

Book Review Discussion Questions

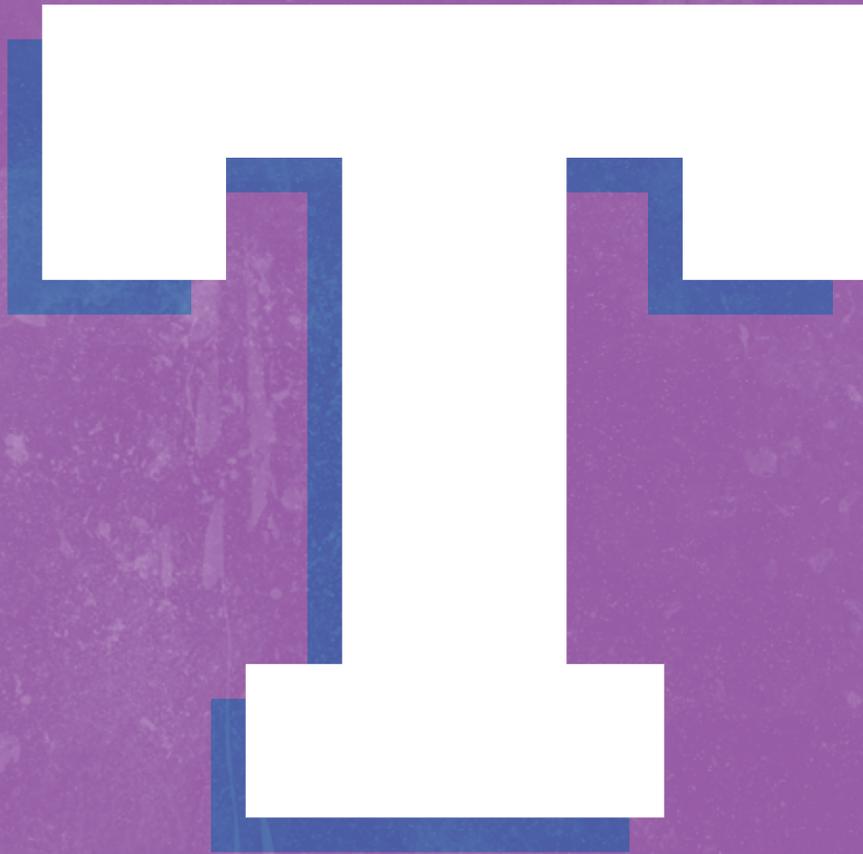


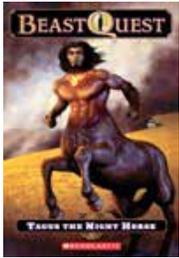
Table of Contents

Tagus the Night Horse	3	Truth Slayers	20
The Tale of Cuffy Bear	3	T'TYL (Talk to You Later)	21
A Tale of Two Cities	3	Tuck Everlasting	21
Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life	4	Twerp	21
Tales from a Not-So-Popular Party Girl	4	Twilight	22
Tales from a Not-So-Talented Pop Star	4	The Two Towers	22
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing	5		
Tamar	5		
Tartok the Ice Beast	5		
Their Eyes Were Watching God	6		
Then Again, Maybe I Won't	6		
Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer	6		
Thirteen Reasons Why	7		
Three Times Lucky	8		
Throne of Fire	8		
Through Thick and Thin	9		
Tiger Eyes	9		
Tigers at Twilight	9		
Time For the Stars	10		
The Time Quake	10		
The Time Thief	11		
The Time Travelers	12		
The Tinker's Daughter: A Story Based on the Life of Mary Bunyan	12		
The Titan's Curse	13		
To Kill a Mockingbird	13		
Toliver's Secret	13		
The Tombs of Anak	14		
Tonight On The Titanic	14		
Torn	14		
Tortilla Flat	15		
Tour de Force	15		
Toward the Goal: The Kaká Story	15		
The Tower Treasure	16		
Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea	16		
Trash	17		
A Tree for Peter	17		
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	17		
Trion Rising	18		
Trouble According to Humphrey	18		
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	19		
True Friends	19		
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs	19		
Truth About Forever	20		
The Truth of the Matter	20		

