

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity One

## Wanted

DOON HARROW AND LINA MAYFLEET  
WANTED FOR SPREADING VICIOUS RUMORS  
IF YOU SEE THEM,  
REPORT TO MAYOR'S CHIEF GUARD.  
BELIEVE NOTHING THEY SAY.

## REWARD

These are the words that Lina reads written on a white sheet of paper as they pass by shops on Greystone Street. Doon had discovered the mayor sleeping among a collection of rare foods and items such as lightbulbs that the people of Ember believed to be running out or gone altogether. When Lina and Doon report what they've seen to the mayor's guards, they find themselves the targets of a manhunt through Ember. Doon and Lina believe either the mayor has lied to the guards or else has included them in his scheme and they too are receiving special items from the city's storerooms.

While this wanted poster is a simple sheet of paper with some writing, imagine you are tasked by the mayor to create a new poster that will be hung up throughout Ember. Since the mayor wishes these criminals to be caught quickly, he has allowed you to use all the colored pencils you wish.

Use plenty of color to draw the eye to the posters. You may also include more description of Lina and Doon or drawings of them if you wish. Include lots of description, like where they were last seen, more information about what they have done and the crimes they are charged with. Use a large sheet of paper so that you can fit plenty of detail.

Your poster should have the basic information included from the book as shown above. You can also include what the reward the mayor is offering might be.

Be creative.

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# Activity Two

## Designing Ember



*The City of Ember* is a story centered on a society that had been created to ensure people could survive a catastrophe. After more than 200 years, the underground city's supplies are beginning to run out. Things like lightbulbs are in danger of running out and the old generator that supplies the city with electricity is beginning to fail.

The book details the efforts of protagonists Lina Mayfleet and Doon Harrow to decode a damaged set of instructions left by the Builders that will allow the people of Ember to escape the underground city and return to the surface.

The book includes a lot of information about how the city is arranged and what it looks like. Underneath the intersecting city streets are a series of tunnels called the Pipeworks. There are also huge storerooms that once held enough supplies to last more than 200 years.

In this activity, your task will be to go back through the book and take note of any of the passages which describe the city. Take note of the placement of streets, buildings, entrances to the underground and the secret passages we know exist and lead to the way out of Ember.

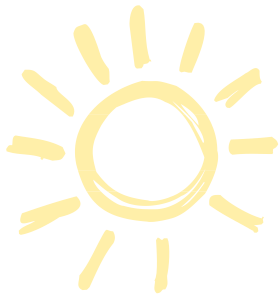
Take a large sheet of paper and try to draw an accurate layout of the city and its underground. Be as accurate as possible, but you can include some imagination in your map of the city where the book is vague or doesn't have any information.

Try to include most of the locations where important parts of the story take place.

Include a legend that explains what any symbols or colors mean. Label any important buildings, streets or other places.



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# Activity Three

## Ember's New Ending



*The City of Ember* concludes with Lina, Poppy and Doon escaping into the moonlit night. As they watch the sun rise, they discover a world full of life. There are new, unknown animals, plants and smells. It's shocking and amazing to each of them, but there's one problem: They haven't given anyone any information about how to find the way out. After some time spent searching, they are able to find a crevice that looks down on the city far below. Lina writes a message and fastens it to a rock. The book comes to a close just as Mrs. Murdo opens the message that has fallen a short distance away.

Was this how you imagined the story ending? If this ending wasn't very satisfying for you, this bonus activity is your chance to end the story your way. Imagine you are the author and you're thinking about ending *The City of Ember* in a new way. Consider how you would have wanted the story to end or how you thought it might wrap up.

Take some time to think about what you would have wanted to happen at the end of the story. Include a few important beats. You can begin your ending either at the ending included in the book or you can begin it at any other point within the last two chapters. It's up to you. Make sure your new ending is written in a style that matches the book. The story should end in a way that still wraps up the plot of the book.

