

Book Review Discussion Questions



Table of Contents

An Echo in the Darkness	3
Eclipse	3
Edge of Apocalypse	3
Eldest	4
Election Madness	4
Eleven	5
Eleven	5
Elijah of Buxton	5
Elsie's Endless Wait	6
Elsie's Impossible Choice	6
The Emerald Atlas	6
Emily Climbs	7
The Emperor's Code	7
The Empty City	7
The Encore	8
Ender's Game	8
Epos the Winged Flame	9
Eragon	9
Escape From the Island of Aquarius	9
Escape into the Night	10
Escape to Freedom: The Underground Railroad Adventures of Callie and William	10
Everything for a Dog	10
Evil Star	11
Exposure	11
Eyes of the Dragon	12
Eyes Wide Open	12

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

An Echo in the Darkness



This historical fiction book is the second in the “Mark of the Lion” series by Francine Rivers and is published by Tyndale House Publishers. *An Echo in the*

Darkness 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. Why is Marcus angry and confused? Who does he believe caused Hadassah’s death? Is he correct in blaming God?
2. What does Marcus learn about the reason for Hadassah’s suffering? Does any eternal good come out of the hardships Hadassah and Marcus face? How has God worked out your hardships for you or someone else’s good?
3. Which characters must forgive someone who has grievously wronged them? What did Hadassah do after forgiving Julia? Who did Prometheus forgive? Who must Marcus forgive for sending Hadassah to her death?
4. What do you find most difficult about forgiving others? What does each character find difficult about forgiving others? What is each character’s reward for

forgiving the person who has wronged them? What is your reward?

in real-life relationships? What is the difference between obsession and love?

Eclipse



This romantic vampire fantasy book is the third in the “Twilight” series by Stephenie Meyer and is published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of the Hachette Book Group.

Eclipse 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 do Jacob and Edward consider battles “fun,” something they hate to miss out on?
2. How does Bella see herself? Why does she feel hopeless without Edward or Jacob in her life?
3. Why does Edward want to get married before sleeping with Bella? What are Bella’s views on sex and marriage? What does the Bible say about sex and marriage?
4. Do Jacob or Edward ever act inappropriately toward Bella? When? Does their desire to protect and love her make it OK for them to keep secrets from her, keep her in “custody” or kiss her violently? What can happen when the lines between love and possessiveness get blurred

Edge of Apocalypse



This action/thriller book is the first in the “The End Series” by Tim LaHaye and Craig Parshall and is published by Zondervan. *Edge of Apocalypse* is

written for readers 17 and up.

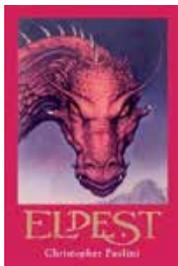
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. When Abigail finds herself in a difficult situation, what does she do before making decisions? What part should prayer play in your decisions? Does God want you to pray about everything, or only the things that are really important?
2. Joshua has been trained in the military to handle situations on his own—to take the bull by the horns, so to speak. Is this a good quality for a man to have? How could wanting to take care of everything all by yourself help you and others? How could wanting to take care of everything all by yourself keep you from asking God for help? How might it hinder your relationship with Him?

3. Cal was kidnapped and almost killed. What did Joshua realize had gotten in the way of his relationship with his son? How can pride be a good thing? How can pride be a bad thing? Joshua took Cal for granted. Do you take anything in your life for granted? Why shouldn't you do this?
4. Edge of Apocalypse describes a United States of America in which Christians are regularly persecuted for their faith. What would you do if you were persecuted for believing in God? Would you claim allegiance to Christ even if it meant the loss of friends, your school, a job, family or even your life?
5. This book describes a scenario the authors think could happen as the end times draw nearer. What does the Bible say about the end times? Should Christians devote themselves to thinking about the end times? What does Christ say about being ready in Matthew 25:1-13?

