

# Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll



## Session 1: Pre-reading and launch of text.

- Discuss what you think the book might be about just from looking at the title. Complete the sentence..."This book is about...and how..."
- Now look at the artwork on the cover. Where do you think the story is set? Why?
- What sort of characters do you think the story might contain? Why?
- Now read the blurb on the back cover. Return to your discussions about the plot and the characters and add to your existing ideas.
- Read pages 1-3.
- Summarise what you know and what you think you know.
- What questions do you have?

## Challenge Task 1:

- Research - Howard Carter, Lord Carnarvon and Tutankhamun
- The tomb of the Unknown Soldier

## Session 2

Chapters 1- 7

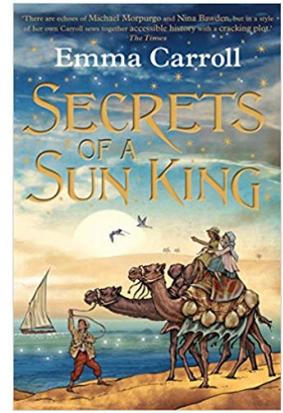
1. By the end of Chapter 3 what do we know about Lil's family and their home?
2. What was the parade for the Unknown soldier that Lil and her family went to see?
3. Summarise the connections Lil makes between the journey of the Unknown Soldier and the jar?
4. Chapter 5 - briefly describe the contents of the jar and the message inside.
5. In Chapter 6 what plan is made?
6. On pg 60 Mrs Mendoza says, "The biggest news story since the end of the war? Why, that's a job for a man!" What is the author saying about the role of women on this page?
7. Why is Lil 'so glad to see' the piece of blue paper beneath the armchair?
8. Do you think Lil was right to open the box? Should the jar be returned to Egypt?
9. How do you think the story will move on?

## Challenge Task 2:

- Find the country previously known as Yugoslavia on a map. When did it change its name?
- Research the process of mummification that the Ancient Egyptians used. Check out this video.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FiM8S2\\_nSg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FiM8S2_nSg)

## Session 3

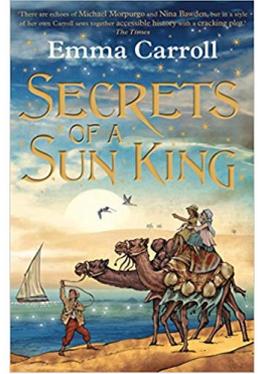
Chapters 8-15



1. Chapter 8 opens with Lil wondering about the curse. In what ways does she think there is a connection between what happened to the Washington post's reporter and Kyky's chariot accident?
2. What is the meaning of Lil's parents' visit to the convent?
3. Talk about Lil's classroom fight - what happened and why? What theme or 'big idea' is the author touching upon here?
4. In Chapter 11 what does the reader find out about Tulip's brother Alex who never returned from the war? At the end of Chapter 12 who do you think is the 'someone who wasn't dead at all.'
5. What are your views about the young man who boards the train in Yugoslavia?
6. Pg 148 - What do you think Mrs Mendoza's story will be about? Discuss the headline.
7. Summarise the key events that Lysandra writes about on pgs 158 - 175. This may need drawing as a story map or a timeline.
8. Trace Lil's journey on a map of Egypt.
9. Chapter 14 - what is the plan for Kyky's heart?
10. Who do you think Oz thought he saw at Athens station?

## Challenge Task 3

- Research The Valley of the Kings.
- The curse of Tutankhamun
- London's 'pea-soupers'



## Session 4

Chapters 16 - end

1. Pg211 - explain why Tulip's scorpion bite sends Lil into 'a whirl of panic'? Do you believe in the curse?
2. Do you think it was right that Egyptians were not allowed 'to walk in our own desert without a permit, an official and plenty of this'. (money) Pg212
3. At the beginning of Chapter 18, Oz mentions the man at the station again. Why has the author reminded the reader of this?
4. Pg222 - What is your opinion - was it right for Carter to enter the tomb? For Lil to unwrap the jar? For Grandad and the Professor Hanawati to buy the jar from the market stall?
5. How does the author create tension at the end of Chapter 18?
6. Why is the sentence, "Death shall come on swift wings." repeated on page 229?
7. Pgs 234-240 Summarise what happens as Lil and Pepe enter the tomb.
8. Explain who the mysterious man with the notebook is. Summarise what happened to him during and after the war. Why couldn't he come home? What was he doing in Egypt?
9. Chapter 21 - Pgs259 - 261 (the tomb opening ceremony) - what in your opinion should have been done with the relics found inside the tombs?
10. Pg 271 Why did Grandad go pale when he saw Alex? Summarise the events which take place and the information revealed from pgs 270 - to the end of the book.

## Challenge task 4

- Spend some time thinking of the themes and ideas that thread through the book.
- Consider your opinion of the book.

## Session 5 CW

Final discussion - discussion of main themes within the book and the last chapter.

Launch of Book 2.