl by Shannon Hale

Tuesdays in the Castle by Jessica Day George

The False Prince by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Dealing with Dragons by Patricia C. Wrede

Magyk by Angie Sage

Breadcrumbs by Anne Ursu



PROMOTING YOUR BOOK CLUB

There is a customizable poster/flyer included in this kit (page 14) for use in promoting the book club to the broader community. If you plan to list the book club online or in calendars, here is some suggested copy:

For her thirteenth birthday, all Princess Juniper wants is a country of her own. So when rumblings of unrest start in his kindgom, Juniper's father decides to grant his daughter's wish and sends her to a small, idyllic corner of the Hourglass Mountains until trouble blows over. Once there, Juniper discovers that ruling a small country—even just for the summer—is a bit harder than she'd expected!

Our book club will be reading **Princess Juniper of the Hourglass**, the first book in **the Princess Juniper Series** by Ammi-Joan Paquette (Philomel Books). We will talk about the novel and about forming our own countries on _____. Best for ages 8-13.

PREPARING FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Here are some ideas to engage your book group:

Prepare Leadership Activities

Review “Princess Juniper’s Guide to Building a Country or, How to be a Leader Through Sound Thinking, Strong Relationships, and the Art of Making Mistakes” included in this kit (pages 15-22). The guide contains five humorous worksheets connecting the story of Princess Juniper to a reader seeking to build their own imaginative kingdom or to enact real-life community change.

The guide includes Princess Juniper’s Guide To:

- ∞ 10 Steps to Leadership
- ∞ Building a Country
- ∞ Your Royal Subjects
- ∞ Your Royal Domain
- ∞ Getting It All Done

Schedule a Skype with the Author

Author Ammi-Joan Paquette is happy to provide a free 20-minute Skype Q&A with your book group, as her schedule permits. To arrange a visit, contact Ammi-Joan at www.ajpaquette.com/contact.php. Please include the name of your group, ages and number of members, your contact information, and indicate several possible days and times that might work for you.

PREPARING FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB (cont.)

Create a Food Connection

BERRIES 'N' CREAM

Princess Juniper's favorite berries, carmines, are unique to the Lower Continent. But you can substitute your favorite berries to make a quick, delicious snack.

Ingredients:

Your favorite berries
Can of whipped cream

Instructions:

1. Wash berries in cool water. Drain thoroughly and place in a pretty bowl.
2. Right before serving, squirt whipped cream into another bowl.
3. Place bowls side by side on the table. Use toothpicks (or fingers) to dip a berry into the cream, then enjoy!

LEENA'S FAMOUS CHEESE BISCUITS

Everybody loves Leena's delicious crispy cheese sticks, but when she's pressed for time, there's nothing so great as a gooey, cheesy biscuit. Leena loves them because they're quick, easy to make, and she can change them easily to use whatever she has on hand. See the Extra Fun notes to make these into Biscuits Of Anything At All.

Ingredients:

Flour
Salt
Baking powder
Yogurt (plain)
Milk
Grated cheese

Instructions:

1. Wash hands well with soap and water. (You'll be using them a lot in this recipe!)
2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
3. Measure out two big double-handfuls of flour into a large bowl.
4. Add a big pinch of salt and two pinches of baking powder.
5. Toss this flour mixture with your hands till it's all blended together.
6. *Extra fun?* If you want to add some dry mix-ins, now's the time. Try a pinch of: fresh-ground pepper; paprika; sage; dried parsley.
7. Now add a big spoon of the yogurt into the flour mixture. Mix and add another. You'll know you've added enough when your mixture is crumbly but still very dry.
8. Pour in a little milk. You'll know you have enough when the mixture starts to come together in a wet but firm batter.
9. Toss in a big handful of grated cheese.
10. *Extra fun?* Try some of these ingredients for extra fun and flavor: finely chopped chives, green onions, or parsley; grated parmesan; diced crispy-fried bacon or ham.
11. Divided your dough into four small balls. Roll each one gently together and pat it into a flat biscuit.
12. Bake 12-15 minutes. You'll know they're finished by the golden brown top and delicious smell wafting from the oven. Enjoy!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Important Note: These questions contain many spoilers all across the story! For an optimal reading experience, make sure not to pass these out for reading until the appropriate chapter has been reached in the text.

