

Book Review Discussion Questions



Provided by *Focus on the Family* magazine

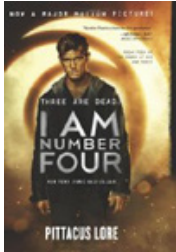
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Book reviews cover the content, themes and worldviews of fiction books, not their literary merit, and equip parents to decide whether a book is appropriate for their children. A book's inclusion does not constitute an endorsement by Focus on the Family. You can request a review of a title you can't find at reviewrequests@family.org.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

I Am Number Four



This contemporary, science fiction book is the first in the “Lorien Legacies” series by Pittacus Lore (a pseudonym for authors Jobie Hughes and

James Frey) and is published by HarperCollins. *I Am Number Four* is written for ages 12 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why doesn't the principal discipline Mark for his actions? How do people treat professional athletes today? Why do many of them get away with things? Are all athletes this way?
2. What do the Lorien children want to use their Legacies to do? How might they defeat the Mogadorians and save Earth? What superpowers would you like to have? How would you use them to help others?
3. The book claims that many of Earth's greatest minds and artists were actually children of human and Loric parents. How does an idea like this negate God's role in our history? What are some of God's gifts to believers? What are some of your God-given gifts?

I Get a Clue



This mystery novel by Nancy Ellen Hird is the first in the “My Edinburgh Files” series published by Desert Fire Press. *I Get a Clue* is written for kids ages 10 to 13.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What are some of the difficulties Libby faces as she tries to be friends with Phil? When have you found yourself in a relationship with someone who frequently makes bad choices? What does the Bible say about the kind of people with whom we should surround ourselves?
2. Why does Mags sometimes ignore or belittle Libby? Have you ever been in Libby's place? In Mags' place? How did it feel? How does God want us to treat others?
3. What piece of encouragement from the Bible does Tom give Libby in his email? When have you felt as Phil did that God was on vacation? How can you stay faithful and draw near to God even at times when you don't “feel” His presence?

I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005



This historical, thriller book by Lauren Tarshis is part of the “I Survived” series published by Scholastic Inc. and is written for kids

ages 10 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What does Barry's dad do to stay calm under pressure? How is Barry able to use what he's learned from Dad when he's caught in the hurricane? When have you been in a stressful situation? What did you do to remain calm?
2. Why do rescue workers risk their own safety to get others out of the hurricane? When has someone done something to help you even though it put them at risk or in danger?
3. What are some of Barry's fears? How does he overcome them? Which part of Barry's experience would have been most scary to you if you were in his shoes? When have you had to face one of your fears head on? What happened?
4. Why do you think Barry's family plans to return to New Orleans someday, even though they had

so many bad memories from the hurricane? If something happened to destroy your city, would you want to go back? Or would you rather get a fresh start in a new city? Explain your answer.

5. Why is Barry's cartoon superhero, Akivo, so important to him? When have you created, written or drawn something that meant a lot to you? Why was it special? Who did you let see it?

I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001



This historical, suspense/thriller book by Lauren Tarshis is part of the "I Survived" series published by Scholastic Inc. and is written for kids

ages 10 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What does Uncle Benny say is the secret to catching a football? When have you used positive thinking to help you accomplish something? What happened?
2. What happens to Dad after the horrible fire where he is injured? Why does he become distant from Lucas? Why might it be hard for Dad to recover emotionally after his accident? Why is it hard for Lucas to recover emotionally after the September 11 attacks? How can God help people like Dad and Lucas? How might God use time to help them, also?

3. Why do Mom, Dad and Uncle Benny want Lucas to stop playing football? Are they right or wrong to make him stop? Explain your answer. How does Lucas find ways to stay involved in football even though he can no longer play? When have you had to stop doing an activity you loved? What did you do instead?
4. Why are the 9/11 rescue workers, police officers, firemen and paramedics often referred to as "heroes"? What are some ways they demonstrated courage and bravery? What might have happened if they had let their fears or selfishness get in the way on September 11? What are some ways you can be brave and courageous when you face things that make you afraid?
5. What does it mean to be a terrorist? How did terrorists try to hurt Americans on September 11? What other bad things have you heard about, where people have hurt people? How do you keep from being fearful all the time? When you are afraid, whom can you talk to? How is God an ever-present help in times of need?

I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863



This historical, adventure book by Lauren Tarshis is part of the "I Survived" series published by Scholastic Inc. and is written for kids

ages 10 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What does Thomas do that helps him learn a lot in the Union camp? What are some important things you've learned in your life just by listening and paying attention to the people around you?
2. Why do the Union soldiers chant "Fredericksburg!" as they prepare to fight at Gettysburg? How does this help them get ready (emotionally) for battle? When have you tried something that didn't work out very well? How can remembering your failures actually help you do better in the future?
3. What kind of a man is Henry? Why doesn't he kill the Confederate man who captured Thomas and Birdie? Why doesn't he keep the man's valuable gun? Why would it be good to have a friend like Henry during tough times? How can "you" be a faithful friend like Henry to others?
4. Why were the North and South fighting? What changes occurred after the North defeated the South? What might our country look like today if the South had won?
5. Why did some people back in the 1800s think it was OK to use black people as slaves? How does God feel about all people? How does God want us to treat all people, even if they look or act different from us?

I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941



This historical, thriller book by Lauren Tarshis is part of the “I Survived” series published by Scholastic Inc. and is written for kids

ages 10 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why do some soldiers throw rocks at the Japanese planes, even though they know it won't do any good? When have you felt helpless in a situation? What did you do to try and solve the problem?
2. Why does Danny's mom want to get him out of New York? Why is she worried about him being involved with Earl Gasky? What are some bad choices Danny has made as part of Earl's gang? When have you joined in with a friend who was making bad choices? What happened?
3. Why does Danny want to return to New York? What makes him change his mind? When have you had a tough decision to make? How did you come up with a solution?
4. Why do the police arrest Mr. Sudo? When have you been accused of doing something you didn't do? How did that feel? Why is Mr. Sudo released? What might have happened to him if he weren't released?

5. What are some things Danny fears after the bombings? When have you felt afraid of something you read or heard about in the news? With whom can you share your concerns when life causes you to feel fearful?

I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906



This historical, thriller book by Lauren Tarshis is part of the “I Survived” series published by Scholastic Inc. and is written for kids

ages 10 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why is Wilkie so angry at Fletch? What does Wilkie give up so that he doesn't have to abandon Fletch? When have you felt betrayed or abandoned by a friend?
2. Why is Leo's gold nugget important to him? When have you held on to an item because it had special meaning for you? What was it, and why was it precious to you?
3. What kind of a person is Wilkie? Why does he give the woman in the street a bag full of money? Do you know anyone (personally or historically) who has gone from making a lot of bad choices to making good choices? What happened?

4. What was Leo's grandfather like? Why does Leo think about him so much, even though he never knew him? How do memories of Grandpop give Leo courage to do brave things during a difficult time? Where do you get courage and strength when you are facing a challenge?
5. What did Papa tell Leo about having fears and being brave? When have you been afraid of something but pushed through your fear and kept going? What happened? How did you feel in the end?

I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916



This historical, thriller book by Lauren Tarshis is part of the “I Survived” series published by Scholastic Inc. *I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916* is

written for kids ages 10 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why have Chet's parents left him with his uncle? How does he feel about being far away from them? When have you been separated from a family member or close friend? How did you feel?
2. Why are the characters initially unafraid of shark attacks? How do they respond when they discover shark attacks are real? What kinds of things scare you most? To whom can you turn when you're afraid?

