

Book Review Discussion Questions

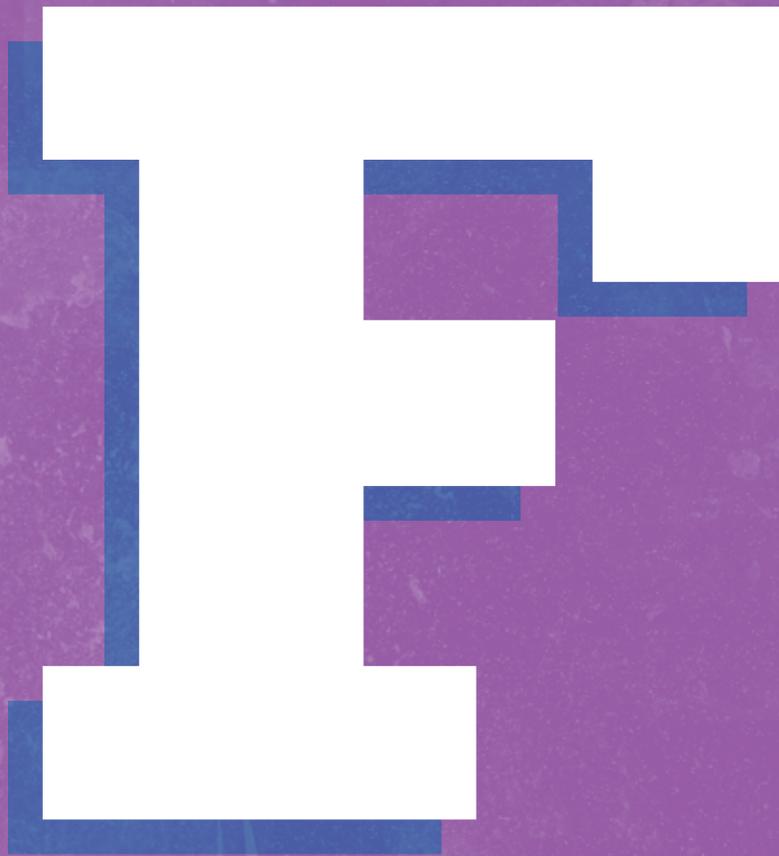


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Book reviews cover the content, themes and worldviews of fiction books, not their literary merit, and equip parents to decide whether a book is appropriate for their children. A book's inclusion does not constitute an endorsement by Focus on the Family.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

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Fablehaven



This fantasy is the first book in the “Fablehaven” series by Brandon Mull and is published by Aladdin Paperbacks, an imprint of Simon & Schuster

Children’s Publishing Division. *Fablehaven* 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 Seth repeatedly disobey Grandpa’s rules? What problems result from his disobedience? Are Grandpa’s punishments harsh, fair or indulgent? Explain your answer. Does the fact that Seth doesn’t always understand the full reason behind Grandpa’s rules and reasoning make it OK for him to disobey? What does the Bible say about how to treat elders or those in authority?
2. Why does Seth experience punishments from the creatures of Fablehaven that Kendra does not? How does Muriel become evil? What does it mean to have “respect for what is off-limits,” as Kendra says? How do Seth and Muriel fail in this area? How does this principle apply to your life? What are some items or situations in your world that are best avoided altogether rather than explored out of curiosity?

3. What feelings and emotions does Lena share with Kendra about mortality? Why does she find it so distasteful and fearful? How do you feel when you think about aging and death? What do you believe will happen to you after you die?
4. Why do Grandpa and Grandma care enough about the preserve that they are willing to give their lives in service for it? What gives Kendra the courage to approach the Fairy Queen, even though she knows others have died by doing so? Is there anyone or anything for which you would risk or sacrifice your life? Explain your answer.

