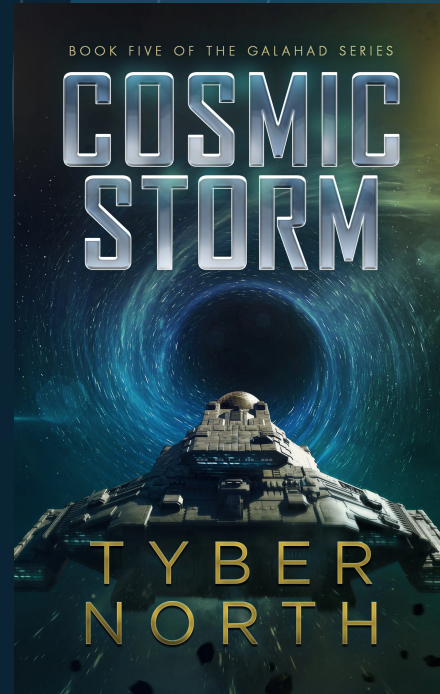


**THE GALAHAD SERIES / BOOK FIVE**

# Cosmic Storm

## **STUDY GUIDE**

Writing activities,  
research projects, and  
discussion questions for  
teachers and students.



## WRITING + RESEARCH

# Activities

These projects are designed to deepen comprehension while inviting students to imagine themselves aboard Galahad.

## I. LIFE IN SPACE

A

The Galahad crew members were allowed to bring a few mementos and keepsakes from their life on Earth. If you'd been chosen for the expedition, what small items would you have brought along? Write a brief description of your choice, or create one using crafts.

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B

Based on what you've read in *Cosmic Storm* and the other novels in the series, sketch a blueprint of Galahad. Include locations such as the Domes, Sick House, the Dining Hall, the Spider Bay, and the Storage Section. Imagine you're a member of the crew tasked with keeping a journal of the mission. Write an entry describing the ship and its layout.

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C

Although he's not human, Roc is an integral part of the mission. Create two lists: One that states five or six ways Roc assists the crew, and another that lists five or six pieces of advice he has shared with various crew members. Then, discuss with friends or classmates whether or not Roc's humorous personality is a benefit to the mission, and use your lists to support your conclusion.

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D

Craft a poem, song lyrics, or a short story describing what it's like to be on the Galahad mission, knowing that you'll never return to Earth.

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# THE GALAHAD SERIES

## II. LOSS

A

In the voice of a crew member, write three or four journal entries describing how you feel about Triana's disappearance and how you think the Council members are handling the selection of a new leader. Also, share your feelings about the trouble with the ship's protective shield. What emotions—fear, frustration, anger, excitement—do you feel the most?

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B

With classmates or friends, role-play a conversation in which you offer advice to Bon or Lita regarding the loss of Alexa. If desired, use online or library resources to find ways to deal with grief and loss.

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C

Imagine that you're Gap, Lita, Channy, or Bon, and write a journal entry expressing your true feelings about Triana's decision to venture into the wormhole. Include a paragraph where you contemplate whether or not the crew should allow her to resume her position as Council leader should she return.

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## III. LEADERSHIP

A

What qualities make up a great leader? Using library or online resources, explore some of the prominent leaders throughout history. Then, select one of these and create an informational poster about this person. With classmates or friends, prepare a display highlighting all the leaders.

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B

With friends or classmates, put together a list of qualities you believe are important for leadership. If possible, use the information you gathered from Activity III.A above. Then, number the qualities in order of importance. Do you find that there's one quality all leaders tend to share? Write a brief report analyzing your list.

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C

Assuming you're a member of the Galahad crew, would you cast your vote for Hannah or for Gap to become the new Council leader? If your classroom takes part, collect the votes and report the results. Afterward, invite students to discuss what led them to choose their preferred candidate.

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D

Who do you think won the election between Gap and Hannah? What will happen next to the ship and its crew? What do you think Triana brought back through the wormhole? Write three paragraphs describing all your predictions for the next Galahad novel.

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READ + REFLECT

## Questions for Discussion

Use these questions for classroom discussion, small-group work, written responses, or independent study.

1

At the start of *Cosmic Storm*, Roc comments that, like wormholes, “rules change for people, too, depending upon what suits them at the time.” Do you agree with Roc’s comment? After reading the novel, for which characters do you feel the rules may have changed? Which characters remain true to their beliefs and attitudes despite the crises?

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2

How would you describe Gap’s reaction to Triana’s departure? If you were a crew member of the ship, would you be comfortable with Gap assuming a position of leadership?

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3

In the first chapter, Channy says to Bon, “The two people on this ship that you had feelings for, and they’re both gone.” Describe Bon’s feelings for both of these people, Triana and Alexa; how were they similar, and how were they different? Do Gap’s feelings for Triana and Hannah place him in a similar emotional space? Are either Bon or Gap able to discuss their feelings with others?

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4

Why do you think Hannah chose to run for the position of Council leader? Do you feel like her intentions were honorable? What qualities does she have that would make her a good choice for that position? What advice would you offer to Hannah regarding her relationship with Merit Simms?

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5

Do you believe Bon is right to refuse Gap’s request to hold the translator until a new Council leader is selected? Do you agree with Gap’s decision to allow Bon to keep it until the election, or should he have taken steps to force Bon to hand it over? Explain your answers.

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6

How does Bon describe the relationship he has with the Cassini? Although they are painful, do you believe Bon likes the connections? Do you think he’s unable to resist them? If you were Bon, would you be concerned about the long-term effects on your brain?

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# THE GALAHAD SERIES

7

Compare the two election forums, the attitudes of Gap and Hannah, and the reactions they each received from the crew. In your opinion, was there a clear winner at either of these forums? Explain your answers.

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8

When Lita realizes that Bon was not trying to find Triana but rather was searching for Alexa, how does this alter her understanding of Bon? Is it possible that, despite his gruff exterior, Bon might have some form of faith? How would you describe that faith? How does this compare with the kind of faith Gap encourages the crew to find when he speaks during the second forum?

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9

Consider the competing theories—“waves” versus “bruises”—used to explain the malfunctioning shield. Which of these is most convincing to you? What would it be like to live on a spacecraft where your life was constantly in peril? How do you think you’d handle such stress? Does the idea of the stress involved make you understand why some members of the crew are acting out?

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10

Consider the novel’s final scene in the Spider bay. Does it signal a change in the relationship between Bon and Gap? Are there other relationships that have changed by the end of the book?

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11

By the end of Cosmic Storm, what has Gap learned about leadership and its relationship to friendship, and possibly even to love? How did this novel affect the way you think about leadership roles you take on in your own life? Explain your answer.

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