

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

R My Name is Rachel



This historical juvenile fiction by Patricia Reilly Giff is published by Wendy Lamb Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books. *R My Name is*

Rachel is written for 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. How does Rachel feel when she learns she has to leave the family's apartment in the city? What is most devastating to her? What does she come to love about the farmhouse? What events shape this change in her attitude?
2. How well do you think you'd do if you were left on your own for a long time? How might you take care of younger siblings if you had money? How might you take care of them if you didn't have money?
3. How do the drawings Rachel sees in the house, barn and on rocks encourage her? Why did Anton draw them? What kinds of pictures inspire you?
4. Why does Rachel believe she can't ask for help? Who does help her? What would have happened if Mrs. Freeman hadn't helped Rachel? Is Cassie right to ask Miss Mitzi for help? Whom might you ask for help if you were in need? What would make you reluctant to ask for help from some people?
5. The apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:13-14: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." How does this compare to the advice Pop and Mr. Appleby give Rachel when they only tell her to "look forward" as a means of giving her hope for the future? From where does our hope come? In whom can we best place our trust?
6. While Rachel's father is away, she finds and reads a letter he had started to Miss Mitzi. Later she shows it to Miss Mitzi. Why is she doing this wrong? What should she have done?
7. Rachel breaks into the closed schoolhouse and "borrows" a few books to read, but later returns them. Is it really "borrowing" when someone takes something without asking the owner? What did Rachel really do? What should she have done?
8. An ongoing sibling rivalry exists between Rachel and Cassie. They generally manage to make things right with each other, though some mean thoughts and words occur. How do you and your siblings treat each other? How can you keep from competing with each other? How can you treat each other with respect if you disagree with each other?

Race for Freedom



This historical fiction novel by Lois Walfrid Johnson is the second in the "Freedom Seekers" series published by Moody Publishers, River North Division. This

book is written for kids ages 9 to 16.

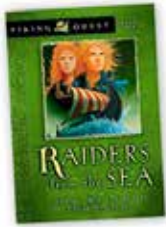
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. What are some historical facts or places you learned about in this story? What was the most interesting to you?
2. What does Caleb mean when he tells Libby her pa has a good name? What does it take to have a good name? How can you live so that you can be thought of having a good name?
3. What does Pa tell Libby about courage? Where does it come from? In what areas of your life do you need to be more courageous? What do you need to do to be more courageous in these areas?
4. Why do Libby's feelings of friendship for Elsa change? Who have you been jealous of? How has jealousy hurt you or someone you know?

5. Think about Jordan, Elsa and Libby. How do people treat each of them differently based on their race or wealth? How are people from different races and social classes looked upon in our society today? How does God feel about people of different skin colors or social classes?

Raiders from the Sea



This first historical fiction book in the “Viking Quest” series by Lois Walfrid Johnson is published by Moody Publishers. *Raiders From the Sea* is written for

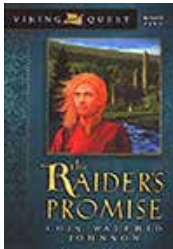
kids ages 10 to 14.

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. *Raiders from the Sea* gives a wonderful example of how the choices of one person affect others. Mikkel’s desire for fortune is greater than his empathy for others. Several times in the story, Bree makes a remark about missing her home and her family. These comments seem to take Mikkel by surprise, as if it never occurred to him that his prisoner had a life and family. Discuss how your decisions affect others.
2. Another theme throughout the book is that God is always with you, regardless of your situation. If God were a physical being and you truly believed He was with you day and night, how might you act differently?
3. Discuss how easy it is to think that you are alone or that no one is watching. What kinds of things can you do to remind yourself of God’s presence?
4. The O’Toole family makes preparations for the Viking attack. They had to think ahead about what might happen. How can Christians be spiritually prepared for an attack from the Enemy?
5. What types of preparations can you do to make sure that you are ready?

The Raider’s Promise



This historical fiction book is the fifth in the “Viking Quest” series by Lois Walfrid Johnson and is published by Moody Publishers. *The Raider’s Promise* 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. Mikkel has found a new freedom in his walk with God. Why does Mikkel want a new beginning with Bree? What does he do to prove this to her? How does Bree react? How do you react when someone you know is trying to change for the good? Why is it difficult to change your views about those you know who say they have changed? What can you do to help instead of hinder people in their Christian growth?
2. With his newfound faith, how does Mikkel view his sinful past?

Even though God forgave him, what does he need to do from those he has wronged?

