



FLANNERY

Lisa Moore

GRADE 9 - 12 / ENGLISH

THEMES Coming of Age • Relationships • Science Fiction
Fantasy • Magic

THE STORY

When Flannery decides to make a love potion for her entrepreneurship project, rumors that it actually works go viral, and she suddenly has a hot commodity on her hands. But as it turns out, real-life love is far more potent – and more risky – than any fairy-tale prescription.

BOOK SUMMARY

Sixteen-year-old Flannery Malone has it bad. She's been in love with Tyrone O'Rourke since the days she still believed in Santa Claus. But Tyrone has grown from a dorky kid into an outlaw graffiti artist, the rebel-with-a-cause of Flannery's dreams, literally too cool for school. Tyrone isn't Flannery's only problem. Her mother, Miranda, can't pay the heating bills, let alone buy Flannery's biology book. And her best-friend-since-forever, Amber, has fallen for a guy who is making her forget all the things she cares about most – Flannery included.



AUTHOR PROFILE

LISA MOORE is the acclaimed author of *February* and *Alligator*. *February* won CBC's Canada Reads competition, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and was named a New Yorker Best Book of the Year, and a Globe and Mail Top 100 Book. *Alligator* was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Canada and the Caribbean), and was a national bestseller. Her story collection *Open* was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and a national bestseller. She lives in Newfoundland.

WEB RESOURCES

- Publisher Website – Book:
<http://houseofanansi.com/collections/all/products/flannery>
- Publisher Website – Author:
<http://houseofanansi.com/collections/all/lisa-moore>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Lisa Moore's interview with Jared Bland from The Globe and Mail "6 questions with Lisa Moore: 'There are tools every writer needs'": <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books-and-media/6-questions-with-lisa-moore-there-are-tools-every-writer-needs/article13192813/>
- Anna Fitzpatrick's comprehensive review of *Flannery* for the National Post:
<http://news.nationalpost.com/arts/books/book-reviews/lisa-moores-flannery-refuses-to-resort-to-fantasy-as-antidote-as-a-real-girl-in-the-real-world>
- Lisa Moore's talk entitled "The Art of the Story" at the Walrus Talks on January 24, 2012:
<http://thewalrus.ca/tv-the-art-of-the-story/>

READING COMPREHENSION

- Lisa Moore employs a unique writing style in *Flannery*. Take note of the dialogue in the book. How does this differ from most books? Do you like this style of writing?
- Lisa Moore also strays from literary convention and often writes in long run on sentences that contain a great amount of detail. Why do you think she did this? What was she trying to convey?
- Examine Flannery's character. How does she change throughout the book?
- Discuss how Flannery's relationship with her mother is a central part of the novel. How would you describe Flannery's relationship with her mother?

DISCUSS

- Each of the characters in *Flannery* has a complex backstory. Consider each of the main characters family dynamics and their upbringing. How do these factors inform their actions?
- One of the main conflicts in the novel was between Amber and Flannery. If you were in Flannery's position what would you have done regarding Amber?
- Why do you think the potions worked? Did they actually have some form of power or did they just affect the thoughts of the characters?
- In *Flannery* it seems the characters are all tied together through complicated relationships. Examine the relationships between the various characters. Which ones were healthy relationship and which ones were not? Why?

SUGGESTED READINGS

FROM THE SAME AUTHOR

- (For adults) *Caught* (2013)
<http://houseofanansi.com/collections/all/products/caught>
- (For adults) *February* (2010)
<http://houseofanansi.com/collections/all/products/february>
- (For adults) *The Selected Short Fiction of Lisa Moore* (2012)
<http://houseofanansi.com/products/the-selected-short-fiction-of-lisa-moore>

BY OTHER ARTISTS FROM WORDFEST 2016

- (For Gr. 7 & up) *Saving Montgomery Sole* (2016) by Mariko Tamaki <http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/392187/saving-montgomery-sole-by-mariko-tamaki/9780399565984/>
- (For Gr. 6 & up) *The Swan Riders* (2016) by Erin Bow <http://www.simonandschuster.ca/books/The-Swan-Riders/Erin-Bow/9781481442749>
- (For Gr. 7 & up) Jillian Christmas - Black Feminist and Spoken Word Poet
- (For Gr. 9 & up) *Beware That Girl* (2016) by Teresa Toten <http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/241368/beware-that-girl-by-teresa-toten/9780553507904/>

OTHER BOOKS ON RELATED SUBJECT

- (For Gr. 7 & up) *Make Lemonade* (1993) by Virginia Euwer Wolff <http://us.macmillan.com/books/9780805080704>
- (For Gr. 8 & up) *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (1999) by Stephen Chbosky <http://books.simonandschuster.ca/The-Perks-of-Being-a-Wallflower/Stephen-Chbosky/9781451696196>
- (For Gr. 10 & up) *Looking for Alaska* (2006) by John Green <http://www.penguin.com/book/looking-for-alaska-by-john-green/9780142402511>
- (For Gr. 7 & up) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (2007) by Sherman Alexie <http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/sherman-alexie/the-absolutely-true-diary-of-a-part-time-indian/9780316013680/>

ACTIVITIES

A WRITING ACTIVITY - *THE POWER OF THE POTIONS*

Flannery and Tyrone decide to make love potions for their Entrepreneurship Project and due to “the power of suggestion”, as Ms. Rideout states on page 131, the potions end up having the intended effect on people’s behaviour. If you were Flannery or Tyrone what potion would you make? What effect would it have on people? Keep in mind Flannery and Tyrone’s potion was a part of a school project and had to sell, so make your potion something that people would actually want to buy and not something malicious.

A MATCHING ACTIVITY - *FAMILY TIES*

Lisa Moore put great thought into the backstory of the characters in *Flannery*. Use this map to explain all the key character relationships and explain how they impacted each of the characters.

A WRITING ACTIVITY - *FINDING FLANNERY’S VOICE*

Lisa Moore employs a very distinctive style of writing throughout *Flannery*, which gives Flannery a very specific voice. Based off of the ending of the book, envision how the story would continue and write a brief passage in the voice of Flannery.

“**Moore, a mother herself, has written a testament to the innate powers that come with teenage girlhood. Faced with both the regular teenage hurdles and with problems no 16-year-old should have to deal with, Flannery learns to not only adapt and survive, but to imbue her life with wonder of her own making”**

—*National Post*

CURRICULUM CONNECTION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 9:

- Analyze how the choices and motives of characters portrayed in oral, print and other media texts provide insight into those of self and others (2.2)
- Relate the themes, emotions and experiences portrayed in oral, print and other media texts to issues of personal interest or significance (2.2)

GRADE 10 & UP:

- Select appropriate strategies to extend awareness and understanding of new perspectives, monitor their effectiveness, and modify them as needed [for example, record new understandings in a learning log; develop new group perspectives using a fish bowl organization] 1.2.1
- Explain the text creator’s purpose, including implicit purpose when applicable; describe whether or not the purpose was achieved [for example, describe an author’s use of juxtaposition to develop a contradictory impression of a character]; and assess the suitability of a text to the target audience 2.1.1
- Relate a text creator’s tone and register to the moral and ethical stance explicitly or implicitly communicated by a text 2.1.2

HEALTH AND LIFE SKILLS / CAREER AND LIFE MANAGEMENT

- P11: Examine the relationship between commitment and intimacy in all its levels
- P14: Evaluate resources and support systems for each dimension of health and well-being for self and others