Fablehaven: The Rise of the Evening Star



This fantasy is the second book in the “Fablehaven” series by Brandon Mull and is published by Shadow Mountain Publishing. A reprint is published by Aladdin Books, a division of Simon & Shuster. *Fablehaven: The Rise of the Evening Star* is written for kids ages 9 to 12.

published by Aladdin Books, a division of Simon & Shuster. *Fablehaven: The Rise of the Evening Star* 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 are Kendra and Seth’s first meetings with Errol potentially dangerous? After their first task with Errol goes well, why does Kendra still have doubts about helping Errol steal an amulet from the Society of the Evening Star? What kind of doubts have you had about people? How do you decide if you can trust someone?
2. What problems arise because Kendra and Seth cannot tell their parents about Fablehaven? Why does Grandpa Sorenson lie to Kendra and Seth’s parents about the reason he needs his grandchildren to come visit him? What would you do in this situation?
3. Tanu gives Seth and Kendra a brief sample of bottled negative emotions. How does Seth react when he takes the fear potion? How does Kendra react when she takes the shame potion? What does Tanu say about the power emotions have to distort a person’s outlook on life? What strong or negative emotions have you experienced? How can knowing God and His Word help you deal with your emotions?
4. Why does the Sphinx caution Seth against being too reckless? How does he say that Seth’s recklessness has threatened Fablehaven in times past? What decisions have you made too quickly, instead of waiting for advice? What was the result of your decision?
5. How does Seth endanger himself by sneaking away without permission to sell batteries to his

satyr friends? Can you describe a time when you didn't want to ask for permission? What happened? Why do you think parents want their kids to ask for permission for certain things?

The Face on the Milk Carton



This mystery coming-of-age novel by Caroline B. Cooney is the first in the “Janie” series published by Ember, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books.

The Face on the Milk Carton is written for kids ages 12 years 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 kind of boyfriend is Reeve? In what ways is he sensitive to Janie’s feelings and emotions about her kidnapping? In what ways does he only seem concerned about his own interests?
2. What is a cult? What are some cults you’ve heard about, and what do you know about them? How does a cult differ from a church or a more traditional religious group?

Fading Tracks



This fiction book is the first in the “Boarding School Mysteries” series by Kristi Holl and is published by ZonderKidz, a division of Zondervan. *Fading Tracks* is

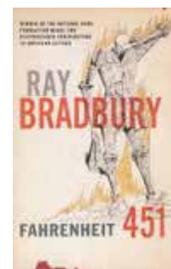
written for kids ages 9 to 12.

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 do you think about Jeri’s choice to go out riding on her own in search of the abandoned house? Is there a less dangerous choice she could have made that might have still helped her friends?
2. What does Jeri do when Betty, the secretary, receives a mysterious phone call while Betty is away from her desk? What could Jeri have done instead of lying?
3. Have you ever thought God might be telling you to do something, like Jeri does when she feels God leading her to the woods? What happened? How can you know whether you are following a message from God or just doing what you want to do?
4. Why do you think the headmaster seems mean? Have you ever formed an opinion about someone before you knew much about him or her? How can you try to understand people who have gone through difficult times?

Fahrenheit 451



This science fiction book by Ray Bradbury is currently published by Simon & Schuster. Ballantine Books, a division of Random House, originally published it. *Fahrenheit 451* is written for teenagers ages 15 and up.

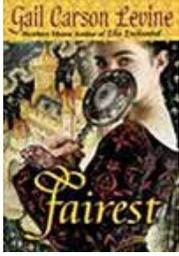
Fahrenheit 451 is written for teenagers ages 15 and up.

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. What might be the results of a society that doesn’t believe in conflict? How is this type of thinking visible in your world today? How can different opinions be healthy in a country?
2. How would you describe Montag and Mildred’s relationship? What makes them cold and detached from each other? What parts of Montag’s world have contributed to this kind of marriage? Explain.
3. Why is Clarisse McClellan considered an outcast? What do others in her society find offensive about enjoying nature, people and honest conversation? What kinds of things are popular in our world? What kinds of things are disliked by our culture? Do you agree or disagree with these likes and dislikes? Explain.

Fairest



This fantasy, romance by Gail Carson Levine is published by HarperCollins Publishers and is written for kids 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. Aza causes trouble for herself by wanting to be beautiful. What doesn't she like about her looks?
2. Do you like how you look? How much time do you spend longing to look like someone else?
3. In the end, Prince Ijori tells Aza that she is not too large. Instead she has a beauty that is unique to her. What is one way to be positive about a physical trait of yours that you don't like?
4. Aza found that she was only hurting herself by being harder on herself than those who made fun of her. How are you hard on yourself? How are you fair and how are you unfair to yourself? How can you change the way you treat yourself?
5. When Aza was looking out for others, she no longer thought about her shortcomings. How can you apply this rule to your life?