3. When Brother Cronan forgives him on behalf of the Irish people, how does Mikkel feel? Have you ever felt that type of forgiveness? How does Mikkel want to make things right? How does he plan to undo the evil he has done? What have you ever been forgiven for? Is there anything in your life for which you need to make restitution?
4. What have Aiden and Mam O’Toole been praying for since Mikkel raided their countryside? How can you trust that God knows His plans for you? Are you willing to submit your life to Him even when things do not go your way?
5. How difficult is it for Bree’s parents to pray for the man who has caused the hurt in their family? Are you willing to pray for your enemies? Are you willing to trust that God is in control even when you do not see a happy ending today?

Ramona and Her Father



This humorous book is not in a series but is the fourth book in a collection of eight that feature Ramona Quimby as the main character.

Written by Beverly Cleary, the *Ramona Collection* is published by HarperTrophy, which is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. *Ramona and Her Father* 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. Do you agree with Ramona's father that the Quimbys are a happy family? How can you be a happy family even when you have problems? How would you describe "a happy family"?
2. Why does Ramona change the items on her Christmas wish list after her father loses his job? What, if anything, has caused you to stop and think about how much something costs? What, if anything, has made you change your mind about something you wanted because it cost too much?
3. Ramona has lots of ideas about what she would do with a million dollars—buying a cuckoo clock for every room in the house and going to Disneyland. What would you do if you had a million dollars? Do you think having more money makes people happier?
4. Why do Ramona and Beezus try to get their father to stop smoking? What have others tried to stop you from doing for your own good? What have you tried to stop others from doing for their own good?
5. How does Ramona feel when she comes home from school and finds the house locked? Tell about a time when you were locked out of your house. Did you feel the same way Ramona did? What did you do while you were waiting for someone to come home and let you in?
6. Why is Ramona surprised when her sister is chosen to play the part of Mary in the Christmas

pageant? Does she feel different when she sees Beezus dressed as Mary? What kind of play have you been in at school or church? How did it feel to dress up like someone or something else? Would you ever want to do this again?

Ramona and Her Mother



This humorous book is not in a series but is the fifth in a collection of eight books that feature Ramona Quimby as the main character. Written by Beverly

Cleary, the Ramona Collection is published by HarperTrophy, which is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. *Ramona and Her Mother* 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 does Willa Jean do that reminds one of the guests of Ramona? How does Ramona feel when she hears this? Does her mother agree or disagree?
2. Why does Ramona get frustrated when she is sewing with her mother? Tell about a time when you spent time with one of us [your mother or father]. Was that time ever interrupted? How did the interruption make you feel?
3. Why is Ramona confused when Mrs. Rudge says there is no such word as can't? Is Mrs. Rudge right or wrong? What did Mrs. Rudge mean?

4. Why isn't the stew ready when the Quimby family comes home from their long day? Who is responsible for making dinner at our house? What was the worst dinner our family has ever had?
5. Ramona thinks parents should be cheerful and loving all the time, never sick and never tired. Is this possible? Is it true that people are grumpier when they are tired? Are you? Tell about a time when you were grumpy because you were tired.
6. How does Beezus feel when she spends her own allowance to get her hair cut at a salon? Have you ever bought something with your own money and wish you hadn't afterward?
7. What does Mr. Quimby mean when he says the world doesn't revolve around Ramona? What does he want her to learn?
8. Why does Ramona's mother help pack a suitcase when Ramona decides to run away? Have you ever wanted to run away from our home? Why? What made you change your mind?
9. What kinds of things does Ramona remember when she realizes how much her mother loves her? What are some things that I do [or your mother does] for you that make you feel loved?

Ramona Forever



This humorous book is not in a series but is in a collection of eight books that feature Ramona Quimby as the main character. Written by Beverly Cleary,

the Ramona Collection is published

by HarperTrophy, which is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. *Ramona Forever* 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. When Ramona touches her mother's belly and feels the baby kick, she calls it a miracle. Why do you think she uses that word? Are you as curious as Ramona is about babies?
2. Why does Ramona ask her sister to put their dead cat into a cardboard box instead of doing it herself? Have you ever had a pet die? Did you have a funeral afterward, like Ramona and Beezus, or did you do something else to remember your pet?
3. Why are Ramona and her sister worried when their father can't find a teaching job? Have you ever had to move to another city because one of your parents changed jobs?
4. Did Ramona do the right thing when she disobeyed Mrs. Kemp and crawled under Aunt Beatrice's dress to retrieve the wedding ring? What would you have done if you were Ramona?
5. How does Ramona feel when she isn't allowed into the hospital to see her baby sister? What are some things that you aren't old enough to do?