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

Tagus the Night Horse



This fantasy novel by Adam Blade is the fourth in the “Beast Quest” series and is published by Scholastic Inc. This book 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. Tom knew what to do to stop the fire from spreading across the plain. What would you do in a fire? Can you show me how to “Stop, Drop and Roll”? (Talk over fire safety with your child.)
2. The men of Avantia are afraid of the mysterious horseman because they haven’t been able to see him. What things frighten you? Are you more frightened of what you can see or what you can’t see? What can you do to lessen your fear of the unknown? How might God help you with this?
3. Tom tries to convince the men of his innocence. What have you been wrongly accused of? How did it make you feel? How were you able to convince people that you were innocent?
4. Although the quest to free this beast is Tom’s, how does his friend, along with Storm and Silver, help him defeat Tagus? What would have happened if

Tom had tried to do this on his own? When you have a problem, do you ask for help or do you like to do things by yourself?

5. Tom’s shield has magical properties. How might this shield help him in future adventures? What kinds of supernatural tools does God give us? How might you use the Sword of Truth and other spiritual gifts?

The Tale of Cuffy Bear



This talking-animal adventure book by Arthur Scott Bailey is one in the “Sleepy-Time Tales” series and was originally published by Grossett and

Dunlap Publishers. In addition to appearing as a stand-alone book, it now appears with some of Bailey’s other animal stories in a volume called *Sleepy-Time Tales*. *The Tale of Cuffy Bear* is written for kids ages 5 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. How did Cuffy get his name? Why do you think he hits his sister?
2. What are some of Cuffy’s other bad decisions? What happens to him when he makes those choices? Why do parents give

kids rules about where they can and can’t go or what they should and shouldn’t do?

3. What are some good things and bad things about being curious? What are some ways you can learn about the world around you without breaking rules or putting yourself in danger as Cuffy did?

A Tale of Two Cities



This historical fiction by Charles Dickens is published by Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Young Reader’s 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 do anger and a thirst for revenge do to us in our day-to-day lives?
2. Mobs frequently appear and create havoc in the book. How can getting swept up in a crowd impact those around you?
3. In what ways is our society like that of France during the revolution?

4. What do you think about Carton's dying actions and statements?

you didn't have friends? How do friends help make your day better? How can you work toward being a friend to others to help them through their day?

Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life



This slice-of-life novel by Rachel Renee Russell is the first in the "Dork Diaries" series published by Aladdin, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's

Publishing Division. This illustrated book is set up as if this were the narrator's diary. This book is written for kids ages 9 to 13.

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

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

1. How does Nikki behave toward and talk about her mom? When is her perspective correct and when is it incorrect? In what ways does Nikki's mom try to support and encourage her? What does the Bible say about how kids should treat their parents?
2. What are some of the lies Nikki tells to her family members? Why does she feel the need to be dishonest? How could she solve some of these problems without lying? Why is it important for you to be honest? How does dishonesty hurt you over time, even when it helps you in the moment?
3. How did Nikki show that people are more important than things? Would you have given up an education at a prestigious school if

Tales from a Not-So-Popular Party Girl



This slice-of-life novel by Rachel Renee Russell is the second in the "Dork Diaries" series published by Aladdin, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's

Publishing Division. This illustrated book is set up as if this were the narrator's diary. This book is written for kids ages 9 to 13.

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

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

1. How does Nikki get herself in a tight spot on Halloween night? What is she trying to do by switching costumes repeatedly? Have you ever gotten yourself in trouble by trying too hard to please other people? What happened?
2. Would you consider MacKenzie a bully? Why or why not? How does Nikki respond to MacKenzie's attempts to belittle her? What are some godly ways to behave when people treat you disrespectfully?

Tales from a Not-So-Talented Pop Star



This slice-of-life novel by Rachel Renee Russell is the third in the "Dork Diaries" series published by Aladdin, an imprint of Simon & Schuster

Children's Publishing Division. This book is written for kids ages 9 to 13.

