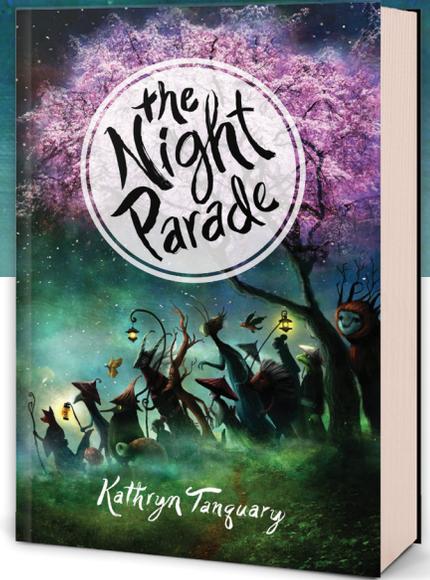


# *The Night Parade* Discussion Guide

*Kathryn Tanquary*



## *Do you dare join the Night Parade?*

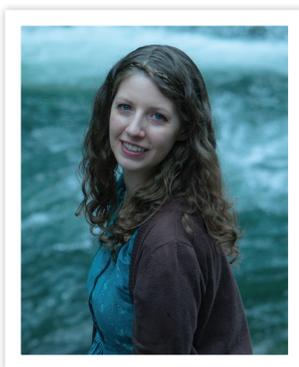
The last thing Saki Yamamoto wants to do for her summer vacation is trade in exciting Tokyo for the antiquated rituals and bad cell reception of her grandmother's village. Preparing for the Obon ceremony is boring. Then the local kids take interest in Saki and she sees an opportunity for some fun, even if it means disrespecting her family's ancestral shrine on a malicious dare.

But as Saki rings the sacred bell, the darkness shifts. A death curse has been invoked...and Saki has three nights to undo it. With the help of three spirit guides and some unexpected friends, Saki must prove her worth—or say good-bye to the world of the living forever...

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“Wonder and imagination abound in Tanquary’s debut, a fantasy set in a contemporary Japanese mountain village; filled with respect and admiration for cultural tradition, it evokes both Grimm’s fairy tales and Miyazaki’s films.”

—*Publishers Weekly* starred review

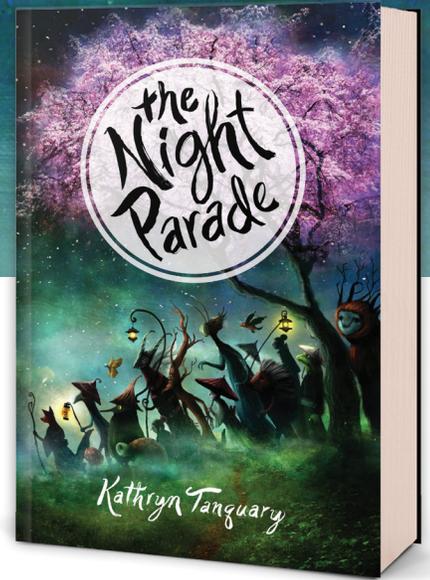


## *About the Author*

Kathryn Tanquary is a graduate of Knox College with a BA in creative writing. She currently resides in Japan as a teacher of English as a foreign language in the Gunma Prefecture.

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1. Saki's feelings about the mountain were different before her grandfather died. Why did her feelings change?
2. Saki doesn't seem to like Yuko and her friends very much, so why does she agree to go with them to the graveyard? Have you ever been in Saki's situation?
3. Why do you think the fox steals the key and abandons Saki on the first night of the Night Parade?
4. Saki couldn't express herself well to Maeda at the Bon dance. What could Saki have said instead? How do you think Maeda would react?
5. The Filth Licker is not a pretty spirit, but Saki tries to help anyway. Would you have helped the Filth Licker in the outhouse? Why or why not?
6. Saki and her grandmother find many old keepsakes in the storeroom boxes. What kind of keepsakes does your family have? What are the most interesting?
7. What do you think caused the ogres and the object spirits to dislike each other in the first place? How do you think they got along after Saki left the Night Parade?
8. The Midlight Prince explains that if humans forget about the spirit world, it will disappear. Are there places in the human world that are being forgotten too? What can we do to remember and preserve these important places?
9. What do you think happened when Saki returned to Tokyo and met Hana and Kaori again at school?
10. If you had three days in the Night Parade, where would you go? What would you do?