

CAVALLA PUBLISHING HOUSE

# JANJAY GOES UPRIVER BOOK GUIDE

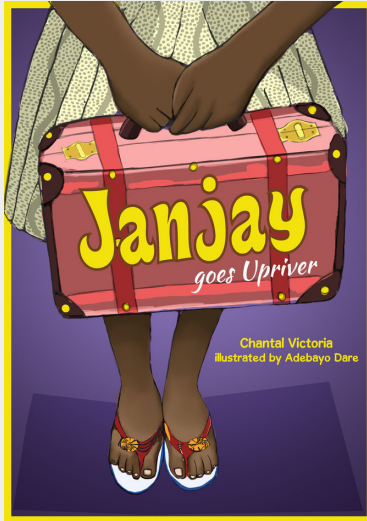
by Chantal Victoria



# DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR JANJAY GOES UPRIVER

PLEASE NOTE THIS GUIDE MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS

## About the Book



Janjay Goes Upriver (Pronounced John-Jay)

Illustrated by Adebayo Dare

Janjay is back! This time she's headed Upriver—a rural region in Liberia to visit her grandmother. At first, she's not too excited to leave her friends behind during a long school break but then she meets Tania—an American girl also visiting Upriver and the two become fast friends. Along the way, the girls exchange different cultures and build their friendship through a range of new experiences. For Tania, the biggest cultural change is learning about sanitation practices in Liberia.

Although the girls live worlds apart, they have much in common. They have a fun time discovering together what Upriver has to offer until drama between their families threatens the newfound friendship. But Janjay is not willing to end her friendship with Tania so easily. The second book of the Janjay series is about friendship, culture, sanitation, honesty, and family ties.

Fiction | Reading Level- ages 9-12

## About the Author

Chantal Victoria (Chantal Victoria Bright) is a first-generation Liberian American. Due to the civil wars in Liberia, her family sought refuge in the United States, where she grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Management from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in English and Political Science (dual course) from Seton Hall University. Chantal is pursuing a PhD in Geography and her research sits at the nexus of water security, peace and fragility in Liberia from an African ecofeminist perspective at the University of Manchester (United Kingdom).

She resides in England.

# Discussion Guide

## About This Guide

The questions for discussion that follow are intended to enhance children's reading and understanding of the book. The guide can be used on a one-to-one basis or as part of a small children's reading group.

1. What are your overall thoughts of the book? How did it make you feel?
2. Who is your favourite character in the book and why?
3. How does the use of local language help enrich the setting of the story?
4. Is the setting of the story important to the book? In what ways?
5. Janjay recalls a time when Ma Gladys was upset with Mrs Carey. What is the significance of this story? Why is it important to understand Ma Gladys' experience with Mrs Cary? (Pages 20-22)
6. Why do you think Janjay tells Tania to try the "head-butt" trick to distract her from having to use the toilet until she gets home? (Page 19)
7. What are some of the similarities between Tania's life in America and Janjay's life in Liberia? What are some of the differences?
8. One in three schools around the world does not have basic sanitation, this means 620 million school children worldwide do not have access to a toilet at school (as of 2019). How does the lack of toilets at school hinder children education? How is the impact on girls greater?
9. What do you think the moral of the story is?
10. Do you think Janjay will visit Tania in Savannah?