Eldest



This fantasy adventure is the second book in “The Inheritance Cycle” by Christopher Paolini and is published by Knopf Books for Young Readers, a division

of Random House Books. *Eldest* 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. Eragon witnesses a lot of bloodshed. What does he believe is the meaning of human life? What does the Bible say about humankind's purpose in life?
2. Eragon swears fealty to Nasuada. How does he know she will be a good ruler? Does he approve of all her choices? Eragon also agrees to become an honorary member of Hrothgar's family. What do the dwarves expect in return for giving Eragon this honor? How does Eragon feel his many promises of allegiance are helping him? How does he feel they are hurting him?
3. Where does Roran want to move the women and children in Carvahall? Why does Sloan object to moving them to the Spine? How does Katrina choose between obeying her father and following Roran? What would you have done if you were Roran? Katrina's father? Katrina?
4. On the way to Ellesmera, Arya begins teaching Eragon about elvish customs and manners. Why is it important that he does not offend the elves? Why is he judged by a higher standard than other humans? Arya says that elves value courtesy above all else, but Eragon says elves have simply invented complex ways to insult each other. Who do you think is right? How would you navigate the courtesy of elves?
5. Eragon hears that Arya experienced great sorrow in her life. What is the source of Arya's sadness? Why did her family disown her? Is she glad to be reconciled with her surviving family? How important are family relationships in your life?
6. Why does Oromis say that power without morality is dangerous? Which character in *Eldest* is the

main example of a powerful person who has no morals? Where do you see people like this in your own life?

7. Do the citizens of Carvahall forgive Roran for the trouble he has caused them? Does Roran forgive Eragon for the trouble he has created? What does Roran say he will make Eragon do as payment for Garrow's death and Katrina's capture? How does Roran react to Eragon when they meet again? Why is forgiveness important in this story? How is it important in your life?

Election Madness



This pre-teen slice-of-life story by Karen English is part of the “Nikki & Deja” series published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Publishing Company. *Election Madness* is written for kids ages 6 to 9.

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 friend is Deja? How does she treat others? Would you want to be her friend? Explain your answer.
2. How does the election madness change Deja's behavior? Do you think she learns any valuable lessons from her failed campaign? If you were Deja, what valuable lesson would you have learned?

- Why does Nikki fear her parents are getting divorced? How do you feel when you hear us or other adults fighting? Who can you talk to if you about your feelings when you don't want to talk to us?

Eleven



This mystery book written by Patricia Reilly Giff is published by Yearling and Wendy Lamb Books, both imprints of Random House Inc., and is written

for 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:

- Because of her father's job, Caroline must move to many new places. Have you ever had to move? How did it make you feel to leave your friends? What could you do to help a new student at your school?
- Sam has difficulty reading. What subjects are your favorite in school? What subjects do you find the hardest? What things can you do to try and improve your grades in those difficult classes?
- Mack's anger and refusal to speak to his daughter made him move to Florida and lose contact with his family. Ephesians 4:25-26 says, "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Why do you think God gives us this command? What would have been different

for Mack and Sam if Mack had followed this command? How might your life change if you obeyed this command?

- Sam tells several lies throughout the story to cover his snooping. Have you ever lied about something you did? How did it make you feel? What could Sam have done differently?

Eleven



This pre-teen slice-of-life story by Lauren Myracle is the second in "The Winnie Years" series published by Dutton Children's Books, a division of Penguin Young

Readers Group. *Eleven* 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:

- Why is Winnie hesitant to hang out with Dinah? Why does Dinah behave differently than some of the other girls? Why does Winnie decide to be Dinah's friend in spite of what people think?
- What are some of the things Winnie does to gain the acceptance of others? What have you done to impress someone else or prove yourself? How did you feel about it afterward?
- What are some things you like about being your current age? What are some hard things you must face at your age?