3. What does Uncle Jerry do after he hurts his leg? Why does he come back to town later? What lesson does he learn from that experience? When have you run away or been tempted to run away from something? What happened? What caused you to return?
4. What pranks do the boys play on each other? Why don't the boys believe Chet when he urges them to get out of the creek because of the shark? What's the difference between a silly prank and one that could be dangerous? Have you ever played a prank or been the victim of one? What happened?
5. Why does Chet have a hard time knowing how to be friends with the other boys? What does it mean to him to finally have friends? What are some ways friends have helped you through a tough time?

I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912



This historical, thriller book by Lauren Tarshis is part of the “I Survived” series published by Scholastic Inc. *I Survived the Sinking of the*

Titanic, 1912 is written for kids ages 10 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

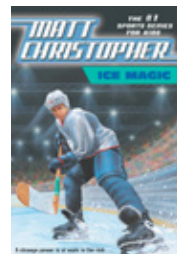
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Which characters exhibit heroic behavior on the *Titanic*? What

are some traits of a hero? Which real people in your life would you consider heroes and why?

2. Why was everyone convinced the *Titanic* was unsinkable? Why didn't the builders include enough lifeboats for everyone? What can you think of in this world that is truly indestructible? If earthly things are all imperfect and won't last forever, where should we focus our greatest attention? What will last even when this life is over, according to the Bible?
3. How does George feel when he thinks about his mother? Why is it hard for him when he remembers her? When have you lost someone or something precious? Why did it hurt to remember the person or thing that was gone?
4. Since the sinking of the *Titanic*, people have argued about whether or not the ship should be pulled out of the water. Why might some people want to bring it to the surface? Why might others feel it should remain buried underwater? What would you do if the choice were yours, and why?
5. Besides being on the sinking *Titanic*, what are some other scary things George has faced in his life? What do you do when you come face to face with frightening situations? Whom can you call upon for help?

Ice Magic



This sports book by Matt Christopher is part of the “Matt Christopher Sports” series and is published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group Inc. *Ice Magic* is written for kids ages 9 to 14.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

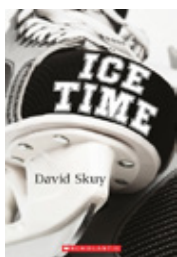
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why is Terry so interested in Jody and Joliette's game? When have you wished for a magical solution that would help you succeed or be better at something? What did you need to do to succeed or be better at something, instead? Do you think the game was really magical? Explain.
2. Why is Terry so mean to Pie? How does Pie turn his enemy into a friend? Can you think of someone you could treat with more respect and consideration? What could you do for this person?
3. Why does Pie assume Terry has taken the antique hockey game? Did you think he took it? Why or why not? What does Pie do when he realizes he was wrong? When have you made an incorrect assumption about someone? What did you do to make things right?
4. How does Pie feel during his hockey game when the toy predicted something bad would happen to him? When have you

felt worried or anxious about something you thought was going to happen to you? What actually happened? What does the Bible say about worry?

5. Why is Pie secretly happy when the toy hockey game loses its magic? Why might God not let us see our own futures? What might you do if you knew exactly what was going to take place tomorrow or next year?

Ice Time



This sports book is part of the “Rocket” series by David Skuy and is published by Scholastic Canada Ltd. and is written for kids ages 9 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why does Megan urge Bryan to take college classes? What does she fear might happen if he focuses on hockey alone? When have you put all your hopes on one activity or person and have failed to make a plan B? What happened?
2. Why does Bryan lie to his friends and family about his health? Why does he lie to his coaches? What happens when he finally decides to tell the Giants’ coaches the whole truth? What does the Bible say about honesty? What helps you not tell lies?
3. What does Bryan learn about making personal sacrifices as he

watches Rory and Ricardo with their families? What kind of person does he decide he wants to be? When have you sacrificed something for your family? What have other family members sacrificed for you?

4. What do you know about concussions? Why might someone’s head and brain moving quickly back and forth because of a hit to the head be so dangerous? Why is it important to care for your body and take time to heal after an illness or injury?
5. Why does Bryan start spending hours watching videos of his own performance on the ice? What do you study, besides required school subjects? In what areas of your life do you want to improve yourself?

Ice Whale



This historical fiction novel by Jean Craighead George is published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) LLC and is written for kids ages 9 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. How does the alcohol brought in by white traders cause problems for the Eskimo communities? How does alcohol abuse hurt people and communities today? What does the Bible say about drunkenness?

2. How does the presence of whalers in the 1800s harm the Eskimos and the ocean life? Why does the author suggest it is OK for the Eskimos to kill whales but not for the white men? Why does each group want to hunt whales? What does this author paint as evil and good? Does her perception of good and evil match the Bible’s definition of each?
3. What do you think about the bond that generations of Toozaks felt with Siku? Can humans have a spiritual connection with animals and nature? To whom does a person’s spirit connect? Are we able to connect to God on our own power? Explain. How does His drawing us closer to Him dictate the bond?

The Icebound Land



This fantasy adventure is the third book in the “Ranger’s Apprentice” series by John Flanagan and is published by Puffin Books, a division of

Penguin Young Readers Group. *The Icebound Land* is written for kids ages 10 to 14.

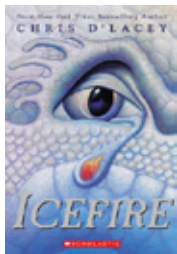
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. How did Will become addicted to drugs? Was it his fault? What were his choices? Why is it so difficult for the princess to watch him go through it? Have you ever watched someone suffer through an addiction? What was it like? How can you help someone dealing with substance abuse?

- How is alcohol abused in this book? What are some of the results of the various characters' drunkenness? Which character(s) show restraint concerning alcohol use?
- What kind of man is Deparnieux? How does he get the attention of the people in his land? Why do some people think they have to bully others to gain respect? What are some kinder, more Christlike ways to get the attention and honor of your peers?
- Though Evanlyn doesn't physically battle enemies like the men in this story, what valuable qualities does she possess? How do her courage, ingenuity and loyalty play a critical role? How can you be heroic by demonstrating upstanding character in your family or circle of friends?

Icefire



This adventure, fantasy by Chris d'Lacey, the second in "The Last Dragon Chronicles" series, is published by Orchard Books, an

imprint of Scholastic Inc. *Icefire* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

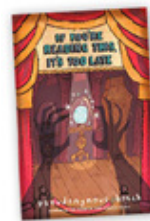
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- What happens when David tries to open the secret box that Liz and Lucy keep in the freezer? Have you ever pried into something you shouldn't have? What were the consequences?

- What about Zanna's appearance originally makes David uncomfortable? Is his attitude toward her, based on her appearance, fair? Are there certain hairstyles, or makeup and fashion trends, that seem strange to you? How can you focus on people's hearts and minds instead of being put off by their exterior?
- How does David cause trouble for Liz by inviting Zanna into the Dragons' Den pottery studio? Why does David feel like it was OK for him to take Zanna into the studio without Liz's permission? Has anyone ever trespassed on your personal property without your permission? How did you react in that situation? Why is it important to respect other people's property and personal space?
- What is Lucy's reaction when she thinks David has joined Gwilanna's side? Why doesn't she listen when David attempts to explain his strategy? How can your own strong feelings keep you from clearly seeing another person's motivations?
- Did Gwilanna always act like an enemy to dragons? What caused the dramatic change in her behavior? How can the desire for power gradually corrupt a person's good motivations? What will help you keep from turning mean or greedy when you are given even small measures of power, such as popularity or recognition for something you've accomplished?