Ramona Quimby, Age 8



This humorous book is not in a series but is in a collection of eight books with Ramona Quimby as the main character. Written by Beverly Cleary,

the *Ramona Collection* is published by HarperTrophy, which is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. *Ramona Quimby, Age 8* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

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

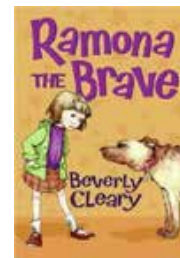
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Ramona finds forgiveness difficult when her mother accidentally puts a raw egg instead of a hardboiled one in her lunch. Has your mother (or I) ever done something that you needed to forgive her (or me) for? Was forgiving easy or hard to do?
2. Why did Mrs. Quimby serve tongue instead of roast beef to the family? Have you ever been served something that you didn't like? What is the worst thing you were ever served? What is the best thing? How do you handle both situations?
3. Why do Mr. and Mrs. Quimby ask Ramona and her sister to cook dinner for the family? Is this a fair consequence for the way they were acting? What do they learn from cooking dinner together?
4. How does Ramona feel when she overhears Miss Whaley call her a

nuisance and a show-off? Should teachers talk with each other about their students? How does Ramona feel after she tells her teacher what she heard?

5. How does Ramona know that her parents are concerned about their family's future? Have you ever heard your mother and father talking about grown-up things when they think you're not listening?
6. Why did the mysterious stranger pay for the Quimbys' meal? Have you ever done something nice for someone you didn't know? How did you feel afterward?

Ramona the Brave



This humorous book is not in a series but is the second in a collection of eight books that feature Ramona Quimby as the main character. Written by Beverly Cleary, the

Ramona Collection is published by HarperTrophy, which is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. *Ramona the Brave* 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 did the author title this book *Ramona the Brave*? Can you remember some of the brave things that Ramona does at home and at school? When was the last time you felt brave?

2. When the boys on the playground are teasing Beezus, why does Ramona tell them not to take the Lord's name in vain? What does that mean? Have you ever tried to do something nice for someone and have been misunderstood?
3. Why are Ramona and her sister so glad that their parents are building an extra bedroom onto the house? What is the best thing about sharing? What is the hardest thing?
4. Why is Ramona angry with Susan as they are making paper owls? Have you ever felt that someone was copying your ideas? What did you do?
5. On the first night that Ramona sleeps in her new bedroom, how does she feel? Have you ever gotten something that you asked for and then were surprised that it wasn't what you thought it would be?
6. Why does Ramona hide her progress report in a drawer? How does Mrs. Quimby respond when Ramona says that her parents love Beezus more than they love her? Have you ever felt this way?

Ramona the Pest



This humorous book is not in a series but is the first in a collection of eight books with Ramona Quimby as the main character.

Written by Beverly

Cleary, the Ramona Collection is published by HarperTrophy, which is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. *Ramona the Pest* 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 Ramona's sister call her a "pest"? Has anyone ever called you a name? How did it make you feel?
2. Why does Ramona think Miss Binney is going to give her a present? Can you remember a time that you were expecting something to happen and were disappointed when it didn't?
3. How does Ramona feel when the children laugh at her during show-and-tell? Why do they stop laughing when Miss Binney tells them to say "Chevrolet"? Has your teacher ever said or done something that made you feel that she really understood you?
4. Why does Ramona want to pull on Susan's curls? Is Miss Binney being fair when she sends Ramona home after pulling Susan's curls?
5. Why does Ramona hide behind the trashcans? Have you ever had a substitute teacher? How was she different from your regular teacher?
6. How do the boys feel when Ramona wraps the worm around her finger and says she is engaged? Do you think she will marry Henry Huggins?
7. Why is Ramona afraid behind her Halloween mask? Will anyone know she is behind it? Have you ever worn a mask? How did it make you feel?

Ramona's World



This humorous book is not in a series but is the eighth in a collection of eight books that feature Ramona Quimby as the main character.

