MICHAEL GRANT'S GONE SERIES **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

"These are exciting, high-tension stories told in a driving, torrential narrative that never lets up. . . . This is great fiction. I love these books."

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-Stephen King



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A GONE NOVEL

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GONE DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

A school day at Perdido Beach School is interrupted when the teacher vanishes. Not just Sam's teacher—every teacher. And not just every teacher, but every person over the age of fifteen. The kids look to Sam for guidance, but he never asked to be in charge. When Sam can't provide the answers, Caine is happy to oblige and implement his own plan to run the town...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In the first two chapters of the novel, what hints does the author provide about Sam's special power? When first reading these hints, what was your reaction?
- 2. Why do different characters respond differently to the FAYZ? How do Sam's, Caine's, and Albert's backgrounds shape the way they respond to the crisis?
- 3. How does Edilio respond to Quinn's remarks about his ethnicity? What are the advantages of this sort of response? What are the disadvantages? Are there alternative ways Edilio could respond?
- 4. Astrid tells Sam that he "faded" after the school bus incident (page 71). What do you think she means? Are there other incidents in the novel during which Sam fades?
- 5. While waiting for a pot to boil, Quinn tells Sam, "Maybe you can just zap it up with your magic hands" (page 168). Why do you think Quinn teases Sam about his power?
- 6. What does Albert mean when he thinks, "But if all they did was kill time, time would end up killing them" (page 196)? How does this statement apply to life in the FAYZ? Does it have any meaning in relation to your own life?
- 7. How does Drake terrorize Astrid? Why does Astrid feel such "self-loathing" (page 263)?
- 8. Why do you think Sam pictures his mother when he focuses his outrage (page 385)?

- 9. How does the theme of violence shape your impression of the story? What do you think Sam means when he says, "Ninth graders with machine guns: it's hard to make that a happy story" (page 441)?
- 10. Even though Quinn has a clear shot, he doesn't shoot Drake (page 496). Why do you think Quinn doesn't pull the trigger? Does this choice make him a coward? How do you define cowardice?
- 11. Diana tells Sam, "The bad girl ends up with the bad boy" (page 550). Is Diana a bad girl? What do her relationships with Caine, Drake, and Jack reveal about her character?
- 12. Why do you think Sam suggests to Astrid that they send leftovers from their Thanksgiving meal to Coates (page 554)? Would you have done the same thing?
- 13. Do you think the novel realistically portrays the way kids would react if all the adults disappeared? Which parts of the novel do you find most believable? Which parts are most unbelievable?
- 14. What makes someone a hero? In the novel, who do you think is most deserving of the title hero? Sam? Mary? Astrid? In what ways do these characters differ, and in what ways are they similar in their heroism?



HUNGER DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

The candy bars and soda only last so long. Then all that is left is canned corn and succotash. After that, nothing. Perdido Beach is disintegrating into hunger and hate—two things that Sam's powers can't combat. And the kids in Perdido aren't the only ones who are hungry. The Darkness is also calling those whom it has touched—asking for food. What does the Darkness eat?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How does E.Z.'s death influence Sam's thoughts and actions throughout the rest of the novel? Are there any significant events in your life that shape the way you think and behave?
- 2. How do the kids' powers relate to their personalities and backgrounds? Characters you may want to think about include Bug, Duck, and Jack.
- 3. How has Sam's character changed from *Gone*? Why might this change have occurred?
- 4. How does Mary Terrafino keep her anorexia and bulimia a secret? How do the other kids respond to her illness? What could they do to help?
- 5. Why do you think Diana stays with Caine and nurses him back to health? Is it out of loyalty, fear, love, or something else?
- 6. What does Astrid mean when she tells Albert, "This is a whole new world. . . . It can be fair to everyone" (page 145)? Is Astrid right? Or do you agree more with Albert? Can they both be right?
- 7. Find three instances in the novel where Sam tells himself that he must set a good example. Do you ever feel similarly? Does Sam make the right decisions in these situations?
- 8. Why is Jack frustrated with Sam? Do you think he is right to be frustrated? How does Jack respond to his frustration? Are there other ways Jack could have responded?

- 9. What do you think causes the divide between "freaks" and "normals"? Are there similar divisions in your school or community? Do you think Dekka is right when she says, "There are always lines" (page 250)?
- 10. How does Lana attempt to assert herself when the Darkness tries to control her thoughts? Are there any situations in your life in which Lana's tactic could be helpful?
- 11. When working with Little Pete on his exercises, Astrid feels that she, "sometimes hated him" (page 491). Why might Astrid feel this way?
- 12. How does the behavior of the Human Crew escalate from vandalism to attempting to hang Hunter? Who leads the Human Crew? Who is responsible for the group's actions?
- 13. Why do Sam and Caine work together at the end of the novel? Why do you think Caine is finally willing to join with Sam? Do you think the partnership will last?
- 14. Do you think Brittney is dead? If yes, why? If no, what do you predict will happen with her character in the next book?





LIES DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

The time for heroes has supposedly passed in Perdido Beach. The town is no longer run by the fire from Sam's hands. Instead, a council is in charge. But with the Human Crew's destruction, Orsay's prophecies, Caine's march to the beach, and Drake's reappearance, Sam's flames may be needed once again.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Are there drawbacks to having special powers? Think about this question in relation to multiple characters, including Sam, Lana, Caine, and Orsay.
- 2. What does Dekka mean when she thinks that there was "no 'fixing' her" (page 25)?
- 3. Sam thinks that it's "always better to go to the council with a plan worked out; that way, they could just say okay and let him get on with it" (page 51). What facts does Sam hide from the council? Should the council be informed of these facts?
- 4. Why is Hunter banished to the forest? Is this an appropriate punishment?
- 5. What is the significance of Albert's thought that "the time for heroes was on its way out" (page 341)? Do you think there is a certain "time" for heroism? Is Albert a hero?
- 6. Do you agree with Sam when he thinks that Astrid is the reason "he'd been the hero" (page 296)? Throughout the series, in which instances does Sam show heroism? What are his motivations in these instances?
- 7. Why do you think Zil acts the way that he does? What clues to Zil's character are provided by his interactions with and thoughts about Lisa, Nerezza, Lance, and Zane?
- 8. Why do you think the characters from Perdido act so differently than those from San Francisco de Sales Island?

- 9. Astrid thinks that Sam is dangerous because no one challenges him (page 363). What does she mean? Can you think of other examples—in your own life, in other novels, or in history—in which someone becomes dangerous because he or she is not challenged?
- 10. Do you think Astrid's laws are fair (pages 365–368)?Are there any laws that you would add or remove?Do you agree with the provision that allows the council to suspend the laws during emergencies?
- 11. Why do you think Mary chooses to "poof" (pages 430–431)? Why might she have chosen to bring the children on her jump? Do you think that Mary's decision is a moral one?
- 12. How has Quinn changed over the course of the series? How has Quinn's relationship with Sam changed? What may have led to these changes?
- 13. How has the relationship between Sam and Astrid changed since the first book? In thinking about this question, try to choose a single word to describe Sam and Astrid's relationship in each novel.
- 14. Sam thinks that being alive is "all you could ever ask from the FAYZ" (page 447). Do you think that there is more to life than survival?



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