If You're Reading This, It's Too Late



This mystery-adventure book by Pseudonymous Bosch, the second in the "Secret" series, is published by Little, Brown and Company, a

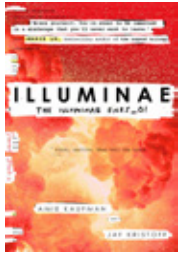
division of Hachette Book Group USA. *If You're Reading This, It's Too Late* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- Secrets are a major theme of this book. What are some of the secrets? What are the consequences of keeping those secrets? What are some reasons you shouldn't keep secrets from us, your parents?
- Cass and Max-Ernest skip school and sneak out of their homes at night. Do they trust the rules and people in authority over them? Explain. Who should you trust as people in authority over you? Why should you obey them? What are the consequences for your not obeying them?
- Why might some of the students at Cass and Max-Ernest's school be obsessed by the Skelton Sisters? How could their obsession hurt them? How has an obsession hurt you?

Illuminate



This futuristic, suspense book by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff is published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books,

a division of Penguin Random House LLC. *Illuminate* is written for kids 14 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What talent does Kady use to help save the other refugees? What are some of your gifts and talents? How can you use those gifts to help other people?
2. Why does AIDAN want to kill everyone on the *Copernicus*? What is its logic for doing this? Why would this be the best course of action from a machine's perspective? What is the difference between how human beings and computers value life? What other solutions might humans have reached when given the same information that AIDAN had?
3. Why does BeiTech attack Kady's planet? What does their greed destroy? What is something that you have wanted? How did you keep yourself from hurting others to get what you want? What helped you move away from acting greedy? How does thankfulness counteract greed? How might being thankful now help your attitude in the future?

4. Although Kady initially distrusts and hates AIDAN, how do they come to understand each other? What evidence do you have that they eventually work on the same team? Think about a person in your life who thinks differently than you do. What is a common interest that you and this person have? How might this common interest help you eventually become friends?

The Importance of Being Earnest



This humorous play by Oscar Wilde is published by Penguin Classics and is written for adults but is sometimes studied by high school classes.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. How does Oscar Wilde's lifestyle affect your impressions of this script or the characters?
2. What do you think of Wilde's view of romantic love and marriage?
3. What words and actions are a good measure of Jack/Gwendolen's and Algy/Cecily's relationships? What can you do to develop meaningful, godly friendships and relationships?
4. What was most humorous to you about this play?
5. Which character had the most fun in this script?

In Fear of the Spear



This Christian fiction, adventure by Marianne Hering is the 17th book in "The Imagination Station" series published by Focus on the Family in associa-

tion with Tyndale House Publishers Inc. and is written for kids ages 7 to 10.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. How does Beth travel to the Ecuadorian jungle? What is the longest trip you have ever taken? How did you travel there? How are Beth's trip and your trip similar? How are they different?
2. Who sees the jaguar first? Who does the jaguar injure? Who does the jaguar frighten? What frightens you? Who has helped you face your fears?
3. Why does Dr. Silva ask to be baptized? Who baptizes him? Why do people get baptized? Who have you seen baptized? What does baptism mean to you?
4. What did the earlier missionaries give up in order to tell the Auca about Jesus? What would you be willing to give up to let people know about Jesus? What will you do to let one classmate know more about God's love?

In Front of God and Everybody



This coming-of-age novel by K. D. McCrite is the first in the “Confessions of April Grace” series published by Tommy Nelson, an imprint of

Thomas Nelson. *In Front of God and Everybody* is written for kids ages 7 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Some people say that the faults we find in others are a reflection of faults found in ourselves. This seems true of April Grace. Talk about some of the things April Grace dislikes about Isabel that are also true of her.
2. Isabel says that sarcasm is a very unattractive trait. What is the difference between sarcasm and humor? How can sarcasm be hurtful? April Grace has a hard time holding her tongue—she says everything that crosses her mind. Do you struggle in this area?
3. April Grace’s grandma almost marries a man she doesn’t love because she likes his flattery. What is flattery? How can you tell if people are sincere when they compliment you? What is missing in a person’s life when he or she succumbs so easily to flattery?

In the Shadow of Lions



This historical book is the first in the “Chronicles of the Scribe” series by Ginger Garrett and is published by David C. Cook. *In the Shadow of Lions* is written for

kids ages 16 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Although Henry seems to genuinely care for Anne when he begins pursuing her, he has no respect for his marriage vows to Catherine. As the ruler of England, how does his behavior affect his people? Why can’t anyone tell him that he is doing the wrong thing? How does he misuse his authority? Do you know anyone who is misusing his or her authority in your life? How does this misuse affect you?
2. Name one character who placed his/her own desires above the will of God. How does his/her actions affect him/her and others? Do you know anyone who has placed his/her own desires above the will of God? How does his/her actions affect you? In this story, are all the men and women who make mistakes evil? Explain. What is the name of one person who does both good and evil? Why is this person like this? Are most people in your life all good or all evil? How does a person’s choices affect how people see him/her? Which characters

in this book do you believe were judged correctly for their actions?

3. Anne initially is firm in her commitment to remain a virgin until her wedding night. Why does she become Henry’s mistress? How do the customs of those around her in the court affect her decision? What is one area where you have taken a godly stand? How do those around you misunderstand that stand? How can you stay firm in your convictions while surrounded by those who believe differently?
4. Was the Bible available to everyone in Anne’s day? How available is the Bible in the area where you live? Are there some areas of the world where the Bible is not allowed? Why do you think many take the Bible for granted?

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson



This humorous historical book is written by Betty Bao Lord and is published by HarperTrophy, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. It is

written for kids ages 8 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Who are some of Shirley’s first American friends? How do they demonstrate their loyalty and kindness to her? How does she do the same for them? Who were

some of your first friends? How did you become friends?

2. Who is the first to help Shirley start adjusting to her new country? What does Shirley want when she first arrives in New York? What are some ways you can help other kids who are new to your school feel welcome? Or at our church? Or in our neighborhood?
3. Why does Shirley have a hard time fitting in when she comes to America? What traditions were important to Shirley and her family in China? What new activities and traditions does she discover in America? What traditions or special events are important to you and our family? What makes them so meaningful to you?
4. How does Shirley hold on to her Chinese heritage while embracing her new life in the United States? Why is it important to remember the past, even after you have moved on to something new?

In Too Deep



This mystery adventure book by Jude Watson is the sixth book in the “The 39 Clues” series and is published by Scholastic Inc. *In Too Deep* is written for kids ages 9 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What would children need to really travel around the world as Amy and Dan do? Why couldn't real kids travel like Amy and Dan, even with Nellie's assistance? What problems would they most likely run into?
2. How is Isabel's parenting different than ours is? What kind of a role model is she for her children? How would you have felt if you were one of her children in the Hummer on the runway?
3. How do the memories of the night her parents died upset Amy? What new information does she uncover about that night? Why does she decide to keep this information from Dan? When Dan finds out, how does he feel about that decision? Do you like it when people keep things from you? What should you be told? What things are OK for you not to be told?
4. Why does Shep not believe the kids even when they tell him the truth? How are the kids living up to the Cahill philosophy of telling lies all the time? Why isn't that a good philosophy to have?
5. How does Irina's son help Amy and Dan? What do Irina's feelings for her son help her do? How might bad experiences that you have had and worked through help others?
6. Name some of the Australian words used in this book. What did you learn about Australia that you didn't know before reading it? What did you learn about Indonesia? How are people in these lands similar to and different from you?