Written by Beverly Cleary, the Ramona Collection is published by HarperTrophy, which is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. *Ramona's World* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

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

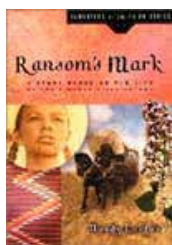
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. Sometimes Ramona feels that everyone gets more attention than she does. Have you ever felt that way? What helped you understand that you don't have to compete for your parents' or teacher's attention? What helped Ramona understand this?
2. What surprises Ramona about Daisy's family? Whose house have you spent time at? How are your friend's family, house and rules different from ours? What is similar about your friend's family and ours?
3. What does Ramona do to look nice for her school picture? What went wrong? Think about a time you had your picture taken at school. How did you decide what to wear? Were you happy with the way the photo turned out? Explain.
4. How does Ramona feel when Yard Ape writes a note to her on

Valentine's Day? What do you and your friends do in school to celebrate Valentine's Day? How do you let your friends know that they are special to you?

5. Why do Ramona and Daisy write a letter to the owner of the ad in the newspaper? Have you ever written a letter to, emailed or texted someone you didn't know? Explain. Did you receive a response, as Ramona did?
6. Why does Ramona want to take care of Clawed? Have you ever been paid to take care of someone else's pet? How was watching a pet easy? How was it difficult?

Ransom's Mark: A Story Based on the Life of the Pioneer Olive Oatman



This book is in the "Daughters of Faith" series by Wendy Lawton and is published by Moody Publishers. *Ransom's Mark* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

Note: If parents pursue additional study, they will learn that the Oatmans were a Mormon family.

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. Topeka and Olive talk about their views on God, and Olive is surprised that God was able to use Topeka to rescue her and her sister. Romans 1:20 says that God makes Himself known so that no man has an excuse. How does this relate to Topeka and her conviction to find the Oatman girls?
2. Read Proverbs 31 and compare this woman to Mrs. Oatman. Now consider Olive at the end of the story. In what ways is she like—and not like—her mother? Is Olive on her way to becoming a Proverbs 31 woman?
3. Mr. Oatman and Lorenzo are strong men in the family, but they have different personalities. What are their godly qualities? Would you want them in your family?
4. In I Corinthians 12 and 14, we can read about spiritual gifts. Mr. Oatman seems to have had the gift of discernment; Mrs. Oatman seems to have had the gift of exhortation. What gift or gifts do you see in Olive by the end of the story?
5. When her faith is shaken, Olive is encouraged by Topeka to recall all of God's protection over her in the past. By remembering specific times when God revealed His faithfulness, Olive is able to grow her faith in the present. What experiences in your past do you need to remember to help you be more faithful in the present?
6. When Olive's fate is in the hands of the Mojave leaders, who must decide if she can return to the white men, she prays for them to come to the right decision. Do you sometimes rely too much on trying to talk someone into your way of thinking, or do you make it a matter of prayer and ask God to guide the wisdom of those in authority over you?
7. During the drought and famine among the Mojave people, Olive prays for God to help her find berries, which He does. Others consider her find to be a miracle. Later, the chief's wife entrusts a plot of land to Olive and Mary Ann to tend for food. Think about the story of Joseph, who was also used to help feed people who took him captive. What parallels can you draw between the two, and how do their stories glorify God?
8. The Bible tells us to feed the hungry, clothe the poor and bring water to the thirsty. List the people in the story who did those things. Are you surprised by the diversity of their backgrounds? What can you learn from this?
9. At the end of the story, Topeka encourages Olive to remember God's love for her every time she sees her tattoo—the mark of her ransom. Is there a visual cue you can use during your everyday life to remind you that God loves you and sent His son to be your substitution and your ransom?
10. Psalm 18 is close to Olive's heart. Read it all the way through and note the comments and imagery about being a captive who has been delivered from strong enemies. Is Olive's story one of exile? Why, or why not? How might she find strength in the stories of biblical captives?

Reached



This dystopian romance trilogy is the third in the "Matched" series written by Ally Condie and is published by Dutton Books, a division of Penguin Group.

Reached is written for 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. Indie and Ky hear from the Pilot that the Rising chose them, even before they joined. Look up John 15:16 in the Bible. Talk about how the Lord chose us and the mission He has given us.
2. Xander realizes that Cassia's love will mean more if she were to choose to love him rather than have the Society choose him for her. How is this like the kind of love God desires from us? How does free will factor into our love for God?
3. Ky mistakenly says that praying was when people would say aloud what they wanted and hope someone would hear them. Do you agree or disagree with Ky? Explain. How would you define prayer?
4. What definition would you give for the Pilot? What character traits make a good leader? How do you determine whom you can trust as a leader?