Chapter 1:

1. If you wrote down your "Official Daily Schedule," how might it compare to Juniper's? Is there anything in your day that is the same as hers? What does she get to do that you wish you could do as well? Is there anything in her schedule that you would find really unpleasant?
2. Early in the chapter, Juniper is tired of being treated like some "unapproachable royal figurehead." When Toby smiles at her and gives her two thumbs up, she says that she finally feels seen. Can you remember a time when someone made you feel "seen" for who you really are?
3. If you were a princess turning thirteen, what do you think you might ask for your birthday?

Chapter 2:

1. In preparation for her Nameday ball, Juniper's Comportment Master tells her that royalty should always be at least an hour late, if not more. But Juniper likes to keep herself busy and be on time. Do you tend to be early or late?
2. Do you think that thirteen is a good age for kids to be considered adults, and be given the kind of responsibility Princess Juniper is about to have?
3. At the end of her party, Juniper comes across a gathering of kids and teens who are having a party of their own. What keeps Juniper from joining that party? Are there are things you cannot do because of the wishes of your family?

Chapter 3:

1. King Regis agrees that Juniper's idea of ruling her own country would be a good "test of adulthood" for a princess. Can you imagine a test that would help you discover what kind of person you are? Who might encourage you to consider such an adventure?
2. Princess Juniper knew right away that bookish Erick Dufrayne would make an excellent Chief Advisor to help her rule her new country. Who would you choose to help you in such a task? Why would you choose them?
3. Imagine if you were asked to help Juniper as her advisor. Would you accept the job? What strengths would you bring to the group?

Chapter 4:

1. Juniper is late to her music lesson because she is busy planning her kingdom. Can you think of a time when something was so important to you that you could not focus on anything else?

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2. Paul Perigor confesses his dream of being a gardener, even though his father wants him to be in the army. Alta shares her dream to be in the army and not become a baker, even though that is her father's wish for her. Do you have a passion that is different from what an adult in your life hopes for you?
3. Juniper believes that everyone should be allowed to follow their passions, and invites the kids to join her list of settlers in whatever role they wish for themselves. Do you think this makes Juniper a good leader or not? What passion would you tell Juniper about, if you were there?

Chapter 5:

1. Juniper is impatient to start her new country. Imagine a time that you were about to do something very daring. How did you feel? Did you go through with your plan, or decide to wait?
2. When Juniper's father tells her she must leave right away, Juniper realizes that her father's kingdom is in danger and she does not want to leave him. What would you do in her position?
3. Juniper does not want Cyril to come on the trip, but she has no choice but to accept him into the group. Have you ever been asked to include someone in your group that you were unsure of? Did things happen as you expected them to, or were you surprised by the outcome?

Chapter 6:

1. After Erick and Alta insist that she stay in the carriage for protection, Juniper wonders whether she has traded one "closely guarded cage for another." What does Juniper mean by that? Have you ever felt as though you were being too "closely guarded"?
2. Why do you think being outside of the carriage on Alta's horse, disguised as Alta, allows Juniper to feel more in control?
3. Juniper asks Erick to tell her if he has a different opinion to her own. Have you ever been afraid that a close friend is not giving you their honest opinion, in order to save your feelings or to make things easier?

Chapter 7:

1. Juniper is amazed and relieved when a strip of flame lights up the walls of the cave to show them which way to go, just as her father promised it would. Describe a time when something in nature completely took you by surprise.
2. "This was her kingdom now—a traveling one, but still, it was a start," Juniper thinks to herself with a rush. Why does she think this now? What is it that allowed her to see the group as her kingdom for the first time?
3. In the castle, Juniper was discouraged from thanking servants. Now Juniper expresses her gratitude to Tippy and decides that everyone in her new kingdom will be shown appreciation. Does this make her a weaker ruler or a stronger one?

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4. Should Juniper meet Cyril's challenge head-on as Erick suggests, or should she wait it out? Are you the type of person who likes to face a challenge directly, or do you handle rude or bullying behavior another way?

Chapter 8:

1. "Enchanted" is the first word that comes to Juniper's mind when she sees the Basin. What is enchanting about it to you?