Incarceron



This dystopian novel by Catherine Fisher is first in the “Incarceron” series and is published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin

Young Readers Group. *Incarceron* is written for ages 12 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

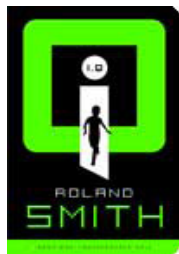
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What were some of the constraints that Claudia had to live within? How might living in a less technological age help curb violence in our society? How wouldn't it? Which would you prefer to live in, an actual prison, such as Incarceron, or a prison of manners, such as protocols?
2. Almost every character in the story lies, steals or has killed in the past. How did you like or dislike them for their past actions? How did the author help you see past their many faults? Who was the most noble of the characters? Explain. Who was the least noble? Explain.
3. Claudia has two father figures in her life: Jared and the Warden. Why did she have a better relationship with her tutor than her father? How did the Warden show Claudia he loved her? Would that be enough for you to feel loved? What is a better show of love?
4. Discuss the character of Sapphique. What role does he play in giving the prisoners of

Incarceron hope? Where do you find your hope?

5. Sapphique tells Finn that we should be more concerned with who we are than where we are. What might that mean for Finn? What does that mean to you? Is that statement true?

Independence Hall



This suspense-thriller novel is the first book in the “I, Q” series by Roland Smith and is published by Sleeping Bear Press.

Independence Hall

is written for kids ages 10 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Q and Angela have to wait in the bus for hours for their parents because of a wedding photo shoot that they are not a part of. How would this make them feel estranged from their parents? How do the kids feel about Buddy? Is Buddy concerned about the kids' family or something else? Who are some people around you who care about you and/or your family? Who are some people in your life who are only there for a specific purpose? (e.g., “I say hi to the mailman every day, but he only stops by to bring the mail because it's his job.”)
2. How well did Q and Angela transition from total strangers to sleeping in adjacent berths on the bus and spending most of their

time together? What do Q and Angela have in common? How are they different? Why do they decide to make their brother/sister relationship work whether they like each other or not?

3. Why does Angela always wear sunglasses? How observant are you? How could sunglasses make you more observant or less observant?
4. Why do Boone and his team look down on government agencies, such as the FBI and CIA? What is one example that shows Boone knows what he is doing? How long does it take someone to become an expert in something? In what area do you hope to grow in knowledge and experience to perhaps someday be an expert?
5. Why did Malak pretend to be the one who died? How does she think her actions will stop terrorist groups? How would you feel if the mother you thought had died was alive?
6. How did Malak's decision to go deep undercover affect others? Are Blaze and Roger married? Would you be able to keep this secret from your parent and step-parent? Is it OK for kids to keep this kind of a secret? How can Angela and Q honor all their parents?

The Indian in the Cupboard



This adventure book by Lynne Reid Banks is the first in “The Indian in the Cupboard” series and is published by Doubleday and Company, a division of Random House. *The Indian*

in the Cupboard is written for kids ages 8 to 10.

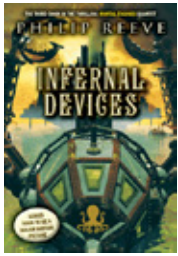
in the Cupboard is written for kids ages 8 to 10.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why do Little Bear and Boone react with violence when they discover they are small? If you woke up and discovered you were very small, how would you feel? Describe a time when you were afraid because you were young. What did you do? Who helped you?
2. After discovering the magic cupboard, Omri spends most of his time with Little Bear and ignores Patrick. If one of your friends ignores you, how would you feel? What would you do about the situation?
3. Adiel wrongly accuses Omri of hiding his gym shorts and hides the cupboard for revenge. What would be a better reaction to the situation? How would you feel if you were accused of something you didn't do? What does the Bible say about vengeance?
4. At the beginning of the book, Little Bear believes all cowboys want to steal Indian land, and Boone dislikes Little Bear simply because he is an Indian. What do they discover about their prejudices? How would you feel if a stranger judged you? What stereotypes might you have of people?

Infernal Devices



This steampunk, fantasy, coming-of-age book is third in the “Mortal Engines” series by Philip Reeve and is published by Scholastic Inc.

Infernal Devices is written for kids ages 12 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

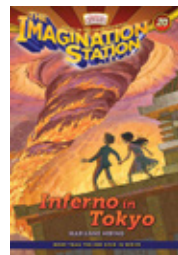
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why might Wren want to leave her cozy, safe home? Do her meetings with Gargle fulfill her need for adventure? Have you ever felt limited or stifled in what you want to do? When was it a good thing that you weren't able to do what you wanted to do? When was it a bad thing that you weren't able to do what you wanted to do? In what areas do you feel you need more independence in our family?
2. How does Gargle manipulate Wren's desire to be special and grown-up? What are Wren's misgivings about helping Gargle? In your relationships with other people, what do you most want to receive — respect, unconditional affection, appreciation? How can you become more aware of your desires and be on guard against people or organizations who might offer you what you want in exchange for loyalty?
3. Why does Caul rejoin Uncle's side? Why does he think people need to believe in a higher cause than themselves? Have you ever been in a situation where

life was difficult and you wanted someone else to tell you what to do? Why is it important to take responsibility for your own choices? How might God's wisdom, found in the Bible, help you deal with your problems?

4. Why doesn't Hester want to help the youngest Lost Boys and Lost Girls? How do Freya and Hester disagree over how to deal with the children? Which woman's opinion do you feel is most true? Why should people help those who are not in their immediate circle of family and friends? How might you be more aware of the needs of people outside your immediate group of friends?
5. Why has Hester hidden the fact that she once betrayed Anchorage from Tom? How do her attempts at hiding her betrayal backfire, especially in regard to Pennyroyal's book describing her exploits? Have you ever tried to cover up a mistake or bad choice? How was it eventually revealed? How can you move toward making honesty a habit, to avoid the worry and pain of keeping secrets?

Inferno in Tokyo



This Christian fiction, historical adventure is the 20th book in the “Imagination Station” series by Marianne Hering and is published by

Focus on the Family in association with Tyndale House Publishers Inc. *Inferno in Tokyo* is written for kids ages 7 to 10.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What did you learn about the Shinto religion? How is it different from Christianity?
2. What kind of a man is Mr. Kagawa? How might he be dangerous, as the American ambassador warns? In what ways does he demonstrate heroic characteristics? What makes someone a hero? What are some ways even a young person like yourself can be a hero?
3. What are the main concerns of people like Maj. Burnett, the newspapermen and the Shinto priest? Why do they think their agendas are more important than helping the hurting survivors? Do you agree with their choices? Explain.
4. What did you learn about Tesla? How does his invention help the hotel and the soldiers? If you could invent something that would help others, what would it be?
5. What does Mr. Kagawa say the Friends of Jesus plan to do to help the refugees? When have you seen a group of Christ followers come together to help people in need? Why do Christians believe it is so important to help others?
6. What is scary about the storm that Beth and Patrick are in? Tell about a storm that scared you. Psalm 27:1 says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” How might those words comfort you during other storms?
7. What does Beth do when the doorknob feels warm? What should she have done? What could have happened? What fire

safety training have you had? Where should you go if there is a fire in our home? What are some ways you can get out of our house if there's a fire?

8. How does Mr. Kagawa explain Jesus to Miho's parents? What makes them want to know more about Jesus? What has made you want to know more about Jesus?
9. Why does one woman attack Patrick while he is holding Miho? Why does she want Miho? How does her pretending that something bad didn't happen help her cope with reality? How does Mr. Kagawa show her compassion? How might kids your age need your compassion? What is one action you could do to help a friend or schoolmate?
10. How many rice balls do Beth, Patrick and Mr. Kagawa make? What keeps them making the food? How do others appreciate their work? What is something you do that is boring or hard to do, but is appreciated by others? Is your work worth it? Explain.

Inheritance



This fantasy adventure is the fourth book in "The Inheritance Cycle" by Christopher Paolini and is published by Knopf Books for Young Readers, a division of Random House Books.

