

Book Review Discussion Questions

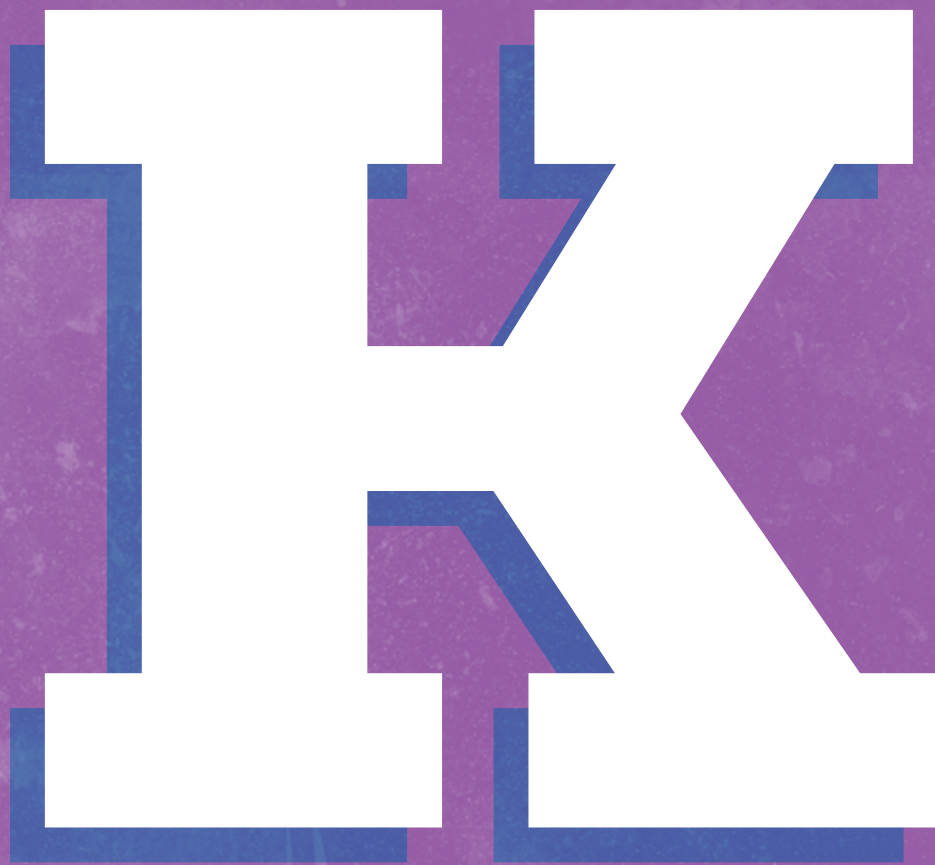


Table of Contents

Kate and the Spies	3
Kathleen's Abiding Hope	3
Kathleen's Enduring Faith	3
Kathleen's Shaken Dreams	4
Kathleen's Unforgettable Winter	4
Katy's New World	4
The Kill Order	5
Kingdom's Dawn	5
Kingdom's Quest	5
Kira-Kira	6
The Kite Runner	6
The Knight at Dawn	7
Kristy's Great Idea	7

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

Kate and the Spies



This sixth historical fiction book in the “Sisters in Time” series by Joann A. Grote is published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. *Kate and the Spies*

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 is Kate torn between the two opposing sides? Have you ever felt like Kate?
2. How does Kate eventually clarify her stand? Have you ever had to determine what you believe? How did you do this? What was the result? What does God’s Word say about doubt?
3. What are the colonists willing to do to secure their freedom? Have you ever faced a situation where you had to stand up for something? How can you tell when a cause is worth fighting for? What does John 16:13 say about guidance from the Holy Spirit?
4. How does Kate’s world change as a result of her experiences? How does she resolve to let God use her according to His will? Are you willing to allow God to use you in any way that He sees fit, or do you have plans for your life that you do not want God to mess up? Which do you think is the better attitude? What are some areas in your life that you need to submit to God? What are some ways in which you can do this?
6. Which two people did Kathleen want to be like?
7. When did Kathleen trust God? When did Kathleen not trust God? What did she trust when she wasn’t trusting God? What happened when she didn’t trust God?

Kathleen’s Abiding Hope



This third historical fiction book in the “A Life of Faith: Kathleen McKenzie” series by Tracy Leininger Craven is published by Zonderkidz.

Kathleen’s Abiding Hope 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 situation did Kathleen’s mother face that was beyond her control?
2. What situation did Kathleen’s father face that was beyond his control?
3. What situation did Kathleen face that was beyond her control?
4. How did each person react differently? How did they help each other through those situations?
5. Who did Kathleen think had a steadfast mind?

Kathleen’s Enduring Faith



This fourth historical fiction book in the “A Life of Faith: Kathleen McKenzie” series by Tracy Leininger Craven is published by Zonderkidz.

