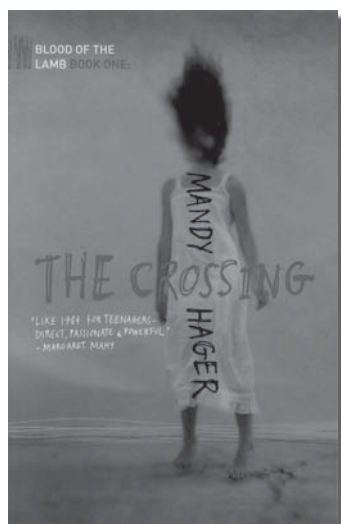




YOUNG ADULT FICTION



Blood of the Lamb: The Crossing

Mandy Hager

Random House New Zealand

ISBN 978-1-86979-150-6 pb RRP \$19.99

Target age 13+

This is the first book in a stunning new trilogy that follows the fate of Maryam and her unlikely companions – Joseph, Ruth and Lazarus. Set on a small island in the Pacific, where the elite control the population from a rotting cruise ship, this fast, suspenseful drama is underpinned by a powerful and moving story about love and loss.



Mandy Hager is a Wellington writer and educator. She won the LIANZA Esther Glen Award for Fiction in 2008 for her novel *Smashed*. Mandy is married with two adult children.

Great Activity and Event Ideas

1. In her endorsement, Margaret Mahy compares *Blood of the Lamb: The Crossing* to George Orwell's *1984*. "Like 1984 for teenagers". Discuss this comment.
2. Compare Mandy Hager's *The Crossing* to other post-apocalyptic novels, such as *Salt* and *Gool* by Maurice Gee, and *Juno of Taris* by Fleur Beale.
3. Research the history, science and ethics of blood transfusions.
4. Blood is a powerful symbol that conjures up ideas of life force, loyalty, family ties etc. Discuss the implications of blood symbolism in this novel and the way in which this binds the two main characters (Maryam and Joseph) together.
5. A major theme in this novel is religion. In particular, the mixing of biblical text, with a catastrophe myth, and traditional Pacific island-like cultural practices. Research religious communities and cults that have used elements of Christianity to explain historical or natural events, or to control others.



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**CHILDREN'S
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Activity

In *The Crossing*, the main character Maryam moves from girlhood to adulthood, from the sheltered world of a small island to the confusing and sometimes dangerous Holy City.

Write a short story about entering adulthood.