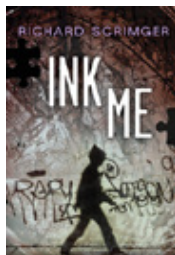
Inheritance is written for kids ages 12 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What finally enables Eragon to overcome Galbatorix? What does he cause the evil king to see? Why is it sometimes difficult for us to see our own faults and the problems we cause others? How does asking for forgiveness help us rise above those faults? How does not asking for forgiveness make us weak?
2. What does Eragon believe about religion? Why does he feel serving a higher power is unnecessary? How do you feel about submitting your life to a higher power? How does Eragon's perspective make him prideful of his abilities and those of others? How does pride make Eragon weaker as a warrior?

Ink Me



This mystery, suspense/thriller adventure is one of the "Seven (the series)" books by Richard Scrimger and is published by Orca Book

Publishers. *Inkdeath* is written for kids ages 9 to 15.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

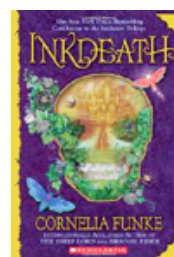
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why does Bunny fail to see what is taking place around him? When have you known someone who was a slower thinker or had other special needs that kept him or her from functioning like his or her peers? How can you be helpful, encouraging

and compassionate to someone like this?

2. Why does Grandpa want Bunny to get a tattoo? How does Bunny benefit from becoming part of a group? When have you felt stronger because you were a part of a club, church, organization or team?
3. Are the gang members really Bunny's friends? What are some potential dangers of getting in with a group that doesn't share your beliefs, values and dreams? What can you do to keep from joining a group that would hurt you more than help you?
4. Why is Bunny happy in the end? Does this mean he's in a good situation? What is the difference between being happy in a bad situation and being happy in a good situation? When has a bad situation in your life turned into something good? Was this a good situation or did you find a way to be happy about it? Explain.
5. What qualities in Bunny make people like him despite his mental slowness? How does he use his good qualities to help others? What are some positive characteristics in him that you recognize in yourself? What are some of your other good qualities? How can you use them to the benefit of others?

Inkdeath



This fantasy adventure is the third book in the "Inkheart Trilogy" by Cornelia Funke and is published by The Chicken House, Ltd., an imprint of

Scholastic Inc. *Inkdeath* is written for kids ages 9 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. To what extent are Mo and Bluejay the same person? How was the Bluejay created? How was Mo recognized as the Bluejay? Does Mo have the freedom to make his own choices? Why might the people of Ombra need the Bluejay? How did words help him become the Bluejay? Have complimentary or harsh words ever helped you change?
2. What are the minor punishments for the people in Ombra? What might the woman in the pillory(stocks) have done? What is thrown at her? How do fire elves hurt those in the stocks? How does Mo feel about these punishments? How does Meggie feel about these punishments? What does Mo say about getting used to seeing such cruelty? Does Fenoglio care about the imprisoned people? In the Bible, what does Jesus say about how you should treat “the least of these”—people who are imprisoned, hungry and hurting?
3. Why does Mo want to stay in the Inkworld? How do Resa and Meggie feel about staying? What does Resa say Mo has developed a taste for? Is Resa right to accuse Mo of wanting to control the story? In what ways has Mo changed?
4. Why does Princess Violante want to kill her father, the Adderhead? How does Violante become bitter? How might a person behave if she were treated badly all her life? At one point, Violante

thinks Jacopo is acting mean so that he can make someone angry enough to punish him. Do you agree? Is there a time when punishment or the setting of boundaries can help build a person’s character? How do you see the boundaries we have set for you as helping you develop into a man or woman of character?

5. Is Fenoglio worried about the suffering of his characters? To what extent are the people in Inkworld “real” people? What event inspires Fenoglio to finally begin writing again? Does he learn how to show compassion for others? Why is it hard for you to show compassion sometimes? What helps you show compassion to others?

Inkheart



This fantasy book in the “Inkheart Trilogy” by Cornelia Funke is published by The Chicken House, Ltd., an imprint of Scholastic, Inc. and is written for

kids ages 10 years.

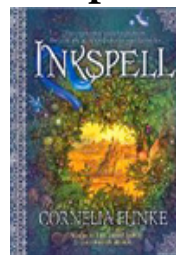
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Early in the book, Mo frequently lies to his daughter. Later the reader discovers that the lies were an attempt to keep Inkheart a secret from her. Do you think his lies are justified since he wants to protect Meggie? Or do you think he should have been honest? Explain your answer.

2. What do you think about Fenoglio killing Capricorn? Is it a bad choice? Is it the only way to get rid of him or doesn’t it matter since he isn’t real? Explain.
3. If you could read something or someone out of a book, who or what would you pick and why?
4. How does Elinor change throughout the book? What do you think causes these changes?
5. Why do you think fire is mentioned so frequently?
6. What role does it play in the plot and character development?
7. Basta’s superstitions lead to his downfall. Are you superstitious about anything? What does God think about superstition?

Inkspell



This fantasy adventure book by Cornelia Funke is the second in the “Inkheart Trilogy” and is published by The Chicken House, Ltd., an

imprint of Scholastic, Inc. *Inkspell* is written for kids ages 9 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why does Farid want to stay with Dustfinger? How does Dustfinger justify leaving him behind once they are separated? Why might Dustfinger be afraid of loving anyone? Tell about a time when you were hurt by someone you cared for. How did you keep from becoming hardened to people?

- How does Dustfinger's attitude toward Farid change over the course of the book? How has your relationship with a friend grown deeper over time? What did it take for the relationship to draw you closer?
- Why does Meggie want to enter the Inkworld? What do her parents think about her obsession with the Inkworld? What happened to Meggie's mother, Resa, while she was living in the Inkworld? How does Meggie plan to return home? What is wrong with her plan?
- How does Mortola mourn the death of her son? Why doesn't God want us to take revenge?
- Fenoglio believes he is the supreme creator of his story. Does everything in the Inkworld act according to his plans? When he rewrites Prince Cosimo into the story, what has changed about Cosimo? Why does Farid say Fenoglio should not try to tamper with the story? How does Fenoglio fall short as a creator? Compare Fenoglio as a creator against God, the true Creator. Who would you prefer be the writer of your story?

The Inquisition



This fantasy book by Taran Matharu is the second book in the "Summoner" series published by DFeiweil and Friends, a division of Macmillan. *The Inquisition* is written for kids 12 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- What is the difference between Christianity and the Jewish faith? What do most traditional Jews believe about Jesus? Why is this problematic, according to the Bible? Who made salvation possible? What must a person do to receive it?

The Inquisitor's Tale



This historical, adventure book by Adam Gidwitz, with illustrations by Hatem Aly is published by Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Young Readers

Group, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC. *The Inquisitor's Tale* is written for kids 10 and up.

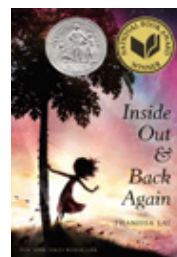
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- What is the difference between Christianity and the Jewish faith? What do most traditional Jews believe about Jesus? Why is this problematic, according to the Bible? Who made salvation possible? What must a person do to receive it?
- Why do Christians believe the Bible is the only holy and sacred book? How should we approach other books about God and faith that are written by humans? In what ways can noninspired books about God and faith help us? How might your knowing about them help you talk with those who believe in them?