The Fairest Beauty



This fairy tale romance book by Melanie Dickerson is published by Zondervan and 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. The only portion of the Bible Sophie has had access to is the Gospel of Luke. How does she feel about this book? What new parts of Scripture does Gabe share with her? How does this expand her understanding of God and her faith? What was the first Scripture that meant something to you? Who helped broaden your knowledge of Scripture?
2. Some of Gabe's reasons for attempting to rescue Sophie are more selfish than honorable, and he defies his parents' wishes by searching for her on his own. How does this add to his struggle once he begins to fall in love with Sophie? What does he do to attempt to make things right? How might the story have ended if Gabe had chosen a different course of action?
3. The story of Snow White has been retold many times for over a century. What other versions are you aware of? What are some common elements in the various stories? What are some significant differences? What role does beauty, along with physical appearance in general, play?

What do you feel the overall message of the story is? How might you relate this message to your life?

4. Gabe worries that his plans to wed Sophie might not line up with the Lord's will for their lives. How do Bartel and Duke Baldwin encourage him to find an answer? What conclusion, if any, does Gabe come to? When have you had similar feelings regarding your hopes for the future and God's will? What did you find helpful in discerning where your plans might differ from the Lord's?
5. Duchess Ermengard chooses death over surrender. Why do you think this is? When she realizes she is going to die, she feels she can't ask the Lord for mercy because of all of the wrong things she has done. What do you think of her logic and motivation for asking for God's help?

The Fairy-Tale Detectives



This fantasy novel is the first book in "The Sisters Grimm" series by Michael Buckley and is published by Amulet Books. *The Fairy-Tale Detectives* 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. Why is Sabrina distrustful of everyone, including Granny Relda? What changes her mind?

Tell about a person you did not trust. Was your distrust appropriate, or how was it changed to trust?

2. Puck has learned to look out for himself because everyone else disappoints him. Who has disappointed you? How do Sabrina and Puck change by the end of the story? How have you learned to overcome your disappointment in someone?
3. How does Daphne's trusting, carefree attitude ultimately affect Sabrina? How does your attitude affect others around you? Sabrina and Daphne do not feel a family is necessary in their lives. How does Granny's attention to them affect them? How do they regain their trust in family by being with Granny Relda? How does our family influence others in good ways?

disabled? How would you feel if you couldn't walk or use your hands?

3. Why was Mary's father so sad? How do you think Mary feels when her efforts to encourage her father to carve and play don't work? What do you do to cheer up people in your life?
4. What prompts Mary's decision to sell some of her carvings? Would you sell something that was important to you if you knew it would help your family? Explain.
5. How does Mary make things better for her family? How does her family life become happier? What in our family has been difficult to go through? When have things been tense or not so happy? When has our family been its happiest? Why might families have to go through hard times together? What might families receive after going through tough times together?

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 Gabriel's behavior throughout the book exemplify his love for Bathsheba?
2. How does Hardy use names to represent the personalities of his characters, particularly—Oak, Bathsheba, and Boldwood? If you were in this book, what would your name be? How would it represent your personality?
3. How does Bathsheba change throughout the novel? How do her relationships with each man help create that change in her? What might you have done differently if you were she? How can you apply the lessons she learns to your life today?
4. What are the consequences of Bathsheba sending a valentine to Boldwood as a practical joke? What would you have done to rectify the mistake? Have you ever played a joke on someone that backfired? What happened?

Family Reminders



This historical fiction book by Julie Danneberg is published by Charlesbridge Publishing. *Family Reminders* is written for ages 8 to 11.

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 things make Mary happy or unhappy? What makes her life with her family special? What makes you feel special in our family?
2. How would you feel if someone in our family were suddenly

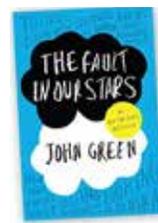
Far From the Madding Crowd



This classic romance of the 19th century was written by Thomas Hardy and was first published in 1874 in Corn Hill Magazine. Editions are now

published by Oxford University Press, Penguin Classics, New Canadian Library and Harper Collins Publishers, among many others. The book was originally written for adults but is now required reading for some Advanced Placement English classes.