2. "Get work done, then have fun" is King Regis's motto. Do you have any family mottos, sayings, or traditions? Have these ever been a help to you?

3. What role do you think Tippy will play in Juniper's adventure? Do you have someone in your life who is happy and joyous like Tippy?

Chapter 9:

1. Why do you think Cyril is so determined to undermine Juniper's position and leadership? Is she dealing with him effectively, or do you think she needs to use a more direct approach?

2. If you were naming your own land, would you want to use your own name, like Juniper's followers suggest? Or would you go for a more general name?

3. Juniper is left wondering why her father sent so much gold and treasure with them. Have you ever held a secret worry or concern that was really big, like this one? Did you have friends to share it with it?

Chapter 10:

1. Compare Juniper's old schedule to this one. Which one looks more interesting to you? What might you add to the day, if you were Queen?

2. Juniper did not spend much time outdoors before now, because it was not something a princess did. Talk about one of your fondest memories being outdoors, or about an outdoor adventure you have always wanted to go on.

3. Dealing with Cyril's challenges to her authority and his less-than-helpful attitude seem to be Juniper's biggest problems. Have you known someone who liked to disrupt things like Cyril does? How did you deal with that person?

Chapter 11:

1. The Beacon allows the King's messenger to come to the Basin with messages from the castle. Try to imagine living without cellphones! What would you miss? What might be desirable about an electronics-free adventure?

2. Juniper tells her kingdom that she may not always be right. Why would this be a daring thing for a leader to say? Do you know anyone in a position of leadership who is open to hearing when they are wrong? Does this make them a better leader, teacher, coach, or parent in your eyes?

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3. Juniper tells Cyril, Root, and Jessamyn that they can settle somewhere else if they refuse to help with the Basin's tasks. Would this make you change your attitude if you were Cyril? What would it take for that to happen?

Chapter 12:

1. This chapter opened with screaming! How did Juniper react and how did her subjects react? What would you have done?
2. Juniper thinks it would be too easy to suspect Cyril, Root, and Jessamyn of causing trouble. Do you suspect them? Why or why not?
3. Juniper upstages Cyril's attempt at getting everyone on his side by embracing the idea of a day at the swimming hole. What does this show about her as a leader?
4. At the end of the chapter, there was a "warmth that was far more than skin deep," among the settlers. What do you think this means? Do you believe this is a turning point for the country?

Chapter 13:

1. Just before jumping into the water, Juniper remembers her mother saying there is nothing like experiencing "the rush of water when left to its own true nature." Juniper is trusting her own true nature and that she will be safe when she lands. Describe a moment when you decided to take a "leap of faith" like this. Was your experience rewarding, like Juniper's is?
2. Juniper cannot understand why she has not heard from her father, and the wait is distractingly hard. Can you think of a time that you had to wait to hear from someone very important to you? What was that time like? Were you able to stay focused like Juniper does?
3. What or who do you think is responsible for the ruin in the kitchen and the destroyed timepiece?
4. Instead of being distraught and ready to leave, Juniper sees that the group has grown closer than ever as a result of the attack. Is this a result of her leadership?

Chapter 14:

1. Bookish Erick discovers that dagnite can be used to make weapons. If you were to arrive in this newly formed country today, what skills and talents could you bring to help it grow and thrive?
2. Juniper is growing better at weighing what she knows is best for the group against what she thinks will make them happy. She seems to be growing as a person and a leader. Have you ever noticed yourself changing in a way that makes you stronger as a person, a friend, or a leader?
3. The long-awaited letter brings terribly unsettling news. Torr has fallen and Juniper is instructed to not return until they hear further word. What impact do you predict this will have on Juniper? Would you tell the group this news or keep it to yourself?

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Chapter 15:

1. Juniper tells Erick that sometimes “telling the whole truth makes things worse, not better. That’s how it is to be a ruler. Sometimes you’ve got to make tough choices.” Have you ever been told something that you later found out was only part of the truth? Or have you ever had to hold back information from others? Was it the right choice to do so?
2. Erick thinks Juniper should tell her subjects about Torr being under attack. He says that he disagrees with her choice not to tell them, but he will accept her decision because she is the queen. If you were Erick, would you keep Juniper’s secret even if you disagreed with her?
3. Cyril has made the ultimate challenge: to start his own country. Would it be easier if Cyril and his followers were out of the group altogether? What happens to two countries side-by-side that are not on friendly terms?