Elijah of Buxton



This historical fiction novel by Christopher Paul Curtis is an Apple Signature book published by Scholastic, Inc., and written for kids ages 9 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:

- Do you agree with Elijah, that once you start lying, it isn't hard to keep lying? Have you ever told a lie that led to more lies? What happened? What does the Bible say about lying?
- Why does Ma say black people like talking and telling stories? How does storytelling empower a culture, especially one that has little or no freedom?
- Why is Mr. Leroy so angry when Elijah starts to use the n-word? What does that word mean to him? Why does he insist it should be buried? How can a single word be powerful enough to produce rage, despair or other emotions?
- Why did Pa say Mr. Leroy wasn't thinking clearly after Zephariah stole his money? Have you ever viewed a situation the way you wanted it to be rather than the way it really was? What were some decisions you have made based on your emotions? What happened?
- How does Elijah change his reputation from that of being the boy who threw up on Frederick

Douglass? How does he prove he is maturing? How do you think the community will respond to him when he returns with the baby?

6. What were some signs that Zephariah wasn't a good man? Why do you think Elijah was fooled by him? When you meet someone new, what do you look for to determine whether to trust him or her? Have you ever trusted someone who lied to you or let you down? What happened? What did you learn from the situation?
7. Did Elijah fail because he couldn't save all the American slaves he found? How did he make the best of the situation? Do you have to do something huge and earth-shattering to be a hero? Explain your answer.

Elsie's Endless Wait



This first historical fiction book in the "A Life of Faith: Elsie Dinsmore" series by Martha Finley is published by Zonderkidz. *Elsie's Endless Wait* 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 does Elsie try to win her father's love? Do you think her goal is realistic? How might her plan have eventually damaged her own spirit? Have you ever tried to earn God's love? Why does God love His children?

2. What is Horace's attitude toward discipline? What is his opinion on forgiveness? Does he express love and grace to Elsie? Do his actions reflect God's treatment as the perfect Father? How are they different? What characteristics make God the perfect Father?
3. As the Dinsmore children watch Horace and Elsie grow in their relationship, how does their opinion of Elsie change?

Elsie's Impossible Choice



This second historical fiction book in the "A Life of Faith: Elsie Dinsmore" series based on the best-selling classic by Martha Finley is published by

Zonderkidz. *Elsie's Impossible Choice* 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 Miss Stevens tempt Elsie to compromise her obedience to God in small ways? How did her father tempt her to compromise her faith in large ways? How did Elsie demonstrate her faithfulness to God in small ways? What does God's Word say will be the reward for faithfulness? What has tempted you to turn away from God? What are some ways you can remain strong in your faith, no matter the temptation?
2. What motivates Elsie to obey God? Is she right in obeying

God over obeying her father? How does Horace try to obtain Elsie's obedience? Is this appropriate? What does the Bible say about submitting to authority? Have you ever been in a situation where you had to choose between earthly and heavenly authority? What did you choose? What were the consequences? Can you think of a time when you should obey and earthly authority over God's commands?

3. How did God use the negative circumstances in Horace's life for good? Why do you think God allowed Elsie to go through such pain? What does this tell you about God's desire to save Horace? Have you ever been through a difficult experience that God used for good? How can you maintain a positive attitude when things aren't just? How will you remember God's blessings, even when you are in an unfair situation?

The Emerald Atlas



This fantasy by John Stephens is the first book in "The Books of Beginning" series published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House

Children's Books, a division of Random House Inc. *The Emerald Atlas* is written for kids ages 8-12.

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

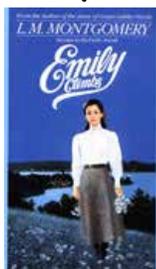
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What task must Kate, Michael and Emma carry out in order

to fulfill their destinies? What duties does God give to you in your life? How can you accomplish them?