- What does someone have to do in this story to be a saint? What kind of people are considered saints in the Bible?
- Why are William, Jacob and Jeanne initially afraid of each other? When have you been nervous around strangers? When have you been nervous around people of a different race or background or with different beliefs than yours? How did they overcome their feelings? How did you overcome your feelings?
- How does God want you to treat people whose beliefs are different than yours? How can you be a loving friend without sacrificing your own convictions about God and the Bible?
- Do you agree with William when he tells Jeanne that the sick feeling in her chest is God telling her to prevent the Talmud burnings? What are the primary ways God talks to His people today? How can you know if something you hear or feel is truly a message from God?

Inside Out & Back Again



This memoir, historical book by Thanhha Lai is published by HarperCollins Children's Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers. *Inside*

Out & Back Again is written for kids 9 to 13.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Name some of the things Hà loses during the year this story takes place. What are some things she gains? When have you had to move or undergo a difficult life change? What were the hardest things or people to leave behind? What pleasant surprises did you discover in your new place?
2. Discuss Hà's experiences with Christians and Christianity in America. How do you feel when you see Christians behaving this way in books or in the media? What are some loving ways you can help others and share your faith without forcing your beliefs on people?
3. What kind of person is Mother? What does she tell Hà about fighting? How does Hà learn to fight without her fists? When have you had to fight for something important? What did you do?
4. What kind of student was Hà in Vietnam? What bothers her most about school in Alabama? When has someone treated you like you were strange or stupid? How did you respond?
5. Describe the prejudice Hà and her family face in Alabama. Why do people act this way toward them? Which people are kind and helpful? How would you respond to a refugee family if some of them came to your school or neighborhood?

Insurgent



This futuristic thriller book by Veronica Roth is the second in the “Divergent” series and is published by Katherine Tegen Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers. *Insurgent* is written for kids ages 14 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. In the previous book, Tris shot and killed her friend Will when he was under the influence of the simulation and was about to kill her. How does Tris think she might have stopped Will without killing him? Why does Tris hide the truth about Will's death from Tobias? How does having killed a person in self-defense affect Tris' daily life and her reactions to dangerous situations? Why does Tris not tell Will's girlfriend, Christina, the truth when she has the opportunity to do so? How does Tris feel after she is forced to reveal what happened to Will under the influence of Candor's truth serum? What event finally causes Christina to forgive Tris? Who is someone you have hurt? How did you ask for forgiveness?
2. Tris' friend and fellow Dauntless initiate Al committed suicide by jumping off a ledge in the previous book. What does Tris think his reasons for jumping were? Why is she beginning to sympathize with Al's choice? What events have led to Tris being tired of her own existence? What finally stops Tris from taking her own life? Do you ever get tired of doing good for others? What helps you keep going? Why is it important to always have hope? How can our hope never be deferred if it is truly placed in Jesus?
3. What problems does it cause for Tris and Tobias' relationship when Tobias realizes that Tris did not trust him enough to tell him about Will's death? What secrets does Tris accuse Tobias of keeping? How could more honesty have benefited their relationship? Who is someone you are honest with? What kind of secrets would you not tell this person?
4. The five factions abide by a philosophy of “faction before blood.” What social problems does this policy cause in regard to how faction members treat their families? Why do faction members distrust faction-transfers who were born in another group, such as Tris who transferred from Abnegation to Dauntless?
5. In what way is the Amity's philosophy of peacefulness admirable? In what way is it problematic? After Tris gets into a fight, why does an Amity official inject Tris with a chemical known as the “peace serum” to make her feel artificially happy and relaxed? Is it right for people in positions of leadership to solve problems among their followers by chemically altering their moods? Is there any situation where conflict can be helpful, not harmful?
6. What has Peter done to Tris in the past that makes it so difficult for her to forgive him? How does Tris react later when she sees that Peter has joined the Erudite and is guarding Jeanine Matthews? How does Peter treat Tris while she is a prisoner? What

reason does Peter give for rescuing Tris and Tobias from the Erudite compound? How does Peter's behavior complicate Tris' views about people who seem to be her enemies? Think about your friends. What are some of the complicated personality traits they have? Why couldn't they be placed in only one faction in this book?

7. What are the downfalls of the Dauntless faction? What happens to initiates who fail to pass the strict tests for Dauntless placement? What happens to elderly Dauntless members? What difficulties arise when Dauntless member Shauna is paralyzed as a result of a fight? Tris recalls a Candor children's rhyme, which says that the Dauntless are the cruelest of the five factions. Why does Tris believe that this is true? Why does she think that Dauntless is the only faction capable of dividing and fighting against itself? What beneficial qualities does each of the five factions possess? In what areas is each faction limited or short-sighted in their approach to life?

Into the Gauntlet



This mystery adventure book by Margaret Peterson Haddix is the 10th book in "The 39 Clues" series and is published by Scholastic Inc. *Into the Gauntlet* is written for kids ages 8 to 10.

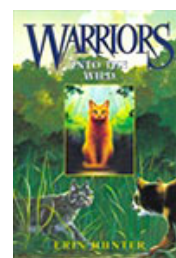
the Gauntlet is written for kids ages 8 to 10.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. The Kabra children are taught that "truth is a flexible thing." What does this mean? Do you agree with this? Why or why not? What are your beliefs about truth?
2. Jonah's museum witness tells him that "no legacy is so rich as honesty." What does this mean? Do you agree or disagree? Think of an example of this in your own community.
3. Isabel repeatedly threatened the lives of her children. How do you think this made Ian and Natalie feel about their mother? How did it make them feel about themselves? What kind of risk was it for them to turn their backs on their mother and choose to do the right thing with the family?
4. The family members are willing to hurt each other to win the prize. Have you ever struggled with this in your life? How did you handle this? How did you fix it?
5. What is forgiveness? What does it mean to reconcile with people? What does it mean to bring others to justice? Have you witnessed any of these things in your life? Do you think these are good teachings to live by? Why or why not?

Into the Wild



This first fantasy book in the "Warriors" series by Erin Hunter is published by HarperCollins Publishers. *Into the Wild* is written for kids ages

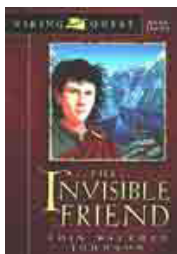
10 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. How did the cats' hierarchy, which focused on clans, warfare and allegiance, remind you of our society today—gangs, school cliques, etc.?
2. Did Rusty (Firepaw) make a good or bad choice when he left his quiet life for a life of excitement and adventure?
3. In the cats' world, the strongest and fiercest warriors received honor and respect. How is that similar to humanity?
4. What qualities or abilities in a person are most important to God?
5. Do you think Firepaw did the right thing by helping Yellowfang, even though it was against clan rules? Explain. Parents may want to discuss and emphasize the difference between acceptable behavior in the animal kingdom and what is OK in human society.

The Invisible Friend



This third historical fiction book in the “Viking Quest” series by Lois Walfrid Johnson is published by Moody Publishers. *The Invisible Friend* is written

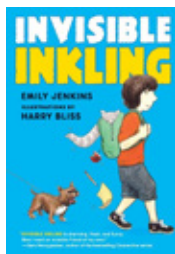
for kids ages 10 to 14.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Where has Mikkel turned his focus? What does God’s Word say about becoming what we serve? What or who have you chosen to serve?
2. Does God still have control in difficult circumstances? How have you seen God working through difficult times in your life? How can you remember that God has a plan for you when things don’t go the way you want them to go?
3. What are Bree’s and Devin’s views on making promises? When you make a promise do you take it as seriously as Devin and Bree? What promises have you made but have never followed through? What does God say about making and keeping promises?