The Red Pyramid



This fantasy book by Rick Riordan is the first in the “Kane Chronicles” series and is published by Disney-Hyperion, a division of the Disney Book

Group. *The Red Pyramid* 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:

1. Why does Sadie feel abandoned by her father? How does this affect her relationship with Carter? What misconceptions do Sadie and Carter hold about each other's lives, and how do they resolve these issues? Have you ever been treated differently than one of your siblings? How did this make you feel?
2. Uncle Amos says that Egyptian gods don't represent the forces of good and evil, but of order and chaos. How does this differ from the God of the Bible? How would Christianity be different if we believed that order were the highest good? When have you experienced circumstances that were orderly but not good? When have you been in a chaotic environment that wasn't evil?
3. Throughout the story, Egyptian gods possess animals and people. How is this possession similar to demon possession as described in the Bible?
4. Sadie and Carter meet their parents in the Hall of Judgment. There, Anubis weighs the hearts of the deceased. Ammit the Devourer eats the hearts of the wicked. Compare the Egyptian vision of the afterlife to what the Bible teaches.
5. Sadie's parents make choices that lead to their deaths. How would you feel if your parents sacrificed their lives for something they believed to be necessary? When Sadie pronounces Set's name, the red pyramid collapses and her father is killed. Is Sadie responsible for her father's death? How

would it affect you if your actions led to the death of someone else?

Redwall



This first adventure book in the “Redwall” series by Brian Jacques is published by Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Group 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. Matthias believes he was born to fulfill a purpose. What is your purpose, or how can you discover it?
2. How is Redwall like the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)?
3. Cluny seems to have no regard for the lives of others. Where do you see that sort of behavior in our society?
4. In what ways does Cluny's unkind behavior toward others end up hurting him?

Remarkable



This contemporary fantasy is written by Lizzie K. Foley and published by Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Group. *Remarkable* is

written for ages 9 to 12.

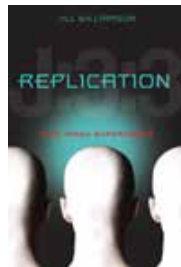
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. How would you feel if you were the only ordinary person in a family or town of remarkable people? What are Jane's talents and gifts? What talents or gifts do you have?
2. Would you rather be around Jane or another character from this book? Explain why. How should gifts and talents be used? What is one good thing about using your gifts to help others? What happens when people use their talents only for their own good? Do you like being around people who are only concerned about how well they do a particular thing? Explain. How can you use your gifts and talents to serve others?
3. Why does Ysquibel hide his true identity? Do you think he was happier being a pirate at sea or being a great composer? What do you think would make him happy in the future?
4. What would you do if you uncovered a secret about somebody famous? What would you do if

someone promised to reward you for the information?

Replication: The Jason Experiment



This science fiction book by Jill Williamson is published by ZonderKids, a division of Zondervan, a HarperCollins company, and is

written for kids ages 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:

1. Why does Abby have a problem with human cloning? Why is embryonic stem cell research such a hot issue for characters in this book? What do various characters believe about this type of testing? What is your opinion of these practices, and why?
2. If this story were true, should the Jasons be considered human? Explain your answer.
3. What happens that makes Abby concerned she is not setting a good Christian example for her father? Do you think her argumentative behavior toward her father is justified, or does it harm her Christian witness? Explain your answer. In what ways does your behavior toward friends, teachers, siblings or parents demonstrate (or fail to convey) your beliefs?
4. Why is Martyr's name so appropriate for him? What are some of the sacrificial things he does?

What does Abby learn from him about how to behave like Jesus? To whom does Martyr show compassion?

5. What are Abby's views on dating? Are her methods (wearing little make-up, not studying alone with a boy, etc.) wise or simply old-fashioned? Explain your answer. What safeguards do you have in place to keep yourself out of compromising situations with members of the opposite sex?
6. What role does "purpose" play in this book? Do you agree with Abby that God has a purpose for each of us? What do you think your purpose might be?

Requiem



This science fiction/romance book by Lauren Oliver is the third in the "Delirium" series and is published by HarperCollins. *Requiem* 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:

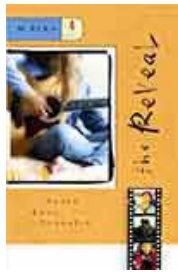
1. At the end of the story, Lena advises readers to take down the walls in their lives. She infers that behind the safety of a wall, people may never know bad things, but they won't find heaven, either. What does that statement mean to you? Have you built any "walls" in your life? Should they be torn down? Explain.