Kathleen’s Enduring Faith 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. How does Kathleen react to the hardships she and her family must endure? How does Papa explain these trials to her? What has she forgotten about the race of life? Have you ever faced a trial in your life? What did God teach you about Himself through it?
2. How does the McKenzie family respond to the activities of the Ku Klux Klan? What does God’s Word say about approaching

those who live in sin? Have you ever encountered someone who displayed prejudice toward others? How did you respond? What steps can you take to demonstrate love toward those around you?

Kathleen's Shaken Dreams



This first historical fiction book in the "A Life of Faith: Kathleen McKenzie" series by Tracy Leininger Craven is published by Zonderkidz. *Kathleen's Shaken*

Dreams 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. Kathleen learned that perseverance is often more important than winning. What are some ways Kathleen and her family persevered through difficult times?
2. What qualities did Papa and Mama want to foster in their children as shown by the inscription in Kathleen's book? What do you think of this inscription?

Kathleen's Unforgettable Winter



This second historical fiction book in the "A Life of Faith: Kathleen McKenzie" series by Tracy Leininger Craven is published by Zonderkidz.

Kathleen's Unforgettable Winter 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. Kathleen struggles to adapt to a new life and make friends with her cousins. How did her attitude affect her acceptance and ability to contribute to the family?
2. Grandma Maggie's life story holds the lesson that Kathleen is struggling to learn. Discuss what Kathleen can learn from her grandmother's story.
3. Kathleen is not able to trust her cousins with the truth. What keeps her from trusting them, and what are the consequences for Kathleen of that mistrust?

Katy's New World



This Christian coming-of-age book is the first book in the "Katy Lambright" series by Kim Vogel Sawyer and is published by Zondervan. *Katy's*

New World 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. How does Katy express her disagreement or frustration with the adults? What does she do to share her feelings? How can writing your feelings down on paper and then destroying them be an effective way of dealing with conflict? What are the problems with doing it this way? How do you handle your emotions when you are in difficult situations or want to show respect to someone with whom you don't agree? Katy is able to speak honestly about her feelings with her grandmother. Who can you go to when you need to talk?
2. What do Annika and two of Katy's cousins do to Katy in an attempt to prove that she shouldn't be spending time with people who are not Mennonite? How does Katy respond? Are the Scriptures her friends use effective? When Katy responds with a Scripture, is it persuasive? How was the Bible helpful to Katy as she was making difficult choices? How is the Bible helpful to you when you make difficult choices? When you find verses that seem to conflict with one another, who can you go to for help in discerning what God is trying to tell you through His Word?
3. How do Katy's classmates view her as different? How do Shelby's classmates view Shelby? How is it easier for Shelby to hide her faith than it is for Katy? Does Shelby hide her faith? How do you hide

your faith at school? How do you share it?

4. In what ways are Shelby's and Katy's beliefs the same? How are they different? In what ways do both girls attempt to demonstrate Christ's love to others?
5. What does Grandma Ruthie say about the Amish tradition called rumspringa in which young people are given the opportunity to embrace the habits of the world before joining their respective church? How does Grandma Ruthie relate rumspringa to the importance of Katy owning her faith? How is Katy better able to embrace her faith by the end of the book?

The Kill Order



This futuristic, science-fiction novel by James Dashner is the prequel to "Maze Runner Trilogy" and is published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of

Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House Inc. *The Kill Order* is written for kids ages 12 and older.

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

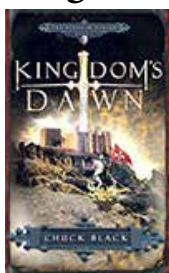
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Why might people become violent after the solar flares? How do people today react during a natural disaster? What is similar? What is different?
2. Why does the government issue the Kill Order? Why isn't that the

right thing to do? How does that Order make things worse, not better? How could the situation be handled differently?

3. Why is Deedee seen as a demon by some of the survivors? How does Mark see her? How do you see her? What motivates each perspective?
4. If your friend were infected with the Flare, what would you do? If you were infected, what would you do? In real life, most illnesses are not so infectious or deadly. Think about someone you know who is suffering from a life-threatening disease or chronic pain. What can you do to help that person today?

Kingdom's Dawn



This first Christian, medieval fantasy, allegory book in the "The Kingdom" series by Chuck Black is published by Multnomah Kidz. *Kingdom's Dawn* 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. Which characters in the book represent Bible characters? Explain. [Note: In the back of the book, the author details his parallels.]
2. What is Leinad called to do? How has the king prepared him?
3. When you're called to do something, does that mean the task will be easy? Will God prepare

you before He asks you to do something?

