



TITLE: Blackberry Blue and other fairy tales

AUTHOR: Jamila Gavin

INTEREST AGE: 9-12 Years

BOOKBAND: Dark Red

OUR REVIEW: Refreshing to have non-European characters in traditional fairy tale settings; ideal for schools Multi Cultural collections.

BLACKBERRY BLUE – QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Is the forest a safe or a threatening place in this story? How does Jamila Gavin make you feel that?
- Does this story have a message? If so, what do you think it is?
- Do you know any other fairy tales where the characters transformed into animals? What does this make you think or feel?
- Do you know any fairy takes where a character has to wear a special item of clothing?

THE PURPLE LADY – QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Abu meets Shast who tells him what he must do to rescue Leyla, 'She was sitting cross-legged on a rich, patterned carpet, her long grey locks tumbling from her head like writhing snakes. Miskouri sprang and coiled up into her lap, purring loudly.'

Find out about the Hindu goddess, Shasti. What does she have in connection with the old woman in The Purple Lady?

- How important is Miskouri to the story? What would have happened to Abu if he didn't have Miskouri with him? Are there any points in the story where Abu takes the lead?
- Why do you think Shasti demands an eye for helping Abu to rescue Leyla?

THE GOLDEN CARP – QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Where do you think that this story is set? Why do you think that?
- Which of these themes do you think are most relevant to the story? Find evidence to support your choices.

Punishment

Honesty

Greed

Kindness

Rewards

Bravery

Family

Loyalty

Other books by Jamila Gavin include...