- Hana's jealousy led her to turn her friends over to the regulators. How has jealousy affected your friendships? How could the situation have been handled differently?
- After Alex leaves, Lena realizes that he sacrificed himself to keep her safe. Lena also realizes the sacrifices her mother made for her. Have you ever sacrificed for someone else? Has anyone ever sacrificed for you? What was the situation? What does the Bible say about true sacrifice?
- Fred is abusive to Hana. What does the Bible say about how a husband should treat his wife?

- Why did Gretchen decide to kill herself? Have you ever felt that way? Who is someone you could talk to if you ever feel that way?
- What does David, Lori's dad, struggle with? How does the world view pornography? What do you believe about pornography? Is it something you struggle with? How does pornography change the way people see things?

- Both Alex and Andi were drawn to risk their own lives to bring comfort to a dying child. Is there any social injustice you feel particularly moved by? What things could you do to show God's love to the world?
- Andi's guilt led her to contemplate suicide on several occasions. What would you do if you thought a friend was thinking about killing herself? Whom could you call for help?

The Reveal



This coming-of-age book is the fourth in the "Becoming Beka" series by Sarah Anne Sumpolec and is published by Moody Publishers. *The*

Reveal is written for kids ages 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:

- Mark, Beka and Josh have different ideas about what is physically appropriate. What does Mark believe? What does Beka believe? What does Josh believe? What do you believe?
- Do you know people who think like Mark? Beka? Josh? What were the consequences of their actions?

Revolution



This mix of a contemporary and historical drama is written by Jennifer Donnelly and published by Delacorte Press. *Revolution* is written for ages 14 and

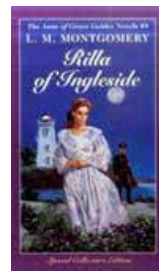
up.

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:

- Andi has difficulty letting anyone close to her. How might the death of Truman have contributed to this? How might her home life before his death have contributed to it? What might her relationship have been with her parents if Truman had lived?
- What have you done that has made you feel guilty? Were you able to find some way to alleviate your guilt? If so, what? If not, perhaps reading Psalm 103:8-12 would help. Describe the negative effect guilt had on Andi. She jokes about Jesus healing broken people. How could He have helped her?

Rilla of Ingleside



This historical novel is the eighth book in the "Anne of Green Gables" series by L. M. Montgomery and is published by Starfire, an imprint of

Random House Children's Books. This book 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 does responsibility for another life help Rilla mature? What responsibilities and experiences have helped you grow up?
- What world events impacted Rilla's life? What world events impact your life?
- How can you honor soldiers? How can you honor wounded soldiers? How did Rilla honor them?
- Who are some of the people in this story who were afraid? How did they overcome their fears?

What helps you overcome your fears?

Revolutionary War on Wednesday



This fantasy adventure novel by Mary Pope Osborne is the 22nd book in the “Magic Tree House” series and is published by Random House. Revolutionary

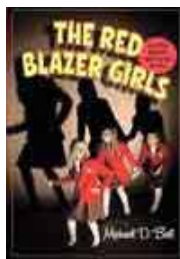
This book is written for kids ages 5 to 8.

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. On which special holiday does the patriot’s secret mission take place? Why don’t the soldiers give up fighting for freedom, even though they want to be home for Christmas? Talk about a time when doing the right thing was difficult for you. Was it worth doing the right thing, even when it was hard to do?
2. Why doesn’t Annie want to leave the soldiers? Is there someone you wish you could help? How can you help someone, even if you’re not physically near them?
3. What does Morgan ask the kids to find and why? How can words be powerful? How have someone else’s words helped you or hurt you? How can your words help or hurt someone?

The Ring of Rocamadour



This mystery by Michael D. Beil is the first book in “The Red Blazer Girls” series and is published by Knopf Books for Young Readers, an imprint of

Random House Children’s Books. This book is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

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

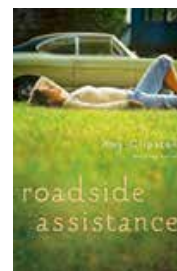
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. If you had a ring that could grant you any wish, what would you wish for? Why?
2. What conclusions does Sophie jump to regarding Leigh Ann? How does she treat Leigh Ann and Raf as a result? Have you ever been sad or angry about something, only to learn later that you had misjudged the situation? What happened?
3. How much do Sophie and her friends know about their faith? What are some ways people’s lives can show their commitment to Christ?
4. How often do the girls use God’s name in vain? Why do they do this? Why do people use profanity? What does the Bible say about God’s name and how it should be used?
5. Which adult characters are the best role models for the girls? Why? Which are the worst? What makes them the worst? Which

choices made by the adults in this book might not be the best? In what way is a young person in this book a role model? How is she a good or poor example?