Chapter 16:

1. Juniper did not want to give in to Cyril by attending his gathering, but was convinced to attend by Erick and Alta. Have you ever been to a party or event where you did not feel welcome?
2. Juniper acknowledges how handsome and powerful Cyril seems in his own camp. She sees that many in her group feel drawn to him. Are you feeling any different about Cyril?
3. Juniper has a week in which to convince the group that she is a better ruler than Cyril. What do think she should do differently in the coming week?

Chapter 17:

1. Juniper realizes that she is in the middle of a “popularity contest” with Cyril. She has no idea how she can “win.” Have you ever felt like you had to choose between two friends? What was the outcome and how might you have gone about things differently?
2. When Juniper finds herself unable to make a tough decision, she decides to go for a challenging hike. What do you do when you are feeling hopeless or down? Does spending time alone help you, or would you rather be with friends?
3. Juniper knows that Torr has fallen and that Queen’s Basin may be the only place her people can continue to be free. Does this knowledge make her more or less willing to give control of her country to Cyril? Why?

Chapter 18:

1. When the morning began, Juniper had hope that the ballot might go her way. Is there anything she could have added to her speech to get her subjects to vote for her despite Cyril’s news?
2. Cyril was very strategic in how he gave out the information that Juniper knew more than she had told the group. Why was this a smart move in his plan to overthrow her kingdom?
3. Juniper’s defeat is crushing. Have you ever faced anything like this? What do you think Juniper should do next?

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Chapter 19:

1. Juniper, Erick, and Alta are immediately taken from the group and imprisoned. Why do you think Cyril felt it necessary to make such a dramatic show of his power? What does that reveal about him?
2. When in prison, Juniper realizes her mistake in keeping information from her people. Do you agree that she should have told them what had happened? Could they be trusted to act rationally?
3. Juniper's resolve to defend her kingdom returns when Tippy makes her secret visit. Have you ever been in a situation where you thought all was lost, but then found strength to turn it all around?

Chapter 20:

1. Looking around Queen's Basin, Juniper notices dirty dishes, spoiled food, and wasted resources everywhere. What does this tell her about Cyril's rule?
2. Juniper appeals to Cyril's greed and selfishness. With the lure of a fancy celebration and the crowning of Cyril as King, Juniper hopes to procure her own freedom. Could her plan backfire? How?
3. Make a prediction about what will happen in the next week to bring Juniper back into favor with her people. How would you go about regaining their trust?

Chapter 21:

1. Juniper begins to see that Root is his own person and not just an extension of Cyril. Have you ever met someone who acted quite differently when they were away from their best friend?
2. Juniper wants all the girls in Queen's Basin to share her dresses, perfumes, and accessories, once she finally realizes how little they have. Why has it taken Juniper so long to see this? Have you ever noticed having more than or less than someone else? How did it make you feel to see this?
3. Tippy makes a huge discovery about Cyril's connection to the Monsians' overthrow of the Torr. Juniper is more determined than ever to regain control of her people and her kingdom. Think of a time where you or someone close to you became completely certain of what needed to be done. What was that like? What happened next?

Chapter 22:

1. By the end of this chapter, it is clear that Juniper has tipped the scale back in her favor with certain members of the group. Is this enough for her plan to work, or is she still facing an enormously hard challenge?
2. When Cyril refuses to let Alta and Erick attend the ball, Juniper remains certain of herself. What does this reveal about Juniper? Do you think she has a back-up plan?
3. Juniper lets all the girls wear her gowns. Is she manipulating them or does she genuinely want to share her things? Or both? Are some gifts given to help make something happen?

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Chapter 23:

1. The chapter begins moments before Juniper is to enact her plan to regain her kingdom. Her positivity seems to make her unstoppable. Why do you think she feels so certain of herself at a moment when so much could go wrong? What can we learn from Juniper about facing challenges?