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

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

1. What kind of message does Nikki's band and their talent-show song send? What are the benefits of being yourself rather than trying to fit in with the popular crowd? How do you try to blend into your crowd? In what ways are you able to be yourself, but as a result, stand out from the crowd? Are there some times when it's OK to blend in? Explain. Are there some times when it's OK to stand out? Explain.
2. Why doesn't Nikki want anyone to know about her dad's job? How does her embarrassment about his work get her into unnecessarily stressful situations? How does it cause her to be deceitful? How could she have handled her circumstances more effectively? What things about our family embarrass you when at school? What things about your school embarrass you when you're at home? How might you blend your home and school life

so you won't be overly embarrassed about either?

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing



This tween book by Judy Blume is the first book of five in “The Fudge Books” series and is published by Puffin Books, a division of the Penguin Young

Readers Group. This book is written for kids ages 7 and up.

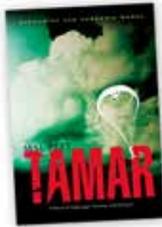
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. Fudge acts like he's heard Peter but touches the turtle anyway. Describe a time when someone did something you asked them not to do. How was the situation resolved?
2. Who does the Hatcher family show hospitality to? What types of things does our family do to prepare for guests? Has there ever been a time when you were hospitable to guests when you didn't want to be? Would you do it again? Explain.
3. Peter says thank you for gifts—a pictorial dictionary that he already had and a lollipop he didn't like from the dentist. Describe a time when you received a gift you didn't like. Describe a time when you thanked someone even though you didn't want to. Was that hard to do? How did it make you feel?

4. Peter's dad loses the account after his client and his client's wife stay with them. How do you think that made Peter's dad feel? Have you ever lost privileges or opportunity because of someone else's behavior? What happened to the relationship with that person?
5. What are some creative ways that Peter's mom gets Fudge to do things? How does she involve Peter in helping get Fudge to do things? How are the relationships between your siblings similar? How are they different?

Tamar



This contemporary and historical novel by Mal Peet is published by Candlewick Press in the United States and by Walker Books in the United

Kingdom and 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:

1. Tamar is subtitled “A novel of espionage, passion and betrayal.” Whom do you think the “betrayal” refers to and why? Could it refer to more than one character?
2. Why does Tamar's grandfather send her on the trip? What does he want her to find?
3. How does Tamar's decision to keep his relationship with Marijka a secret from Dart

affect the story? Was the secret necessary?

4. What role does drug use play in Dart's paranoia? How might the Benzedrine have affected him?

Tartok the Ice Beast



This fantasy written by Adam Blade is the fifth in the “Beast Quest” series and is published by Scholastic Inc. *Tartok the Ice Beast* is written for kids ages 8 to 10.

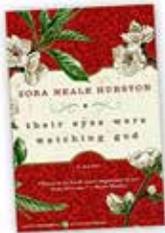
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. What is Albin focused on doing? Why didn't he notice that Tartok was near? What safety measures could have helped him? How did being in a strange place hurt or help him? How can knowing what to do in an emergency in a strange place help you when the emergency happens? If you were separated from us [your parents] in a store or at an amusement park, whom would you go to for help?
2. Everyone in the nomad camp must do chores. What are some of the chores that people do in the nomad camp? Why did Tom and Elenna have to help? What are some of the chores in our family? Which ones are yours? Why do we all have to help with the household chores?
3. Why does Brendan want to go to the neighboring village? How

might the two camps help each other?

Their Eyes Were Watching God



This dramatic novel, written during the Harlem Renaissance, was authored by Zora Neale Hurston. It was first published by J.B. Lippincott Inc. Now it is

published by Harper Perennial Modern Classics and HarperCollins Children's Books, both imprints of HarperCollins Publishing. Written for adults, this book is often found on high school reading lists for kids 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. How did Nanny's life as a slave shape her dreams for Janie? What did Janie want for her future? What are your dreams for your future? What are you doing to achieve them?
2. Read Ephesians 5:21-23,28-30. Compare what the Bible says about the relationship between a husband and wife with how Janie's husbands treated her. Which kind of a relationship do you want someday? How can you pray for your spouse today?
3. Many of the characters in this book gossip. Have you ever gossiped about someone? Have you ever been the object of gossip? How is gossip harmful? What can you do to keep from gossiping?