Invisible Inkling



This contemporary, fantasy, humor book by Emily Jenkins is published by Balzer + Bray, a division of Harper Collins Publishers. *Invisible Inkling* is

written for kids ages 6 to 10.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

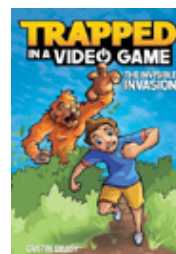
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why is Hank sad that Alexander moved to Iowa? Has a friend or loved one ever moved away, or have you been the one to move away from others you care about? How did their absence make you feel? Who does the Bible say sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24)? How important is it to find good friends?
2. Why is Hank being bullied? Have you or anyone you know ever been bullied? Have you ever bullied someone else? What was the situation and is it still ongoing? Do you know that you can talk to us if you are being bullied?
3. At first, why doesn’t Hank tell the adults in his life that Gillicut is bullying him? What are the results of Hank asking the adults for help? Do you prefer to ask for help, or to do things by yourself? Why? You can always ask us for help with your problems, but who else in your life could you talk to about your problems, if you don’t want to talk to us?
4. Why is Inkling so upset when Hank forces him in front of a

mirror and sees his reflection? Have you ever felt betrayed by a friend or a loved one? What happened? How was trust lost? Was it ever regained?

5. Why does Inkling lie to Hank about his past? Why does Hank lie to his mother about Inkling and being afraid to go to school? What could he have done instead? What would you have done in his place?
6. Why does Gillicut stop bullying Hank? Is the fight in the lunchroom a good solution to the problem? Explain. What do you think the adults in the story could have done differently to stop the bullying?

The Invisible Invasion



This humor, fantasy, adventure by Dustin Brady is the second book in the “Trapped in a Video Game” series published by Andrews McMeel Publishing, a

division of Andrews McMeel Universal. *The Invisible Invasion* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

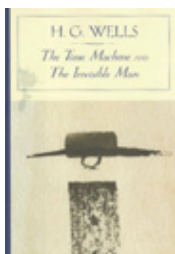
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What kind of criminal activity goes on at Bionosoft? What kind of man is Delfino? When have you known someone who used other people to get what he or she wanted?
2. Why is Jesse determined to rescue Mark? What might happen to

Mark if they don't get him out of the game and Bionosoft? When have you helped a friend, even though it was difficult or scary for you?

3. What kind of a person is Mr. Gregory? How does he feel about his company's actions? When have you willingly gotten involved in an activity that turned into something that you didn't like? What did you do?
4. What is Mark most excited about when he's finally free from the video game? If you were trapped somewhere for a long time, what would you like to do first and who would you be most excited to see again?

The Invisible Man



This science fiction book by H.G. Wells is published by Barnes and Noble Classics, a trademark of Barnes and Nobel Inc.; republished

in 2003 in *The Time Machine and The Invisible Man*. *The Invisible Man* is written for kids ages 18 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. How might the power one receives help reveal that person's character? How does the power of invisibility reveal Griffin's character? What kind of a man is Griffin? What does he hope to accomplish by creating a formula for invisibility? How does the

power of invisibility hurt Griffin in the long run?

2. What are some of the pitfalls Griffin discovers to being invisible? Do you feel any sympathy for him regarding his predicament? Explain. What might you miss doing if you were invisible? What might you like doing if you were invisible?
3. Some people feel invisible even though they don't have Griffin's formula. Why might this be? When have you felt invisible to someone? What makes you feel more visible to people?
4. How would you react if you heard an invisible person was on the loose in your city? What would it take to convince you it was true? What might happen in our society if scientific advancements made it possible for people to become invisible?
5. What kind of a statement might the author have been trying to make about science and scientific potential? Why do so many well-known stories and movies center around the "what ifs" of science? What real-life scientific advancements cause you worry or concern?

Iqbal: A Novel



This historical fiction, coming-of-age book by Francesco D'Adamo is published as a hardcover by Atheneum Books for Young Readers and by Aladdin Paperbacks. Both are imprints of the Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing division. *Iqbal* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

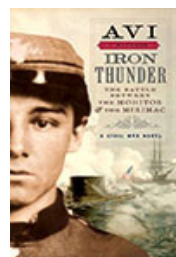
This historical fiction, coming-of-age book by Francesco D'Adamo is published as a hardcover by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why do the children's parents sell them into slavery? How do the children feel about their parents' decisions? Do you know anyone like Iqbal, who has done something difficult to help others or to keep them from suffering?
2. What aspects of Iqbal's character make him different from the other child slaves? How does he affect the people around him? What can you do to help inspire others to have the courage to do what's right?
3. How do the living conditions in the carpet factory compare to the way you live? What things can you do to help others who are less fortunate?
4. Why does Hussain Khan have children—not adults—working for him? Why were their debts never erased? How do you know when someone in authority is being unfair? Whom should you tell?
5. Why does Maria tell Fatima to share Iqbal's story with everyone? Have you ever lost someone you loved? Explain.

Iron Thunder



This historical fiction book in the "I Witness" series by Avi is published by Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, an imprint of Disney Publishing. *Iron*

Thunder is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Despite Tom's young age and relative inexperience, what does he do to demonstrate man-sized courage and confidence? Would you have been able to do the same thing in his place?
2. How difficult is his position? Have you ever had to be strong where others weren't?
3. Tom witnesses others leaving because of the pressure. What kinds of pressures do you face? Have any of your friends given in to peer pressure? How are you able to be strong?
4. Tom shows integrity and doesn't give any information to spies. What did he have to gain, and what did he have to lose?

The Iron Trial



This fantasy book is the first book in the "Magisterium" series by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare is published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of

Scholastic Inc. *The Iron Trial* is written for kids ages 12 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

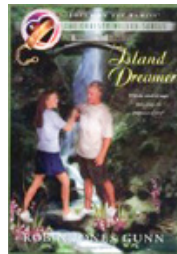
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why does one student, Jasper, feel that Call took his spot as one of Master Rufus' apprentices? Have you ever been jealous of someone else's blessings? Explain. Has anyone been jealous of you? Explain. Read **Psalm 37:1-3 and Proverbs 14:30**. How should you behave instead of being jealous?
 2. Why does Call think his father asked Master Rufus to bind Call's magic? Is that the real reason? Why does Call feel betrayed at first? What is his father really trying to do? How do we help keep you safe? How might we keep you safe even from yourself?
 3. When looking for Aaron, why does Tamara tell Call that she wants to do the right thing, even if it means cheating, cutting corners or breaking rules? Do you agree with her logic? Explain. Read **Matthew 7:12 and Romans 3:8**. How does God want His children to behave?
 4. Why doesn't Call tell Master Rufus the truth about his identity? What is he scared of losing? What would you have done in his place? Would you have gone through the first gate? What might happen because of Call's deception??
1. Paula buys a skimpy bathing suit to get attention while she's at the beach. What doesn't she understand about building a relationship with a guy? Why is it important to dress modestly? What is the most precious gift you can give your spouse? Why is it important to save this gift for marriage?
 2. Why did Todd's dad say he admired Todd when they were in Hana? Have you ever done something because your friends did it?
 3. Todd tells Christy that he's going to jump off the bridge. Why does he want to jump off the bridge this time? What is one thing you wanted to do and then were able to do? What is one thing you have done differently than how your friends thought you should do it?
 4. How does Paula deceive Christy's mom? Is it a lie? How can actions be as much a lie as words?
 5. What did the early missionaries do when they were being persecuted? Why does God want us to pray for our enemies?
 6. What is a God-thing? What God-things happen to Christy and Paula while they're in Hawaii? What God-things have you seen happen in your life?

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

Island Dreamer



This contemporary Christian book is fifth in the "Christy Miller" series by Robin Jones Gunn and is published by Bethany House Publishers, a division of the Baker Publishing Group.