2. In a key moment of the action to overthrow Cyril, someone switches sides. Did this surprise you? Have you ever been completely surprised when a friend or grownup seemed to “change sides” and reveal their truer self? What may have brought this person to that decision?

3. What do you think was the most important thing or moment that turned the people of the Basin back to Juniper’s side? Now that she is back in charge, what would you want her to say or do right away?

Epilogue:

1. Juniper takes the time to tell each person in the group what they have taught her. Imagine that you were there. What would you want Juniper to know about what she has taught you over the course of this adventure?

2. All Juniper can say about tomorrow’s schedule is: “Unknown.” This is an extreme contrast to the first schedule in the story. Will Juniper be able to move forward without a plan? Or does the fact that she doesn’t know what tomorrow may bring mean that she is more ready than ever?

3. What are your hopes for Juniper and her people in the future?

YOUR NEXT BOOK CLUB OR EVENT

This guide was created by Curious City. You can find additional book club guides, discussion questions for middle grade novels, event kits to introduce novels, novel giveaways, and even book engagement tools for younger readers at CuriousCityDPW.com. All free. All for you.





BOOK CLUB MEETING

Princess Juniper

We will be reading **Princess Juniper of the Hourglass**, the first book in the **Princess Juniper Series** by Ammi-Joan Paquette (Philomel Books).

Princess Juniper



GUIDE TO BUILDING A COUNTRY *OR, HOW TO BE A LEADER THROUGH SOUND THINKING, STRONG RELATIONSHIPS, AND THE ART OF MAKING MISTAKES*

This guide explores the first book in the **Princess Juniper Series** by Ammi-Joan Paquette (Philomel Books). AJPaquette.com.

Princess Juniper

TEN STEPS TO LEADERSHIP

Or, How to Find Your Glow & Save the World

It's a peaceful, sunny afternoon in Queen's Basin. I've got a few minutes of quiet time (if you don't count the sound of hammering and the occasional bleating of goats), so I've decided to pen my thoughts on leadership for future royal rulers, and any others who want to take charge and make a change.

Is there something in your life that needs changing? What opportunities do you see to make your home, neighborhood, school, or world a better place?

Your greatest opportunity might also be your greatest challenge and your greatest risk. Are you up for the challenge? I think you are! Are you taking a risk? You might be. But that's what leadership is, after all.

And you? You're a leader. I can see it in your eye.

Follow these tips to get you the rest of the way there. ~ *Princess Juniper*

TEN STEPS TO LEADERSHIP

1) FIND YOUR OWN GLOW

I set out to build this kingdom because I wanted a place where each one of us could feel important, where we could all find our own bit of glow. What is your glow? What matters to you most deeply? Now ... what can you change to help bring that wish to life?

2) ASK 'WHY?'

On my 13th Nameday, a curious thing occurred to me. I asked, "Why? Do things really have to be this way?" Real leaders are not satisfied. They don't accept the ways things have always been. Real leaders dig deep, seek answers, and don't give up until they get them. The question 'Why?' is a little key that can unlock very big doors of change!

3) GET ADVICE

Where would I be without bookish Erick or fierce Alta to help me along my journey? Even the Queen can't do everything by herself. Of course, you'll be the one making the final decisions about your chosen tasks, but take the time to get advice from those you trust. You might not always like everything your advisors say, but listen.

4) FEEL DAUNTED

Some days you might not feel especially royal. You might just feel like a kid on the edge of a cliff facing a big dark ocean of uncertainty. Want to hear a secret? It's okay to feel daunted, or worried, or overwhelmed. Really! When that happens, take a deep breath and remember that you don't need to go it alone. Go find those advisors and friends. Together, you can take the next step and cross that vast ocean in a boat of your own making.

Princess Juniper

TEN STEPS TO LEADERSHIP

Or, How to Find Your Glow & Save the World

5) LEARN FROM YOUR ENEMIES

Now, you might not have a rival for your throne, but chances are you have some kind of Cyril in your life. Is there a bully or someone who is telling you and others that you're all wrong, or that your goal can't be reached?

First off, pay attention to the criticism. If you strip away the meanness of what your rival has to say, is there any truth there? Ask your closest advisors what they think, too. If you find nothing but mean, then brush it off and move on with your head held high. If you find a kernel of truth, though, that's valuable. Take that bit of truth to heart. Now grind all the rest of the meanness into the dirt and be done with that bully once and for all!

