

How can I tell if something is IMPORTANT?



- *It's something you'll keep talking about for the whole book.*
 - Karana forgiving Rontu is important all the time. Karana finding a cute puppy in the cave we'll never talk about again.
- *If it disappeared from the book, it would crash the whole story.*
 - If Karana's brother wasn't killed by the wild dogs, it would change everything. If Karana decided not to burn the village it wouldn't crash anything.
- *Would people have different and strong feelings about it and could have interesting discussions?*
 - Karana was so lonely it makes sense that she wanted to die - that's an opinion and we can disagree. Karana made a house to live in - that's something we would all agree she should do so there's nothing to discuss.
- *What if something is a "game changer?"*
 - Karana deciding to make friends with the dog that killed her brother changed the rest of her life. But Karana finding out that Mananee is a girl otter is interesting but doesn't change the story.
- *Does it show how a main character is changing?*
 - Karana deciding to make friends with Tutok shows she realizes that not all Aleuts are evil. But Karana saving Ramo, her brother, is how she started and she loved him forever so that's not a change.
- *Something that might start you thinking about a possible theme.*
 - Karana forgives the wild dog who killed her brother - this might be a theme. But Karana deciding where to build her house isn't connected to a theme at all.