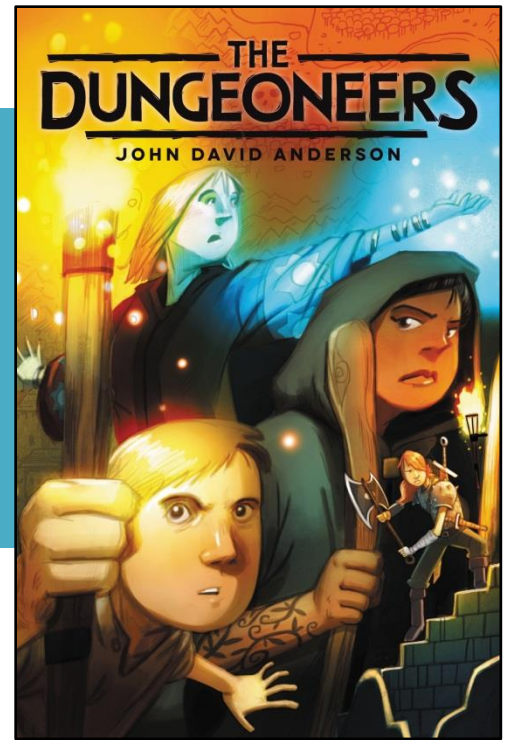


THE DUNGEONEERS

JOHN DAVID ANDERSON



DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

The world is not a fair place, and Colm Candorly knows it. While his parents and eight sisters seem content living on a lowly cobbler's earnings, Colm can't help but feel that everyone has the right to a more comfortable life. It's just a question of how far you're willing to go to get it.

In an effort to help his family make ends meet, Colm decides to use his natural gift for pickpocketing to pilfer a pile of gold from the richer residents of town. But his actions place him at the mercy of a mysterious man named Finn Argos, a gilded-toothed, smooth-tongued rogue who gives Colm a choice: he can be punished for his thievery, or he can become a member of Thwodin's Legions, a guild of dungeoneers who take what they want and live as they will.

Colm soon finds himself part of a family of warriors, mages, and hunters, working together in a quest to survive and, perhaps, to find a bit of treasure along the way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As the novel opens, Colm Candorly decides there "[has] to be a better way" than living in poverty (page 12). What does his thinking cause Colm to do?
2. Colm's father "knew exactly where the money had come from" (page 18). How did he know?
3. At the end of chapter 1, Rove Candorly calls his son a criminal, but his wife, Mina, thinks Colm's "talent" is "astonishing" (pages 23–24). Do you agree with Colm's father or mother? Why or why not?



WALDEN POND PRESS
An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

www.walden.com/books • www.harpercollinschildrens.com

4. Kale and Carmen corner Colm behind the barn and say that what Colm has done is both “stupid” and “very sweet” (page 27). How can Colm’s actions be both of these things?
5. Finn Argos says he is “only a humble teacher” (page 33). Why then has he come to see the Candorlys? What does he want? What does Colm notice about Finn’s hands?
6. Finn spells out the first eight of many rules he will teach Colm about being a “rogue.” List the first eight rules.
7. As Colm reads the parchment contract for Thwodin’s Legion (THE GUILD), there are several words in it he doesn’t understand. Define *transmogrification*, then list other words that are new to you and look up their definitions in the dictionary.
8. What is special about the key Finn shows Colm in chapter 4?
9. Who are Lena and Quinn, and what do they have in common? What does Lena mean when she says she is a barbarian?
10. In chapter 6 Finn states, “It means you passed” (page 119). What did the apprentices pass? How?
11. What is important to know about Carrol Fimbly?
12. Who occupies the four chairs on the other side of the door? What does Tye Thwodin mean at the end of chapter 6 when he says, “We descend so we may rise” (page 145)?
13. Master Fimbly finally explains what dungeoneering is in chapter 8. What does he say?
14. What does Finn say is the most important asset one needs when tackling a dragon?
15. Who is Grahm Wolfe? What is his occupation, and why is it important?
16. Finn says, “Information is often more valuable than gold” (page 226) and “I don’t believe anybody makes it in this world alone” (page 234). Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Why or why not? Give examples to support your answers.
17. What comes attached to the parchment letter from Colm’s family? Why does the narrator tell us “it was a trap” (page 253)?
18. In chapter 12 Master Thwodin declares, “This team has successfully retrieved the treasure” (page 311). What do you think is the most important action the team took? Why?
19. How does Celia’s hairpin help Colm? What is Finn’s reaction when he sees that the chest is



empty?

20. What happens to Finn at the end of chapter 16? How does this event connect with what Celia whispered in Colm's ear when Finn first came to the Candorly farm?
21. At the end of the novel Graham Wolfe tells Colm, "There are two good parts to any journey . . . the setting off and the coming back" (page 433). Which part do you think is true for Colm? Why?