2. What does Gabriel tell the kids about the painful screeching of the morum cadi? What are some things you fear in life? How can you overcome that fear? Who can help you?
3. What kind of a king is Hamish? How would you feel about following a king like him? What are some of his negative behaviors? Why is it difficult to honor a leader who makes choices with which you disagree? What does the Bible tell us about obeying leaders? How could he have been a better king?

Emily Climbs



This second drama book in the “Emily Novels” by L.M. Montgomery is published by Starfire, an imprint of Random House Children’s

Books and is written for kids 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. Someone plays a trick on Emily, and she wrongly blames her best friend. What assumptions did Emily have that helped her blame the wrong person? What should she have done before blaming an innocent person?

2. If you have a disagreement with a friend, what are some things you can do to resolve it correctly?
3. Aunt Ruth accuses Emily of being sly and often thinks the worst of her. Do you have anyone in your life that always thinks the worst of you? If so, how do you cope with the situation?
4. How do you think God would want you to behave?
5. What can you do when you feel that things in your life are going in the wrong direction or that your life is spiraling out of control?
6. What part does God play in your hard times? How can He help you through bad things?
7. Emily took a stand against what she thought was wrong. Give an example of how you have done that in your life. What is a stand that you would like to take today? What is one thing you can do to take that stand?

The Emperor’s Code



This mystery adventure book by Gordon Korman is the eighth book in “The 39 Clues” series and is published by Scholastic Inc. *The Emperor’s Code* is

written for kids ages 9 to 12.

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

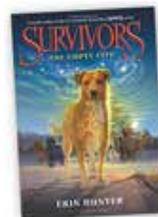
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. How did Dan feel when he was alone and lost in China? How

realistic is it that he made it to Mount Everest without any money or being able to speak the language? How would you feel if you were abandoned in a foreign country? What would you do?

2. What clues lead you to believe that Nellie is more than an au pair? What does she do that convinces Dan and Amy that she is on their side? Are they safe traveling the world with her assistance? Explain. Who might her boss be?
3. What did Dan learn about being a celebrity when he traveled with Jonah? What is appealing about Jonah’s life? What is unappealing about it? What do you hope your life will be like when you’re an adult?

The Empty City



This adventure/fantasy novel is the first in the “Survivors” series written by Erin Hunter. The novel is published by Harper, a division of HarperCollins

publishing. *The Empty City* is written for ages 8 to 12.

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

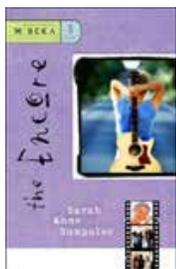
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. If you were a dog, what type of dog would you like to be: a Wild Pack dog, a Lone dog, or a Leashed dog? Why?
2. Why do the dogs call humans longpaws? Discuss some of the other words they use, such as

Big Grawl, treasure pouches and loudcages. What does each refer to, and how might that name have been given? What are some events around you that could be given names like these?

- Why does Lucky like being a Lone dog? Why does he resist becoming the head of a pack? Why do other dogs resist becoming Pack dogs? Would you resist becoming the head of a pack? Explain. Would you resist becoming a Pack dog? Explain. Why do the Leashed dogs like their masters? If you have a pet, how do you take care of the animal? If you don't have a pet, what kind of pet would you like to own? How would you take care of it?
- What catastrophic event takes place in this book? How do long-paws and dogs react to it? If you had to leave your home in a hurry, what one item would you take with you? Why?

The Encore



This fifth coming-of-age book in the “Becoming Beka” series by Sarah Anne Sumpolec is published by Moody Publishers. *The Encore* is written for kids 13 to

18.

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:

- Lucy is made to believe that having sex means she'll be popular. She ends up having sex and then

wants nothing to do with the popular crowd. How does your circle of friends react to pressure to have sex?