The Fault in Our Stars



This contemporary novel by John Green is published by Dutton's Children's Books, a division of the Penguin Group. *The Fault in Our Stars* 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. Hazel and Augustus talk a great deal about An Imperial Affliction. Augustus believes the “Dutch Tulip Man” may be God. How do his musings about the character compare with his thoughts about God? How might God have been able to comfort the characters in this book, if they were real, if they’d let Him?
2. How does Augustus make his wish count? How does serving others benefit the person serving? If an organization granted you a wish, what would yours be and why?
3. Augustus fears being forgotten. How do his beliefs about God and the afterlife lead him to this fear? How is God able to help you with this fear? How would you like to be remembered? How do those living forget the day-to-day of those who were once here but still remember them?
4. Hazel’s father says the universe calls out to be noticed. What does Romans 1:19-20 say about how God speaks to us through nature? What is illogical about thinking of the universe as a person?
5. Do you know others with cancer? How does it make you feel to be around them? If it’s someone your own age, what things could you suggest doing together that wouldn’t tire him? How could you let him know you are there for him?

The Fellowship of the Ring



This fantasy by J.R.R. Tolkien is the first in “Lord of the Rings” trilogy and was originally published by George Allen & Unwin in 1954. Many other

companies, including HarperCollins Publishers, Mariner Books, The Science Fiction Book Club and Unwin Books have published editions of the book. *The Fellowship of the Ring* is often read by 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. The main question, throughout the book, is whether to destroy the ring. Do you agree with Frodo that the ring needs to be destroyed? Why or why not?
2. Was Smeagol evil at first? How did the ring initially affect him? How did the ring continue to affect him? Discuss how greed and the lust for power can transform a people—from the book and in our world.
3. Why is it important for the fellowship to represent so many races of Middle Earth? What gifts or abilities does each member bring to the fellowship?
4. How does the loss of Gandalf affect the fellowship? Have you ever lost someone important to you? Have you ever tried to complete a difficult task without guidance? How did the change of

leadership also change the outcome of the task?

5. Why does Frodo decide to make the journey to Mordor alone? Do you agree with his choice? How does his choice end the fellowship of the ring? What would you have decided if you’d been in his place? How is his choice brave? How is it foolish?

Fences



This play by August Wilson is published by Plume Books, part of NAL Penguin Inc. *Fences* is written for adults but is sometimes studied by high school

classes.

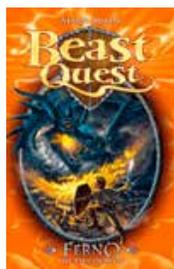
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. Why is this play called *Fences*? What does a fence symbolize to Rose? What does it mean to Troy? Which character’s definition would you agree with? Explain.
2. Why do Troy and Cory have such a strained relationship? How does Troy’s past determine his treatment of Cory? What might have improved their mutual understanding of the other’s beliefs and desires? What relationship is strained in your life? What might be the cause of the strain? How can God help you in this area?
3. Which character best demonstrates forgiveness? Explain your

answer. What does the Bible say about forgiveness? Why is it important for you to forgive others? How does forgiving others help you?

Ferno the Fire Dragon



This fantasy novel written by Adam Blade is the first in the “Beast Quest” series and is published by Scholastic Inc. *Ferno the Fire Dragon* is written

for 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. When Tom first asks to be the one to journey to the king, the villagers tell him he is too young. Can you think of a person in the Bible who was told the same thing? (His story is in 1 Samuel 17: 20-49.) Have you ever been told that you were too young to do something? Looking back, were you too young?
2. Malvel is described as having once been a good man who turned evil after looking to magic to make him happy. To what things do people in our world look to make them happy? How do these things, even if they are good things, change people? What does God want you to pursue? Why might He want you to pursue Him?
3. 4. Read Ecclesiastes 4:12. How is the friendship between Tom and Elenna an example of this proverb?