6. How does the author incorporate literature, math and other subjects into the plot of this book? What lesson does Margaret learn, partly because of the Great Expectations scene the girls act out, that helps her develop a closer relationship with her grandmother? In what ways can literature and math help you outside of school? How might these subjects help you as you grow older?
7. In the process of their investigation, do the girls play by the rules? What do the girls do that may have been disrespectful, dangerous or illegal in their search for the ring? Are there other ways they could have handled these situations, instead of lying, breaking into the church, etc.? What would you have done in their place?

Roadside Assistance



This contemporary Christian, coming-of-age book by Amy Clipston is published by Zondervan. This book is written for 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 Emily experiences grief is different from how her father processes his grief. What are

some of these differences? Have you known anyone who has had a profound loss? What are some things you might do to help someone through this difficult time?

2. This story is partly about a teenage girl who feels alone and as if she doesn't fit in with her new environment. How have you experienced the feeling of being on the outside? How did you adjust?
3. Many times, appearances are what validate a person's worth. Chelsea tells Emily that Zander won't be able to resist her when he sees her dressed up and wearing makeup. From where does our worth come?
4. Emily misjudged her cousin Whitney, thinking she was not a true friend. What led Emily to think that Whitney was shallow? What could Whitney have done differently that would have better conveyed her concern for Emily?
5. Zander doesn't want to be a doctor. How does he cope with his father's unwillingness to recognize their differences? Do you think he respectfully manages his relationship with his father? What were Zander's goals regarding studies beyond high school? Was his father's assessment of auto mechanics an accurate one ("a good hobby but not something to pursue full time")? What would you like to do as a career? What are the obstacles in your path?
6. Would you be comfortable talking with your pastor or youth leader about your problems?
7. Talk about some blessings in your life that perhaps you had not considered earlier as blessings.

Robopocalypse



This science fiction book by Daniel H. Wilson was originally published by Doubleday, a division of Random House Inc.

Robopocalypse is written for adults

but attracts the interest of kids ages 14 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. Why is Archos intent on destroying humanity when he says that living things are incredibly valuable? Archos is unable to recreate another version of himself; why is he frustrated by his inability to create life? In the real world, how does God create new life? Can human beings invent life from machines?
2. Why do the members of the Osage Nation decide to let in refugees from the robots? What problems arise within the Grey Horse reservation because of the refugees they harbor? How does Lonnie Wayne Blanton deal with Lark Iron Cloud, a young man accused of stealing food from the community? What difficulties would arise if Lonnie Wayne simply imprisoned Lark, and what would happen if he failed to punish Lark in any way? Why does Lonnie Wayne say that Lark is not a warrior but a gangster? How does Lonnie Wayne's guidance help Lark become a tribal leader?

3. Initially, Lurker is completely self-absorbed with his pranks and his computer-hacking abilities. What incident contributes to Lurker becoming less self-ish? Why does Lurker say that his time as a prankster made him owe a debt to other people? How does Lurker ultimately serve humanity with his talents?
4. Why does Cormac Wallace try to keep his older brother, Jack, from helping people during the chaos of the Zero Hour attacks? How do the brothers' ideas about heroism differ? When robots slowly kill Tiberius, why does Cormac warn Jack against helping their fellow soldier? What reason does Jack give for helping Tiberius, even knowing that offering aid could result in his own death?
5. Why does Cormac say that human beings have become a better species for having fought the robot war? In what ways can struggling against adversity improve a person's life? After the war is over, what is Cormac's outlook on life?

Rock Harbor Search and Rescue



This mystery adventure book by Colleen Coble is the first in the "Rock Harbor" series for kids and is published by Thomas Nelson. *Rock Harbor*

Search and Rescue is written for kids ages 7 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 Mrs. Dancer use Emily to sell more jewelry? Why must Emily forgive Mrs. Dancer? Describe a time when you had to forgive someone who had hurt you. Describe a time when you had to receive forgiveness from someone else.
2. When Emily discovers Brandon's secret, she tries to persuade him to tell the truth. How does Brandon respond? Tell about a time when you told the truth, even though it got you or someone else in trouble.
3. Bree encourages Emily to make peace with Rachel. What does she tell Emily to do? How does Matthew 5:23-25 relate to Emily's situation? Describe a time when you had to work or play with someone you didn't get along with. What did you do?