- What makes it difficult to take a stand and not become involved in premarital sex? What can you learn from Lucy's experience? Why do you think Lucy did not want anything to do with the popular crowd after she and Ethan had been together?
- Mai was angry with Beka and wanted Beka's job as the editor of the school newspaper. Have you compared yourself to someone you viewed as perfect? What did you do about your jealousy? How did you misjudge that person? How has someone misjudged you? What happened? What do you wish had happened?
- How would you categorize Mark's feelings for Beka? How did Beka feel when she saw him kissing another girl after they broke up? How has someone you liked betrayed you? How was your situation a blessing in disguise as this situation was for Beka?

Ender's Game



This mystery book-science fiction book by Orson Scott Card is the first in the “Ender Quintet” series and is published by Tor Books, a division of

Macmillan Publishers. *Ender's Game* 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:

- How would you describe Ender's relationship with his brother? Why might Ender still want Peter to love him? Who is someone you don't get along with? Why is there a rift in the relationship? What steps can you take to mend the relationship? Why would you want to have a good relationship with this person?
- What is Ender's logic about hurting others? Is he right? Why does he later regret his decisions? Have you ever made a decision that seemed good at the time but had an undesirable outcome? What was the situation? What could you have done differently? What did you learn from that situation?
- How did Graff treat Ender? How does Ender treat Bean? How does Ender justify his actions? Do you agree or disagree that someone must be hurt in order to become better at something? Why or why not?
- Why doesn't Graff want Ender to rely on adults for help? Have you ever needed help from the adults in your life? Tell about a time that they helped you. Tell about a time when adults did not help you. Can you rely on the adults in your life for help?

Epos the Winged Flame



This fantasy written by Adam Blade is the sixth in the “Beast Quest” series and is published by Scholastic Inc. Epos the Winged Flame 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 did the people build their village so close to the volcano? Would you want to live that close to a volcano? Explain.
2. Tom is always glad when someone says he looks like his father. Which of our qualities [those of your parents] would you like to have as you grow up?
3. How does Malvel try to discourage Tom from completing his quest? How have others tried to discourage you from doing something? Did they succeed? If not, how were you able to overcome your doubts?
4. How did Tom’s friends help him succeed? Could he have succeeded alone? Explain. How have your friends helped you succeed in an area? Why was this situation made better because of others being involved?

Eragon



This fantasy adventure is the first book in “The Inheritance Cycle” by Christopher Paolini and is published by Knopf Books for Young Readers, a division

of Random House Books. *Eragon* is written for kids ages 13 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 motivates Eragon once his uncle is killed? Should people do things to get revenge? What are some possible dangers when a person acts out of vengeful motives? What does the Bible say about revenge?
2. Why does Eragon have a tough time deciding whether to let Angela tell him his fate? Would you want to know your future? Why or why not? What does God say about your future? What does God say about people who try to tell others their future?
3. What does Ajihad mean when he tells Eragon the boy must retain his freedom because it’s his true power? What can happen to a person who devotes his allegiance fully to another human being?
4. How does Eragon’s power and responsibility as a Rider change him? To what qualities and bits of advice from his past does he still cling?
5. What does Saphira mean when she tells Eragon that he needs

to put aside his fear in order to accomplish his responsibility to the future? What is your responsibility to the future (or, those who come after you on this earth)?

Escape From the Island of Aquarius



This second Christian suspense book in the Cooper Kids Adventures” series by Frank E. Peretti is published by Good News Publishers,

Crossway Books. *Escape From the Island of Aquarius* 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 does Kelno believe is god? Do you know anyone who believes this, also? Why do you think it is easier for people to believe in themselves than it is for them to believe in God?
2. Why is it so difficult to give God control of your life? What things in your own life would you rather figure out for yourself? What would it take for you to relinquish control to God?
3. How does Dr. Cooper feel after he thinks Lila has been killed? What does he remember about his revenge versus God’s revenge? Have you ever wanted to take revenge for something? Did you give that situation to God, or did you take care of it yourself? What was the result?

- How does Adam show God's love to the villagers? How do you show God's love to unbelievers in your life?