Fever 1793



This historical fiction book by Laurie Halse Anderson is published by Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing and 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:

1. Mattie had to endure many things. Did you find her situation frightening? Depressing? Explain.
2. Do you think God took care of Mattie, or do you think she survived these troubles because she was a strong person?
3. Why do you think tragic events, such as the epidemic written about in this book, are allowed to happen?
4. In what ways did God provide for and take care of Mattie, in spite of all the terrible things that were taking place?

File Under: 13

Suspicious Incidents



This humorous mystery book by Lemony Snicket is part of the “All the Wrong Questions” series published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers,

an imprint of Little, Brown and

Company, a division of Hachette Book Group Inc. *File Under: 13 Suspicious Incidents* is written for kids 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. How do you think young Lemony Snicket knows so many big and interesting words? Name a few words you’ve learned in this book.
2. What kind of a role model and mentor is S. Theodora Markson? How does Snicket feel about her? What are some characteristics of a person who is a good role model? Can you think of someone who fits this description?
3. What is Lemony Snicket’s secret to solving so many cases? What skills does he have that make him a good detective? How could some of those characteristics help you in your life?
4. What makes the Mitchums ineffective law enforcement officers, according to Snicket? When have you seen people’s petty bickering get in the way of their work, friendships or family life?

Fire Prophet



This fantasy novel by Jerel Law is the second in the “Sons of Angels, Jonah Stone” series published by Tommy Nelson, a registered trademark of Thomas

Nelson Inc. *Fire Prophet* is written for kids ages 11 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. How does Jeremiah finally discover and demonstrate his spiritual gift? Why is it important to speak God's truth? How is God's truth powerful?
2. How did Jonah know a woman needed his help? Who passed her message and need for help along to Jonah? What might have happened if Jonah had ignored the voice telling him to act on her behalf? When have you felt God urging you to help someone around you? How did you respond?
3. What act guided Jonah, his friends and the angels? What does the Bible say about the power of prayer? How does prayer give you strength in daily life?

First Date



This chick-lit book by Melody Carlson is the first in "The Dating Games" series and is published by Revell. *First Date* is written for kids ages 13 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:

1. What character traits do each of these young women look for in their dates? What character traits

would you look for in a guy? How would you want a date to treat you? How would you treat a date?

2. Is it better to focus on dating or on developing friendships with others? What are some ways that you can show God's love to your friends? Is there anyone new at your school or church you could reach out to?
3. How do the girls in this book compare themselves to others? How have you compared yourself to others? Was it beneficial? How can you focus on God's vision for you instead?

First Day Jitters



This beginning reader book by Julie Danneberg, with illustrations by Judy Love, is published by Charlesbridge, a registered trademark of

Charlesbridge Publishing Inc., and is written for kids ages 5 to 8.

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 were you nervous about starting something new? How did you feel as you got ready to go into the new building or classroom? When did you start feeling better? What helped you feel more relaxed?
2. What advice would you give someone who is starting a new school or new school year?

3. What is surprising about the ending of the book? What kinds of things make teachers and other grown-ups feel nervous? What might they do to calm themselves down when they feel scared?

The First Escape



This fantasy illustrated-novel (short for illustrated novel) is the first book in "The Dapple Ganger Chronicles" by G.P. Taylor and is published by SaltRiver

Books, a division of Tyndale House Publishers. *The First Escape* 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 was Muzz Elliott's pencil holder on her desk? How does the pot's skull-like look add to the tension in this story?
2. Who is set on vengeance when it comes to Charlotte Grimdyke? What are two ways that Sadie gets revenge on this girl? Why is there such animosity between the two? Why does God say that vengeance belongs to Him and not to us? How does trying to get revenge hurt us more than whomever offended us?
3. What lie does Erik tell the policeman on the corner? Why does Erik lie to him? Why do you think he felt he had to trick the policeman instead of telling him the truth? From how he treated the law, what does Erik believe about the police?

