

the Source Book Talk

by Hannah Miller, DCE

New Moon by Stephenie Meyer

About:

New Moon is the sequel to *Twilight*. Meyer, a mother of three and member of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said the idea for the book came to her in a dream, “In my dream, two people were having an intense conversation in a meadow in the woods. One of these people was just your average girl. The other person was fantastically beautiful, sparkly, and a vampire. They were discussing the difficulties inherent in the facts that A) they were falling in love with each other while B) the vampire was particularly attracted to the scent of her blood, and was having a difficult time restraining himself from killing her immediately.”

(www.stepheniemeyer.com)

Length: 563 Pages

Location: Mostly Forks and La Push, WA, and some time spent in Italy

Recommended Reading Age: 13-14 years and up (due to some graphic violence and mature content)

Characters:

The Humans:

Isabella “Bella” Swan: 17 years old. The main female character of the story. Perceptive to the needs of others, introverted, awkward, curious, self-described as “average-looking.” Daughter of divorced parents, Charlie and Renee.

Charlie Swan: Father of Bella and Police Chief of Forks, WA. Quiet, loves to fish and watch sports.

Renee: Bella’s mother. Flighty and a worrywart. Married to Phil. Lives in Florida.

Angela, Mike, Lauren, Jessica, Tyler, and Eric: Students at Forks High School and friends of Bella’s.

The Quileute Tribe/Werewolves:

All the members of the Quileute tribes live on a reservation near La Push, WA. The werewolves are more along the lines of “shapeshifters,” and can change from human to wolf form at will.

Jacob Black: 16 years old. An old friend of Bella’s.

Billy Black: Father of Jacob and best friend of Charlie Swan.

Sam Uley: Head of Quileute Werewolf “pack.”

Embry, Jared, Paul: Other Quileute Werewolves

The Cullen Vampires:

All the vampires in the books are characterized by having ice cold and very pale skin. They also possess incredible beauty, strength, intelligence, and skill. The Cullen family consider themselves, “vegetarians” and don’t drink human blood. Because of this, their eyes range from black to amber colored depending on thirst. Vampires who aren’t vegetarians have eyes that are bright crimson/red. Meyer’s vampires don’t need sleep and can handle being in the sun; however, their skin “sparkles,” so they avoid being out when around humans

Edward Cullen: Eternally 17 years old. Main male character of the story. Handsome, sensitive, emotional, lonely, protective. Edward can read the minds of everyone around him, except for Bella’s.

Carlisle Cullen: “Father” of the Cullen vampire coven. Doctor at the hospital in Forks. Kind. Sensitive to needs of all living creatures.

Esme Cullen: “Mother” of the Cullen coven. Known for her compassion.

Alice Cullen: Married to Jasper. Alice is trendy, petite, spunky, stubborn. She can also tell future events of humans and vampires.

Jasper Hale: Married to Alice. Jasper is laid back. He has the ability to control the emotions of those in the room.

Rosalie Hale: Married to Emmett. Protective of the Cullen family.

Emmett Cullen: Married to Rosalie. Very strong, cheerful.

The Traveling Vampires (the non-vegetarians):

Victoria: James' mate from *Twilight*. She harbors a grudge against Edward for killing James.

Laurent: the final member of James' original coven. He left James' coven during *Twilight*, but reappears in *New Moon* at the request of Victoria.

The Volturi:

The Volturi are the ruling class of vampires. They help enforce the "laws" of vampire life. They live in Italy and possess extraordinary extrasensory powers.

Aro: Leader of the Volturi. Eccentric. Aro can read every thought when he makes physical contact with a person.

Marcus: Leader of the Volturi. Can sense the strength of relationships of those around them.

Caius: Leader of the Volturi. He has no known gift.

Alec, Jane, Demetri, Heidi: Members of the Volturi guards. They also have formidable powers.