4. What do you think God is calling you to do or be? Was Leinad's calling easy?

Kingdom's Quest



This medieval fantasy and allegory is the fifth book in "The Kingdom" series by Chuck Black and is published by Multnomah, a division of

Waterbrook. *Kingdom's Quest* 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. Whom does the Prince represent? Whom does Gavinaugh represent? What quest does the Prince give Gavinaugh? What quest does God give Paul in real life?
2. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What does Jesus tell His disciples to do after He is gone? Now read Acts 1:6-9. Where does Jesus tell His disciples to preach the Gospel? How does this apply to us?
3. Why would it have been easier for Gavinaugh to go back to the order of the Noble Knights than to remain a follower of the Prince? Why doesn't he? If you were a character in this book, would you be a Noble Knight or a follower of the Prince? Why?
4. How does Gavinaugh risk his life for the Prince? Why does he do that? What is exciting about

the thought that someday you may have to risk your life for the Prince? What is scary about that thought?

5. Where does Gavinaugh find strength during battle? How does this strength help him? What kinds of battles do you face each day?
6. Read Isaiah 40:27-31. Where should you find strength when you feel weak?
7. What challenges made it difficult for Gavinaugh to follow the Prince? What challenges make it difficult for you to follow Jesus? How are your paths similar? How are they different? What can you learn from Gavinaugh?

Kira-Kira



This historical fiction, slice-of-life book by Cynthia Kadohata is published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster

Children's Publishing Division and 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. Did it surprise you that Katie's family experienced so much prejudice?
2. What have you read or heard about racial prejudice in our country, in the past and even today?

3. Do you think Lynn made a positive impression on the world, even though her life was short?
4. What were some things she did that helped and encouraged others?
5. Katie had to make some difficult choices during the time Lynn was sick. What were some things she did well? What were some mistakes she made?
6. Katie says she feels hate and anger toward Amber and the girls who shunned her sister. Have you ever felt hatred toward someone?
7. How does the Bible tell us to respond to our enemies?
8. Katie's dad wrecks his boss's Cadillac. Later, even though he's unlikely to get caught, he takes Katie with him to the man's house and tells the truth. He says to Katie, "I don't ever want you to be afraid to apologize." What do you think of his actions? Did he do the right thing, or should he have kept his mouth shut so he wouldn't lose his job?
9. What are some everyday sights or events that make life kira-kira (glittering) to you?
10. Have you taken the opportunity to thank the one true God for creating beautiful things?
11. Other items to note: A lady at the hotel where Katie's family stays is drunk, as are some neighbors after a New Year's Eve party. Katie's mom has to wear a sanitary pad because the factory workers aren't allowed to take unscheduled bathroom breaks. On several occasions, Katie mentions how she can smell her mother's urine-soaked pad. (The author uses this and other issues to point out the problems with

the non-unionized factories in which Katie's parents work.) Katie steals nail polish for Lynn, writes letters from her "mother" to the school and lies about being sick in order to be with her sister.

The Kite Runner



This contemporary novel written by Khaled Hosseini is published by Riverhead books. The novel is written for adults but is sometimes assigned to high

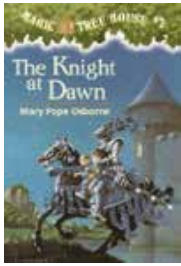
school students, especially in 12th grade.

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. Though Amir loves Hassan like a brother, he becomes very jealous of his friend when Baba shows them equal affection. How did this treatment affect the way Amir treated Hassan? Have you ever been jealous of someone? Did you treat this person differently because of your jealousy?
2. Sohrab is named after one of the main characters in Hassan's favorite book. Amir used to read this story to him. How does connecting his son to his old friend show that Hassan has moved on from what happened, even though Amir hasn't? Discuss the many times Hassan forgave Amir. Do you think this made him a stronger or a weaker man?

The Knight at Dawn



This fantasy adventure book by Mary Pope Osborne is the second in the “Magic Tree House” series and is published by Random House. *The Knight at Dawn* 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. Whose idea is it to travel to the castle—Jack’s or Annie’s? Do you and your friends always agree on what to do together? If you don’t agree, how do you decide what to do?
2. Why did knights wear armor long ago? What happened when Jack put on the helmet? Have you ever dressed up in a costume or worn a mask? How did you feel when you were wearing it?
3. Jack is angry with his sister when she disappears and says that he’s going to kill her. Do you think he was serious? Why does he say it? Have you ever said words you didn’t mean?
4. At the end of the story, Annie believes the knight is there to help them, but her brother isn’t sure. How can you tell whether a stranger really wants to help you? Is it OK to go with strangers? Why or why not?

Kristy’s Great Idea



This tween chick-lit book is the first in “The Baby-Sitters Club” series by Ann M. Martin and is published by Scholastic Inc. *Kristy’s Great Idea* 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 does Kristy do and say to make Watson feel unwelcome around her family? What might she have done differently to avoid hurting Watson’s feelings and upsetting her mom?
2. Why is Mary Anne initially unable to join the rest of the club for a pizza party? What kind of agreement does she make with her father? Can you describe a similar situation in which you disagreed with someone but came to a compromise?
3. Of the comments made by each of the girls during their argument, which ones were said simply to hurt someone’s feelings? How could they have handled this situation better?