Rodrick Rules



This realistic book is the second in the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series by Jeff Kinney and is published by Amulet Books, an imprint of Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

Rodrick Rules 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 doesn't Greg care to hear about Rowley's vacation? If he finds other people's vacations

boring, what should he do when they talk to him about them? What should you do when someone talks about something that you aren't interested in hearing?

2. What was Rowley and Greg's code? How did it work for them? Have you and your friends ever had a secret code? Did it work?
3. What word would you use to describe Greg and Rodrick's relationship? How does their mother try to get them to do more things together? Does it work? What will it take for Greg and Rodrick's relationship to improve?
4. What kind of friend is Greg to Rowley? What kind of friend is Rowley to Greg? Are you more like Rowley or Greg when it comes to friendship? Explain.
5. If you had a new journal, what is the first thing you would write about?

Roland Wright Future Knight



This historical fiction story by Tony Davis is the first in the "Roland Wright" series published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House

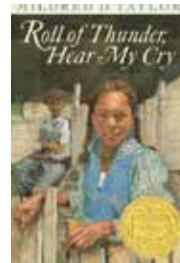
Children's Books, a division of Random House Inc. This book is written for kids ages 6 to 9.

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. Why does Roland want to be a knight? What advice does he get from Sir Gallawood? Give examples of some situations where he follows the knight's advice. Why is it sometimes difficult for him to do the right thing? Who in your life gives you good advice? Give some examples where you have followed that person's good advice. Why is it sometimes difficult for you to do the right thing?
2. How might Sir Gallawood's advice benefit you in your life? Can you think of a time when you behaved justly and unselfishly? What happened? What does it mean to be true to yourself?
3. Which brother would you have picked to become a knight? How does Roland and Shelby's father decide who to choose? Are his tests fair? If you had to choose one person in your class to be a knight, who would it be? What qualities does this person have that are important or knightly?

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry



This historical fiction novel by Mildred D. Taylor is the first in a series about the Logan family published by Dial Books, a member of Penguin Group,

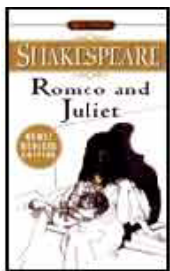
USA, and is written for kids ages 8 to 12 years.

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 would you feel if people treated you the way they treat Cassie and other black people in this story? How would you want to respond to them? Why do Cassie, Uncle Hammer and others sometimes hold their tongues rather than lashing out?
2. What are some of the ways the Logans do fight back against racism? What risks are they taking by doing this? Do you think you would have fought back or kept quiet if you were in their situation?
3. Why does Mama take the kids to the Barry home? What does she reveal to them after they leave? When has witnessing something painful helped you learn a valuable lesson?
4. What kind of person is T. J.? What happens to him at the end of the story? How does he get himself into this terrible situation? What does his story suggest about the type of people with whom we should surround ourselves?

Romeo and Juliet



This play by William Shakespeare is published by Signet Classic, Penguin Group and 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. What is the difference between true love and attraction? Which do you think Romeo and Juliet had, and why?
2. What does “Romeo and Juliet” teach us about holding grudges or acting upon our prejudices?
3. What mistakes were made in “Romeo and Juliet?”
4. Is a double suicide romantic?
5. Based on what the Bible says about the treatment of our bodies (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:15, 19-20, for example), how do you think God feels about suicide?

The Ruins of Gorlan



This fantasy adventure is the first book in the “Ranger’s Apprentice” series by John Flanagan and is published by Puffin Books, a division of

Penguin Young Readers Group. *The Ruins of Gorlan* 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. Why do you think Holt emphasizes honesty as he trains Will? Why does he tell Will not to bluff but to be straightforward when he doesn’t know an answer? What does honesty have to do with being a Ranger, or with doing any job well? How might Will have failed in his tasks if he didn’t value honesty? Why is it important for you to practice honesty in your life?

2. Have you ever been bullied, like Horace was? What did you do? What would you have done in Horace’s situation? Should he have told someone? How did Holt handle the situation? What do you think he should have done? Is violence ever necessary to solve problems? Explain your answer.
3. Why would you like to be a Ranger? What skills do you have that would make you suitable for the task? What would it be like to train with Holt? Do you think Will chose well when he ultimately picked being a Ranger over going to Battleschool? What would you have chosen? Why?
4. Why is it significant that Will knows very little about his past? Why does that make it difficult for him to determine what he should do as a career choice? How does your past (family history, your experiences, your parents’ careers, etc.) affect what you will become as an adult? Explain your answer.