4. Why did Sadie and Eric go into Potemkin's house? Why is it important for children not to go into the houses of strangers? What happens because they went into his house?
5. Even after they escaped Potemkin's house, how did Potemkin reappear in their lives? Was he a good or evil influence? Do you think Sadie and Eric will see Potemkin again in future books?
6. Read Leviticus 20:6. How does God feel about séances? How does Saskia figure out how Cicely's group is making the séance look real? When Saskia falls against some of the contraptions in the secret room, what happens in the library? Is Madame Raphael one of the tricks? How do Muzz Elliott and Saskia describe Madame Raphael? What is eerie about Madame Raphael? What is good about Madame Raphael? Why can't anyone else see her?
7. What are some of the consequences for Sadie's and Saskia's actions at the orphanage? If they are able to get away with their antics, how will they learn to behave? How do the girls feel when they are caught? Why is it important to be sorry about what you do wrong? How can Sadie and Saskia be drawn closer to God if they don't understand the difference between good and evil (especially regarding their actions)?
8. What character is seen as spiritual in the story because she isn't human? Does Madame Raphael help Saskia grow in spirituality or in the Christian faith? What is the difference?
9. What did Madame Raphael mean when she said John the Baptist's

line about being a voice in the wilderness? What did she mean when she said Saskia would find treasure if Saskia followed her? Who does the Bible say you should follow?

Flat Stanley: His Original Adventure



This slice-of-life fantasy book by Jeff Brown, with illustrations by Macky Pamintuan is part of the "Flat Stanley" series published by Harper, an imprint

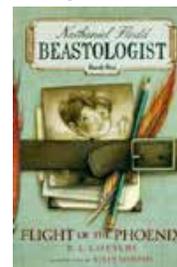
of HarperCollins Publishers. *Flat Stanley: His Original Adventure* is written for kids ages 7 to 10.

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 Arthur feel when everyone praises Stanley for his new abilities? When has a friend, brother or sister gotten all the attention instead of you? How did that feel?
2. What new things can Stanley do once he is flattened? If you were suddenly flat, what would you want to do that you can't do now? Where would you like to go if someone could mail you there?
3. How does Stanley use his flatness to help others? How could he have reacted to the change in his life? What does Stanley gain by being flat? What does he lose? What does he gain by returning to his former dimensions? What does he lose by changing back?

Flight of the Phoenix



This fantasy book is the first in the "Nathaniel Fludd, Beastologist" series by R.L. LaFevers and is published by Houghton Mifflin Books for

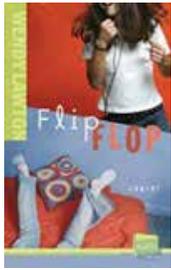
Children, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. *Flight of the Phoenix* is written for kids ages 7 to 11.

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 do you think happened to Nate's parents? Are they really dead? Why didn't they write him notes like Aunt Phil said they should have?
2. What will Aunt Phil learn when she starts investigating Miss Lumpton? What was Miss Lumpton's top priority? How can greed be dangerous and harmful?
3. Why can't Nate bring himself to throw Greasle overboard? How does she end up helping him? Why are trusted friends of great value?
4. How does Nate behave at the beginning of the book? How does he change and grow through his experiences? Have you ever faced something difficult that helped you grow into a stronger person? What happened? What did you do to rise to the challenge?

Flip Flop



This second teen chick-lit, Christian book in the “Real TV” series by Wendy Lawton is published by Moody Publishers. *Flip Flop* is written for kids ages

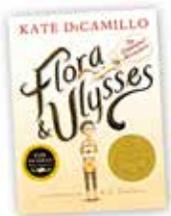
14 to 16.

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:

1. Briana prays a lot. Why do you think God didn't give her what she asked for?
2. Are there areas of your life in which you try too hard to control things?
3. Have you ever asked God what He might want to reveal to you?
4. What are some ways Chickie, Sebastian and their parents share their faith without being preachy or turning people off? How could you practice these behaviors in your life as you interact with others?

Flora and Ulysses



This humorous story by Kate DiCamillo, with illustrations by K.G. Campbell, is published by Candlewick Press and 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. Why does Flora believe she should observe rather than hope? Why does she feel she must become a giant ear in order to understand the world? Where does she get these ideas? What events make Flora less cynical as the book goes on? What does Dr. Meescham say about hope and belief, and how do you feel about her statements? What does the Bible say about hope?
2. What is the meaning behind Dr. Meescham's squid picture? Who in this story experiences loneliness, and how can you tell they are lonely? What do you think of Dr. Meescham's statement that loneliness makes people do terrible things? When have you felt especially lonely, and what did you do about it?
3. Why does Flora want so desperately for Ulysses to be a superhero? How does she think life will change for her if Ulysses is something more than an ordinary squirrel? When have you wished for a superhero, or for something unexpected or miraculous to happen in your life? How did you think this would make you or your circumstances different? How does having a hero like Jesus change your life?

