



PLAGUE DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

Plague has fallen on the kids left in the FAYZ. Some cough so hard that they die. Others are eaten from the inside by insects. Sam is plagued with doubts. Brittney is plagued by her other half: whip-arm Drake. And Caine is plagued by a hunger for power. Only the Darkness grows stronger.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What might the title refer to? Are there any characters that suffer from plagues that aren't physical?
2. Why is Albert able to have Leslie-Ann clean his house and night pot? Should a person be able to get anything their money can buy?
3. Why does Albert want to keep Sam's mission a secret from Edilio and the council (p. 52)? Do you agree with Albert's decision?
4. Why might Lana stay isolated from everyone? How does Sanjit court her?
5. Throughout the novel, Sam imagines that his actions will be judged. How would you judge Sam's actions? Consider, for instance, his kiss with Taylor, his burning of Hunter, and his decision to send Jack to throw Little Pete to the bugs.
6. How has Quinn changed from the earlier novels? Why is he happy as a fisherman? Does anything give you a similar satisfaction?
7. What do you learn about Orc's childhood (p. 233)? Does this explain his actions? How do you think he will act in Sam's camp?
8. What is the "simple act of murder" that Astrid contemplates throughout the novel? What would you do in her situation? What is the ethical thing to do?
9. What does Sam mean when he says, "There's kids who pray every night for all this to be over. There's other kids who pray every night that the barrier stays right where it is" (p. 273)? Do you think Toto is right when he says that it isn't true that Sam wants the barrier to come down (p. 272)?
10. How does Diana want Caine to change? How does she try to change him? Why do you think Diana didn't succeed?
11. What does Sam want from Astrid? Does Sam want the same thing from Astrid that Caine wants from Diana? Why aren't Sam and Astrid together at the end of the novel?
12. What makes someone a leader? Who are the leaders in the FAYZ? Do you agree with Dekka's assertion that leadership isn't "something you choose: it's something you are" (p. 274)?
13. What does Astrid mean by "they were already lost, all of them" (p. 365)? Do you agree with her?
14. How would you define evil? Does Drake fall into this definition? Does Caine?
15. Why does Caine want to be king? What strategies does he use to get the kids to treat him as a king? From Caine's speech (pp. 481-83), what can you infer about his plans for his reign?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MICHAEL GRANT has spent much of his life on the move. Raised in a military family, he attended ten schools in five states, as well as three schools in France. Even as an adult he kept moving, and in fact became a writer in part because it was one of the few jobs that wouldn't tie him down. His fondest dream is to spend a year circumnavigating the globe and visiting every continent. Yes, even Antarctica. He lives in southern California with his wife, Katherine Applegate, and their two children. You can visit him online at www.themichaelgrant.com and follow him on Twitter at @thefayz.



Courtesy of the author



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