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A VIRTUAL
BOOK CLUB

AUGUST 2021
THE LAST TRUE POETS OF THE SEA
BY JULIA DRAKE

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Discussion Questions: *The Last True Poets of the Sea*
"Words, Words, Words" Book Club—August 2021

1. What are your first impressions of the novel? Were there any passages that stuck out to you?

2. In recent years, the genre of Young Adult (YA) fiction has increasingly been recognized for its high-quality and appeal beyond teenage audiences. What did you think of this month's choice? Did you have the experience you expected going in?

3. How did you feel about the plot and character elements of *Twelfth Night* that author Julia Drake incorporated into this novel? Were there any parallels that you particularly did or did not enjoy? Were there any that surprised you?

4. What did you think about Violet as a narrator? Did you relate to her, or find yourself rooting for her? Why or why not? Did your opinion of her change as the novel progressed?

5. Who was your favorite character? Were there any *Twelfth Night* characters that you wish had been included or featured more?

6. Despite its classification as a comedy, themes of melancholy run throughout *Twelfth Night.* What did you think about the balance of melancholy and humor in this adaptation?

7. What did you think of the setting of the novel? What do you think the choice of two workplaces—the Lyric Aquarium and Lighthouse Museum—may have represented for the characters?

8. What did the family legend of the shipwreck represent in the larger context of Violet's story? How did you feel about the resolution of their quest to find the wreck?

9. In *Twelfth Night* we don't see much of the sibling relationship between Viola and Sebastian. What did you think of the relationship we did get to see between Violet and Sam?

10. Productions of *Twelfth Night* often grapple with themes of gender and sexuality, as Viola remains at the center of a perplexing love triangle. How did you see those themes and plot elements represented and adapted for this novel? Did it illuminate anything new about Shakespeare's play? What did you think of how the love story was resolved?