Forged by Fire



This coming-of-age novel by Sharon Draper is the second book in the “Hazelwood High Trilogy” and is published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers,

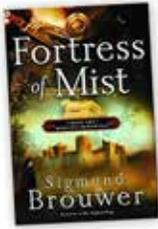
an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division. *Forged by Fire* is written for kids ages 12 years and up.

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 do drugs and alcohol impact Monique's and Jordan's behavior throughout the book? Why does Gerald drink as a teen, even when he's seen how dangerous alcoholism can be?
2. Who first shows Gerald what love means, and how is love demonstrated to him? How does Gerald finally manage to get some help for himself and Angel? Who are some trusted adults, besides your parents, you could approach for help if you needed it? How could you help and support a friend who suffered from abuse?

Fortress of Mist



This fantasy novel by Sigmund Brouwer is the second in the “Merlin’s Immortals” series published by WaterBrook Press, an imprint of

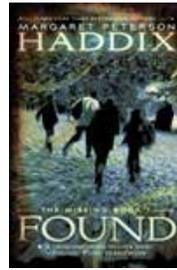
Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House Inc. *Fortress of Mist* is written for young adults ages 12 and up.

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 is Thomas so protective of the secret books he learned about from his mother? What does he believe about the knowledge he’s gained? What book have you used to gain more knowledge? How has this book helped you?
2. How does the knowledge Thomas has gained help him as a warrior? What does Katherine mean when she tells him he possesses something of even greater value? What knowledge had you gained? What do you possess that is of greater value than knowledge?
3. Why does Thomas go to such great lengths to prevent bloodshed in battle? How does he do it? How do his fellow leaders respond?

Found



This science fiction book by Margaret Peterson Haddix is the first in “The Missing” series and is published by Simon & Schuster Children’s

Publishing, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc. *Found* 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. Jonah remembers how jealous Katherine would get when their parents spoke of how lucky they were to adopt Jonah. Have you ever felt jealous of a family member or close friend because you felt that person was being treated better than you? What happened that made you feel that way? How did you get past those feelings?
2. Katherine wonders how her decisions and activities will affect people’s perception of her. Do you wonder how others see you? Do you believe they see you for who you really are? How would you like to change the way people perceive you? How might God see you?
3. Jonah remembers when his father saved him from a riptide. Does he think his father can save him now? What situation have you been in where you thought things were so bad that no one could help you? How were you saved? Whom do you wish you had talked to about it at the time?

How could that person have helped you? How could I have helped you?

4. Chip is angry at his parents for not telling him he was adopted. Have people ever kept a secret from you? How did it make you feel after you found out? What could they have done differently? Have you kept a secret from others? How did it make them feel after they found out? What could you have done differently?
5. JB tells the survivors that returning to the past is the only way to fix the time ripples. Jonah is scared because going back may cause his life to end with a horrible death. Have you ever faced a decision that you thought would lead to an unappealing outcome? What was the decision? How did you handle the situation?
6. After Jonah tells JB that he and Katherine won’t return from the 15th century without Chip, Chip is surprised that Jonah is keeping his promise to help him. Has anyone made an important promise to you that was kept or broken? How did that make you feel? Have you ever kept or broken an important promise to someone else? If you have ever broken a promise, why did you break it? How can you fix it now?

Found in Translation



This Christian fiction novel by Roger Bruner with Kristi Rae Bruner is the first in the “Altered Hearts” series published by Barbour Publishing, Inc.

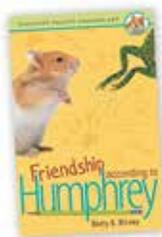
Found in Translation was written for kids ages 15 and up.