Story Summary:

The story begins with Bella's 18th birthday. She and Edward begin to have a series of debates about when/if she can become a vampire and join the Cullen family. Edward is resistant to the idea. During her party with the Cullens, Bella cuts her finger and Jasper nearly attacks. After this event, Edward decides that he puts her in too much danger and breaks up with her. Edward makes Bella promise that she will be careful as she is accident prone. He and his family leave Forks, and Bella is devastated. Four months pass (marked by pages noted only with the month) until Bella "wakes up."

As she begins to piece her life together, she renews her friendship with Jacob Black, an old family friend. Jacob and Bella take on the task of restoring old motorcycles. Bella has found that irrational and dangerous behavior helps her to hear Edward's voice. She believes that restoring and riding the motorcycle will bring Edward's voice back. During this time, Bella and Jacob become very close, but as Bella begins to feel better, her friendship with Jacob is abruptly halted.

Without the motorcycles at her disposal, Bella continues to spend time finding ways to connect to her memory of Edward. She goes to his now vacant home and discovers the valley where Edward had once taken her. While in the valley, she meets Laurent. Laurent had been sent by Victoria to see how protected Bella was. Laurent is shocked to find out that the Cullens have left town and then tries to attack Bella. However, he is chased off by a pack of large wolves.

Soon after the incident in the woods, Bella learns that Jacob is a werewolf. The Quileute werewolves have been chosen to protect the Quileute tribe from the "cold ones" and have been protecting Bella from Victoria and were the wolves that saved Bella from Laurent. Once Bella is in on the Quileute secret, her friendship with Jacob is restored and they continue to hang out together. On one occasion, when Jacob is running patrols, Bella decides to cliff-jump as a way to bring hear Edward's voice. Bella nearly drowns, but is saved by Jacob.

After cliff-jumping, Jacob takes Bella home only to find that Alice has arrived. Alice had seen a vision of Bella jumping and had assumed that she was suicidal. During a miscommunication, Edward assumes

that Bella has died and decides to go to the Volturi in Italy to kill himself. Alice tells Bella of the situation and she and Alice go to Italy to try to stop Edward.

While in Italy, Bella is able to stop Edward, but are captured by the Volturi. Aro, the head of the Volturi, let them leave on the condition that Bella either becomes a vampire or that she is killed. Alice is able to show Aro Bella's future and they return to Forks.

Things to Discuss:

Leader's Note: These questions are meant to be open-ended as a way to guide discussion and to provide a context for conversation. There are Scripture references that can be used to help guide the conversation.

In the beginning of the book, Carlisle and Bella have a conversation about the afterlife. What is the motivation for Carlisle's good deeds? What role do good works play in their salvation? How is this different than what we as Christians believe? (John 3:16, Romans 5:6-12)

Edward believes that vampires have lost their souls and he is afraid that by turning Bella into a vampire, she will lose her soul. What does Edward believe is a consequence of being without a soul? Is the soul an important part of human existence? Why or why not? What happens to our souls after we die? (Matthew 10:26-33)

After Edward leaves, Bella often describes herself as having a gaping wound in her chest. What does she try to fill this hole with? Is she successful in doing so? Why is she successful or unsuccessful? What role could faith have played in helping fill this hole in her heart? (Isaiah 55:1-2, John 6:26-27)

In an attempt to be closer to her memory of Edward, Bella engages in some dangerous behavior. What are some things that she tries? Is it ever acceptable to put yourself in a dangerous situation?

As a member of a werewolf pack, there are certain rules that Jacob follows. What are these rules? Do the werewolves have free will to obey or disobey them as they so choose? What role does free will play in our lives? (Genesis 3, 1 Corinthians 10:23-31)

Near the end of New Moon, Bella leaves Forks on short notice to save Edward. How does this affect her relationship with Charlie? With Jacob? With Edward? Are these changes positive or negative? Is it ever ok to hurt or betray someone to save or help another person? In what circumstance might that be acceptable?