Escape into the Night



This science fiction/historical fiction novel by Lois Walford Johnson is the first in the “Freedom Seekers” series published by Moody Publishers,

River North Division. *Escape into the Night* is written for kids ages 9 to 16.

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

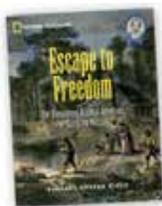
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- Why does Libby initially believe slavery isn't so bad? What happens to change her mind?
- Why does Libby think Jordan looks like royalty in a way? What causes him to seem dignified in spite of his circumstances? Have you ever found yourself standing up to a problem? How has a deep sense of direction, conviction or purpose helped you?
- What does Jordan say about hate when Libby asks if he hates his master? When have you had a hard time forgiving someone? How did you feel inside as you carried a burden of hate or anger? Were you able to forgive? If so, how did it feel? What does the Bible say about forgiveness?
- Why is Pa willing to help slaves escape, even though he could be put in jail for it? Have you or someone you know ever been

in danger for standing up for a belief? What happened?

- Talk about some of the never-give-up families in this book, both those made up of blood relatives and those that aren't. Why are families so important? What is unique and special about your family?

Escape to Freedom: The Underground Railroad Adventures of Callie and William



This historical novel by Barbara Brooks Simon is part of the “I Am American” series published by the National Geographic Society. *Escape to*

Freedom 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 did you know about the Underground Railroad before you read this book? What new facts or information did you learn? What would have been the scariest part of being a slave running to freedom?
- Who helps and supports the slaves while they are on the run? Why do these people risk their lives to help strangers?

Everything for a Dog



This realistic fiction by Ann M. Martin is published by Feiwel and Friends, an imprint of MacMillan. *Everything for a Dog* is written for

kids ages 9 to 12.

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

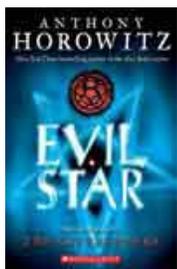
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- How did Charlie act around his mother? Did he give any hints about what he thought about her crying? Why do many children have trouble being around adults who cry?
- Loneliness seems to be a recurring theme for some of the characters. Why is Charlie lonely? Why is Henry lonely? Why is Letty Lewis lonely? How does each of these characters move forward and away from loneliness? Have you ever felt lonely? What can you do to change that feeling?
- How does Henry feel when he realizes that not being allowed to have a dog has nothing to do with the expense, his behavior or his being responsible? Is his father's reason for not wanting Henry to have a dog—he wanted to spare Henry from a painful loss when the dog died—valid?
- Have you ever lost anyone near to you? Have any of your pets died? What most helped you cope? How might you help

someone else who grieves a similar loss?

- Charlie lives in a rural area where hunting is part of the culture. Why does he dislike guns, call hunters “murderers” and think hunting should be outlawed? Is he right about hunting? How have Charlie’s emotions caused him to take a stand on hunting?
- Is Henry right to buy a leash, collar and treats and keep Buddy a secret from his parents? What would you have done in his place?

Evil Star



This science fiction/fantasy suspense thriller is the second in “The Gatekeepers” series by Anthony Horowitz and is published by Scholastic

Publishing. *Evil Star* 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:

- Why don’t people believe Jared when he mentions that the Amabo family members are not what they seem? How does his initial selfishness hurt his ability to convince others about what he saw? Did Jared learn to share?
- Why do others view Mopsy’s enjoyment of life, ability to think the best about others and optimism as naive? What does she do that causes people to view her as immature? Should she

stop behaving in this way just to please others? What should she do?