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. What role does forgiveness play in this book? Which characters demonstrate forgiveness, and how do they do it? Tell about one situation in which you needed to forgive someone. Was that the best way you could have demonstrated forgiveness to that person?
2. What was Kim like when she left for Mexico? What changed during her time on the missions field? Who and/or what helps facilitate those changes? If you've gone on a missions trip, tell how you were changed.
3. How do you feel or react when you encounter professing Christians whose behavior doesn't seem to live up to their confession of faith? What can you do to demonstrate a Christ-like attitude toward those people?
4. When have you been forced into a situation, as Kim was, that required you to do something you didn't think you could? How did you grow or change when you tried doing something in the face of failure or the impossibility of a task?

Friendship According to Humphrey



This Christian fiction/contemporary adventure book by Betty G. Birney is the second in the "Humphrey" series and is published by Puffin Books, a division of

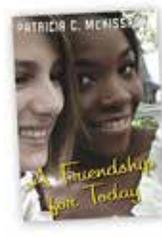
Penguin books. *Friendship According to Humphrey* is written for kids ages 7 to 9.

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 does Martin Bean do to bully others? When have you been a bully to others? When has someone bullied you? What does Garth's mother want him to do? How does her advice work in the story? How might it work in your life?
2. What does Gail accuse Heidi of doing? Does Heidi cheat while playing the board game? How does Og scare Humphrey? What does he mean to do? Tell about a time when someone was trying to be friendly but upset or scared you?
3. Have you ever been the new kid at school or church? How long did it take for you to feel like you fit in? What things or people helped you in the process? How can you help other new kids adjust to a new school or church?

A Friendship for Today



This historical fiction novel by Patricia McKissack is published by Scholastic Inc. and 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. What does Rosemary do that makes the adults in her life consider her a pioneer? What struggles does she face as one of the few black students at a white school? When have you felt like you were in the minority? How did it feel, and how did you handle it?
2. Why does Grace initially bully Rosemary? What events cause their relationship to change? What can you do if someone bullies you? How can you help another person you see being treated badly by others?
3. What does the word tolerance mean? How does this relate to racism? How is this word most often used today?

Frindle



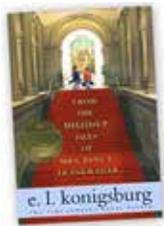
This drama by Andrew Clements is published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. *Frindle* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

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. Nick shows us that you don't have to be the "most popular" or "most athletic" to be a winner. What are some qualities that make Nick likeable and successful?
2. What are some ways we can be creative without disrespecting authority?
3. Do you think Mrs. Granger is a good teacher?
4. What do you think about the way she reacts to Nick's new word?

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler



This adventure book by E.L. Konigsburg is published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's

Publishing Division and 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. Why does Claudia think running away is the answer to her problems? What kind of new problems might young people create for themselves by running away from home? Why might running away from home be more dangerous today than it was in this story?
2. What kind of injustices did Claudia feel she was suffering at home? How else, besides leaving, might the children have dealt with the things they didn't like at home? How are Claudia and Jamie unjust in their treatment of their family? How is Jamie unjust to his friend Bruce?
3. Why are Claudia and Jamie a good team? What role does each child play while they're away from home? When do you get along best with your siblings?
4. Why did Claudia want to come home different from when she left? Have you ever wanted to change something about yourself or be someone else? What would you change if you could? How would this change improve your life?

The Frontiersman's Daughter



This Christian historical romance book is by Laura Frantz and is published by Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group. *The Frontiersman's Daughter* is not

age-level ranked. It has been marketed for adults and mature young adults 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. Would you have wanted to leave the civilized cities of the East to homestead in Kentucky? How do the dangers of this time period affect Sara Click? Ma Horn? Ezekial?
2. How do Lael's life experiences and personality fit her ability to be a fine herbalist? What makes her unsuccessful as a teacher? Do you see any of these traits in yourself? How are you similar to or different from Lael?
3. What are some of the good character qualities found in the Click family—Ezekial, Sara, Lael and Ransom? What character qualities do individuals have that concern you? How might they have handled their lives differently if they were true believers in Christ?
4. How is Lael blind to Simon's and Captain Jack's worldly sides? What might her life have been like if she had married either man? Have you ever wanted

something then later been relieved that you didn't get it? Explain.

5. Who does Lael have a hard time forgiving? How does not forgiving this person hurt her? How does forgiving this person change her?
6. How does Ian hold true to his Christian convictions or bend them? Is he a good example of God's love for others at Fort Click? For Lael?