6) FIND YOUR TIPPY

It always helps to have a friend who will smother you with kindness when you need it most. Even the strongest among us have times when we need friendship and comfort. When Tippy tells me, "Mistress Ladyship Juniper of Everything, you are the most righteous queen ever to live."—well, it helps. It helps a lot.

7) EXPRESS GRATITUDE

My Comportment Master loved to lecture, and one of his favorite lines was, "Your royal gratitude is best expressed by your silence." How I hated that instruction! Does it seem right to you? It sure doesn't to me. So: Don't be afraid to tell those around you what you appreciate about them. Be specific! (I promise not to tell my Comportment Master.)

8) TRANSFORM GROUSING TO GIDDY

Once you've created your change-making team, give them time to grow together. There's going to be times that your people will complain—or, as we call it in the princess world, grouse. Make your grouse speak up! If they have a complaint, they should tell it to you. What to do next? Explain your point of view. Then ask them to help you come up with a solution. The solutions are not all up to you. If you all figure things together, everyone will end up giddy!

9) MAKE MISTAKES

Don't make mistakes on purpose, of course! But remember that you will make mistakes. I made a big one here in the Queen's Basin and I had to apologize to everyone. Remember, there's nothing weak about apologizing—on the contrary, it can fill you with hot new strength. (And it makes your team respect you even more!)

10) KEEP A BALANCE

Your career as Royal Ruler, Team Leader, or World-Changer will be one of dedication, trial, and triumph. Remember to keep your life in balance. There's no end of work to be done. But you should always be ready now and again to crank up the music, put on your swankiest outfit, and dance your ball slippers off!

Princess Juniper

BUILDING YOUR COUNTRY

To be the ruler of your very own country, or the leader of your own movement for change, you will need: a purpose, a location, and a name. I do love to make lists! Let's make one together, shall we? To start, answer these questions.

~Princess Juniper

Why do you want to be the ruler of your own land or the leader of your own group? Why do you want to lead?

What changes would you make to this new land of yours or to the community you live in?

What real or imagined space would you like to rule from? Where would your headquarters be? (Up a tree? Down in the basement? Across the world on a white sand beach? On a wooded mountaintop?)

What will you name your new kingdom? (Think before you name it after yourself. You don't want your subjects to think it's all about you!)



Princess Juniper

YOUR ROYAL SUBJECTS

It is impossible to establish a kingdom without a group of royal subjects. Likewise, you can't be a leader for change without first gathering a team of clever and faithful friends.

What works needs be done? What are the skills needs for each task? Who might be able to fill these positions?

You may not have names to fill every job. We left for Queen's Basin with a pretty small crew. But look how well things turned out! We made do with who we had, and some subjects' hidden talents were revealed in the process.

Who will your subjects be? Begin assembling your team below. *~Princess Juniper*

What Needs to Be Done...	Skills Required for the Task...	Name

Princess Juniper

OUTFITTING YOUR DOMAIN

Choosing the right outfit to wear is very important. In the same way, you want to outfit your kingdom, business, or world-changing organization by choosing the supplies needed to run it. Dress for success—that goes for you and your new domain!

What does your business need to get started? Making a list always gets me in the mood to start something new!

~Princess Juniper



Princess Juniper

MAPPING YOUR ROYAL DOMAIN

If you choose to rule your own land, what will it look like? Does it have a swimming hole like mine? A grand treehouse for holding dance parties? Sketch out a map of your domain below!

If you choose to start a club, organization, or project, what will your work space look like? You might also draw a picture of your community after you make the changes you have in mind.

Think big! Think like a royal ruler! ~ *Princess Juniper*

P.S. Want to do more? Try turning your drawing into a 3D model using items from your recycling bin, Legos, old toys, or software.

Princess Juniper

GETTING IT ALL DONE

Your mind might be absolutely bursting with ideas for your new country, business, or project. It is always best to get your ideas down on paper. Who knows? You might need an entire notebook to fit them all.

Are you ready? Then let's get started with the business of ruling our own world!

~Princess Juniper