- What is one thing that keeps Jared from believing in God? How is his confusion about a good God allowing bad things to happen to people answered by Andrea? Do you agree that people use their freewill to choose to do bad things to others? Where is God in the midst of these bad things?
- What terrified the Amabos? Do evil men like Victor really exist or are they only found in books? How does Victor strike terror into the hearts of people? What is Victor’s primary goal?
- Daniel, one of Jared’s school-mates, said that Mattu had secrets to keep. What does he mean by that? Why is he willing to back up whatever Mattu says happened? Does the truth matter?
- How are the refugee coordinators helpful? How are they tough? What made Kirk Crick unlikable? What made George Neville likeable? How can two men have the same job and treat people so differently?
- What was Alake’s inner struggle? How do bad memories and guilt hurt people? What helped Alake start to feel human again? How did a touch of love and being treated like a valuable human being change Alake?

Exposure



This mystery/thriller novel by Kathy Reichs and Brendan Reichs is the fourth in the “Virals” series and is published by G.P. Putnam’s Sons, a division of

Penguin Young Readers Group, The Penguin Group. *Exposure* is written for kids ages 11 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:

- Tory and the boys feel like aliens at the academy. Have you ever felt like you didn’t fit in? What are some solutions to helping someone acclimate to a new school? What do you do to make a new person feel welcome?
- Tory has difficulty forgiving Ben for his part in helping the Gamemaster. How does her lack of forgiveness affect the group? What changes occur after she decides to forgive Ben? How did trying to view the incident from Ben’s perspective work to change Tory’s mind? Have you ever had trouble forgiving someone? How did you resolve it? Find what the Bible has to say about forgiveness.
- Tory talks with the other Virals about their purpose and super abilities. She believes they should use them to make a difference in their world. Do you know what gifts God has given you? Do you make good use of them? Cite some examples.

Eyes of the Dragon



This early reader book/fantasy book by Stephen King is published by Signet, an imprint of New American Library, a division of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

Editions have also been published by Viking Press and Time Warner Paperbacks. *Eyes of the Dragon* is written for adults, but it is on the recommended reading lists for many high schools.

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

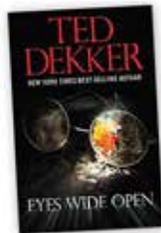
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why does Sasha insist that Peter use a napkin even though Roland and other nobles have terrible table manners? How do your table manners compare to Peter's? To Roland's?
2. Why does Thomas accept Flagg's offer to see things in the castle, even though they frighten him? Tell about a time when you felt lonely. How did Thomas's refusal of Peter's friendship make him lonelier? Why might it have been hard for him to accept?
3. Why does Thomas make poor choices? How does his father's treatment of him spur him on to making wrong decisions? Who is responsible for his choices? Describe a situation where you made a choice based on something someone else did. How much responsibility do you have for your own behavior?
4. Why does Roland lean so heavily on Flagg for advice? Although Roland finds thinking difficult, is

that an excuse not to do it? What do you find difficult to do? What could you do to improve in that area?

5. Many of the characters eat and drink excessively. What does the Bible say about gluttony? Does what (and how) you eat affect you spiritually as well as physically?
6. Peyna and Dennis both realize the part they played in Peter's imprisonment. How do they feel when they realize Peter is innocent? What do they do to make it right? Tell about a time you made a mistake that affected someone else. How should you deal with mistakes you've made in the past?
7. When Peter is unfairly imprisoned, how does he act? If you were Peter, how would you feel toward Thomas? Why does Peter choose to forgive his brother?

Eyes Wide Open



This Christian thriller by Ted Dekker was originally published as four smaller Kindle ebooks—*Identity, Mirrors, Unseen and Seer* in the “Outlaw

Chronicles” series. It was published as a traditional book by Worthy Media and is written for kids ages 15 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 do you think Gram keeps eHow do Christy and Austin

see themselves when the book begins? How are they imprisoned by their impressions of themselves? What lies do the staff members tell them that play into their fears and false beliefs? What lies does society tell you about who you are and who you should be?

2. What does Outlaw tell Christy and Austin about their true selves? How does God view His children, according to His word? In what areas do you struggle to believe you are beautiful and whole?
3. Why does Christy stab her own body near the end of the book? What does this “suicide” represent?