Island Dreamer is written for kids ages 12 and up.

Island of Fire



This coming-of-age, adventure book by Lisa McMann is the third book in the “Unwanted” series published by Aladdin, a division

of Simon and Schuster. It is written for children ages 8 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What prevents Samheed and Lani from speaking to each other on Warbler Island? Since they can't write notes, what method do they devise to communicate with each other? When have you witnessed someone solving a problem through unusual methods? If you're currently facing a difficult challenge, how can you change your approach to achieve better results?
2. How does Alex feel when the Artiméans look to him for food, water, shelter and guidance after Mr. Today's death? What does Alex say about Mr. Today's lack of foresight in providing for Artimé's future? What obligations does a leader owe to the people he or she leads? Should those obligations extend past the time of her leadership, or even past her death? If you want to lead a group of people, how can you foster their independence and encourage them to be strong?
3. What kind of personality did Samheed have before his time on Warbler Island? How can Lani tell that he has changed? How

does she feel about the change? In the past, when you experienced anger, how did you handle that feeling? Do you think it's healthier to instantly express your anger or hide it? How can your anger affect your friends and those around you? What do you need to do to deal with your anger?

4. What purpose do the voice-silencing metal thorn collars on Warbler Island serve? What were Queen Eagala's reasons for fitting her people with the collars and asking them to build underground tunnels? When the leader of a tribe or nation experiences fear, how can they sometimes spread their fear to their people? What is the difference between a national defense and paranoia against outsiders? How should the people on this island have responded to a potential threat?

Island of Silence



This dystopian, coming-of-age by Lisa McMann is the second book in the “Unwanted” series published by Aladdin, a division of Simon and

Schuster. It is written for children ages 8 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What jobs do the Necessaries perform in Quill society? Why do none of the Wanted want to do those jobs after the Necessaries flee to Artimé? What kinds of jobs do you consider to

be good positions? What qualifies as a bad job? How will you develop equal respect for people in all stations of life?

2. What is Aaron's reaction to the union of Quill and Artimé? What has he lost due to the union? Have you ever been in a position of respect, such as being the leader of a club or the captain of a sports team? How would you have felt if the position were suddenly taken away? How can you develop your identity as a child of God so that you feel strong and valuable even when your circumstances change?
3. What is Mr. Today's plan for Alex's future? Why doesn't Alex feel he's the right person to fulfill that role? What qualities do you think are necessary in a leader? How many of those qualities do you currently possess? How could you work to develop the abilities necessary to lead?
4. When Mr. Today prepares to leave on vacation, what does he say about failure? To him, what is the most important thing to do when facing failure? Do you agree or disagree with how Mr. Today views failure? Explain. Tell about a time when you made a mistake. How were you treated because of your failure? How might even big failures eventually benefit you in your goals?
5. How does Alex react when he learns that Mr. Today died after being attacked with Alex's heart attack spells? How did Aaron get the spells? How do you choose whom you will trust? If someone has betrayed your trust, how might you respond? What are some ways that you can make thoughtful decisions about whom you will be close to, while still maintaining an open heart?

Island of the Blue Dolphins



This historical adventure by Scott O'Dell was originally published by Houghton Mifflin in 1960. It is written for children ages 9 through 12.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Karana jumps off the rescue ship because her brother was left behind, even though the captain assured her that they would go back to get him. Why does she do this? Why doesn't she trust the captain?
2. What more could Karana have done to protect her brother after they were alone on the island? What would you have done in her place?
3. After wounding Rontu, Karana decides not to kill him and nurses him to health. Why does she change her mind? Are her actions believable? In what situations have you changed your mind about someone or something?
4. Why does Karana want to have pets? How do they stave off her loneliness? Tell about a time when you've felt lonely.

Isle of the Lost



This drama, fairy tale, fantasy book is first in the "Descendants" series by Melissa De La Cruz and is published by Disney Hyperion. It is written for

ages 9 to 12 .

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. If the land of Auradon is nearly perfect, why do you think people can sometimes still be sad? What would you like most about living there? What would you like least? What do you like most about our home? What things help you feel better when you are sad? What things can you do to cheer someone else when that person is feeling sad?
2. How does Mal not having any friends change by the end of the story? What brings Mal, Jay, Carlos and Evie together? How important are shared experiences in friendship? Who are your friends? What do you like best about them? How can you be a good friend to them?
3. How do the parents in the book treat their children? How do we treat you differently from them? What do I do that helps you know that you are loved?
4. Why does Mal want to get revenge on Evie? Has anyone ever hurt your feelings or made you angry? What can you do to

help yourself feel better, instead of taking revenge?

5. Why might Prince Ben think his life is similar to that of Mal's? What do you think he wants to do to make life different in Auradon and the Isle of the Lost? If you were the principal of your school, what rules would you make? What qualities make a good ruler? How can you develop these qualities in your own life?

It's Not Summer Without You



This contemporary romance book is the second book in the "Summer" series by Jenny Han and is published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. It is written for kids 12 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. When Susannah's cancer grew worse, how did Laurel help her? How was she inconvenienced as Susannah's caregiver? Have you ever had an elderly or severely ill relative who needed constant care? Who provided care for them? What can you do to help those in physical need in our area?
2. How did Belly envision prom would be with Conrad? How did her prom turn out? In what ways can it be dangerous to have high expectations for people? How might focusing on a single outcome decrease your chances of

having fun? What's one upcoming event or activity that you're looking forward to? How can you broaden your expectations so that the event doesn't have to be 100 percent picture-perfect to satisfy you?

3. When Conrad repeatedly refuses to leave the beach house and return to school, why does Jeremiah tell Belly that they can't push him into a decision? Why is it hard for Belly to lighten up and stop insisting that Conrad leave? When someone tries to persuade you to stop doing something you really want to do, how does it make you feel? Why is it natural to resist other people's persuasion?
4. What does Jeremiah say to Conrad about holding on to the past? How does Conrad's continual remembrance of his father's misdeeds affect his attitude toward his father? Toward Jeremiah? Toward Belly? When someone has hurt you, do you have the right to be angry and unhappy? Explain. How could carrying memories of the past into the present actually block your happiness? How can you practice forgiving and forgetting so that you can live more joyfully?
5. What sort of breakfast does Laurel prepare for Mr. Fisher? Why does Conrad balk at the idea of preparing a meal for his father? Why does Laurel say that she and the three teenagers need to prepare the food before Mr. Fisher comes for their negotiation? How can hospitality soften a person's heart and make the person more agreeable? What examples in the Bible show someone offering food or gifts to another person as a wise negotiation tactic? (Abigail sending food to David so he wouldn't attack

her husband's workers, Jacob sending presents to Esau so he wouldn't attack him, etc.)

Ivanhoe



This historical book by Sir Walter Scott is published by Penguin Classics and is written for adults but is sometimes studied by kids

ages 16 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents at [pluggedin.com/book-reviews](https://www.pluggedin.com/book-reviews).

If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Normans hate Saxons; Saxons hate Normans. Everyone hates Jews. What are some of the problems these prejudices cause for individuals and for England?
2. Name a few of the ways in which the medieval church seems to have strayed from the customs and beliefs of early Christians in the Bible.
3. Many critics feel that Scott's historical accuracy is shoddy and that many of his characters lack depth. Is this still a book worth reading? Which characters and themes do you find interesting? What did you learn?
4. The theme of chivalry pervades Ivanhoe. (Chivalry can be briefly defined as a knightly code of behavior including honor, valor, goodness and respect of women and God.) Which characters offer a good example of chivalry and which do not?
5. Do you think chivalry exists today?