

The Pirate of Panther Bay

By SR Staley

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Leadership Discussion Questions

1. What characteristics make up a good leader? Who seems to have more of these characteristics than the others?
2. Do the characteristics that make an effective leader differ based on whether they are leading a pirate ship versus a company or student organization? If so, how? What challenges exist in these different organizations?
3. If you had to choose between Isabella, Jean-Michel, or Juan Carlos to lead you into battle, who would you follow? What qualities do these personalities have that make them effective as leaders? What qualities make them less effective? Would your opinion change if one were leading an organization rather than a pirate ship?
4. Think of someone you think is a good leader. Would they be good leaders of a pirate ship? Why or why not?
5. Isabella relies heavily on her memories of Jacob to sustain her through the twists and turns of the plot. Does this strengthen her or weaken her as a leader?
6. Why does Isabella put so much faith in her crew? Is this faith misplaced?
7. Isabella is faced with several critical challenges throughout the story—Yellow Jacket, mutiny, El Morro, escape, etc. What do you think is her turning point in the story? Why?
8. Is Isabella or Jean-Michel the stronger leader at the end of the book? Why?
9. Leadership within an organization is often characterized as coming from “agency authority” or “personal authority”. Agency authority is provided by someone’s position (e.g., a company president, school principal, or teacher) regardless of their personal characteristics. Personal authority is leadership based on the personal characteristics of the leader. Which is more important for Isabella? Does this change throughout the book? What about Jean-Michel? Juan-Carlos?