Your ending should include:

- At least three returning characters.
- An interesting or exciting event that readers might not see coming.
- A new character or setting.
- Some information about what takes place in Ember after Lina, Poppy and Doon leave.

Your finished product should be at least one typed, double-spaced page in length

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# Activity Four

## Book/Movie Review



A movie or book review is supposed to give readers an idea of what the film or book is about and whether or not they should see or read it. It should give enough detail about the story to interest the reader but should not spoil any of the important plot points or any twists. The review should also explain who the main characters are and a little about them.

In this activity you will write a review of the book or a review of the Hollywood film based on the book. If you choose to review the movie after finishing the book, you will need to include a paragraph or two explaining how well the movie matched the events of the book and any big changes that were made or other differences between the book and the movie.

The first paragraph of your review should introduce the title of the book and author (or movie director and stars) and should quickly give the reader an idea of how you felt about the book or movie. You should explain early on whether you did or didn't like the book or movie.

The next paragraph should include information setting up the story (Everyone in Ember is assigned a job at graduation. 12-year-old students Lina Mayfleet and Doon Harrow have just been assigned the jobs they will hold for the rest of their lives. Only they decide to switch positions. As supplies begin to run out in Ember, both Lina and Doon find their separate journeys begin to merge into one: Find the way out of Ember). Be sure to give the reader enough detail to set up the plot, but not enough to spoil anything.

The subsequent paragraphs should further explain why you did or didn't enjoy *The City of Ember* using specific examples from the book or movie. For example, perhaps you thought there wasn't enough action or the story was too boring. Maybe you thought some parts were confusing or too simple. This is where you would explain all of those things.

Your final paragraph should wrap up your review and explain again whether you would or wouldn't recommend the book to someone else.

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# Activity Five

## A Collage of Ember



A collage is meant to take many separate images and combine them to form one common concept or theme. *The City of Ember* includes themes of youth, greed and isolation, among others. The story has plenty of imagery that could lend itself to a visual medium such as a collage. Images of darkness, pipes and lightbulbs could represent Ember, while the story also captures the beauty of the natural world—forests, birds and meadows.

Your task in this activity will be to take one story theme or element and try to display that theme or element by combining images from old magazines, newspapers or other sources. Make sure that these images show anyone who looks at your collage what theme or emotion you are trying to express.

If, for example, you wanted your collage to give the viewer an idea of how the residents of Ember must feel, you might include images of frayed fabrics, empty store shelves, or blackouts.

Once you've chosen what you want your collage to depict, begin to collect your images. Make sure you collect lots of images. Your collage should at least cover a regular letter size sheet of paper. You can use full images or portions of images as long as you believe the image represents the theme you are trying to show.

When you've finished assembling the collage, take a moment to gather your thoughts. What are you trying to say with this art? How does it make you feel? Maybe the finished product has turned out differently than you imagined it would. Is there any emotion you feel when you look at it?

Now, write up a few paragraphs that describe what your collage is supposed to represent and why you feel it shows this theme or other aspect of the book. Your description should be at least 100 words in length.

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# Activity Six

## A Comparison



Sometimes reading one book can make you think of another. Sometimes that is because the books have similar plot elements or themes, and sometimes it is because you enjoyed another book more.

Either way, sometimes it can be difficult not to compare the two books you are reading.

Now that you've finished reading *The City of Ember*, consider the book's characters, plot and themes. Are there any other books you've read that the book reminded you of? When you were reading *The City of Ember*, was there any other book that you wished you were reading? Why?

Consider these questions. In this activity, you will compare *The City of Ember* to another book of your choice whether it be a book that you simply enjoyed reading or a book that you feel was similar to it in some way.

Explain as well as you can why you think the books are similar or why you believe your chosen book is more entertaining or more interesting to read.

Try to include some specific examples from your chosen book to illustrate why you think it is similar or more entertaining. Why exactly did you think of the book while reading *The City of Ember*?

Try to think about the themes of each book and compare them. Additionally, compare the settings, characters, and any similar or exciting plot points.

Your comparison should be at least 400 words in length.