4. Describe the friendship between Phoeby and Janie. What does Phoeby do to help Janie? How is she the kind of friend you would like to have?
5. How does Janie view God? How do you view God? How is your faith similar to or different from Janie's?

Then Again, Maybe I Won't



This coming-of-age novel by Judy Blume is published by Yearling Books, an imprint of Random House Books for Young Readers, and is written for kids

ages 10 to 14.

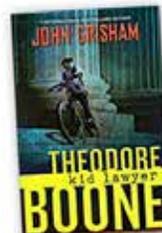
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. What are some ways Tony's family members change after they become rich? How does Tony feel about these changes? In what ways does he believe his family members are "selling out"? How would you feel if you were him, and what would you do if you suddenly had lots of money? What does the Bible say about money and wealth?
2. How do Tony's anxieties and fears affect his everyday life? What finally helps him handle them better? Who can you talk to when you're feeling sad, confused or worried?
3. What kind of a friend is Joel? How does his behavior impact

Tony? Which of your friends make you a better person? Which cause you stress or push you toward negative choices?

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer



This legal drama is the first book in the "Theodore Boone" series by John Grisham and is published by Dutton Children's Books, a division of Penguin's Young

Readers Group. 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. Does Theodore always obey the rules? What rules does he break when he rides his bike from the courthouse to his middle school? How does having a rule about not going the wrong way down a street help people? How does a rule about not riding between residential houses help people? Is "running late" a good excuse for breaking rules? How do you keep from breaking rules?
2. What rule does Theodore break to get the information he needs from the court reporter system? Why is hacking into a government system against the rules if the documents in the system are all public documents? How does Theodore feel about breaking this rule? If your conscious tells you that something isn't right or correct, as Theodore's told him, what should you do?

3. What does Elsa, the Boones' receptionist-secretary, always comment on? Why do her comments about his clothes make Theodore feel self-conscious when picking his outfits each morning? Do you think he was right or wrong to think that people are always watching each other "and taking notes"? Explain.
4. How does Theodore think better of himself and less of Deputy Gossett, Uncle Ike and others? Is it OK to judge others because they don't think like you do? How do you keep from looking down on others?
5. Why does Theodore listen to adults who he thinks don't know as much as he does? Is making sure they don't know as much as he does a good reason for listening? Do you know people like this? How does being around those people make you feel?
6. Does Theodore think Pete Duffy is innocent or guilty? Why does having an opinion about this upset Theodore? Why isn't it easy to presume a defendant is innocent until proven guilty?
7. How do Jack Hogan (the prosecutor) and Clifford Nance (the defense attorney) treat each other in the courtroom? How do they treat each other outside the courtroom? How might people separate their jobs from their friendships? What makes it hard for most people to separate their jobs from their personal life? Why doesn't the Bible want us to keep grudges?
8. What does Theodore tell his parents so he can go to the trial during school? Why doesn't his faking sickness work? Have you ever pretended to be sick to get out of doing something? How were you caught?
9. Why doesn't Theodore think Julio knows anything about the murder? How is Theodore prejudiced against Julio? Does the fact that Julio is homeless and from El Salvador mean he doesn't know what he saw? What surprises Theodore and changes his mind about Julio? Have you ever judged people because of how they looked? Because of where they're from? Because they weren't as rich as you?
10. Why does Theodore go to his uncle for help? Why doesn't he go to his parents? What doesn't Theodore want to reveal? Have you ever gone to someone other than us (your parents) for advice? Why was it easier to talk to someone else? Did you get good advice?
11. What does Theodore do to keep a sarcastic comment from leaving his mouth? Does biting his tongue work? How do you keep mean thoughts from being said out loud?
12. What does Theodore do when Judge Gantry asks everyone to leave the courtroom so a horrible crime can be described? Is Theodore glad he went to the storage area to peek into the courtroom and hear what happened? Why do adults sometimes ask you to leave the room before discussing a topic? What can you learn from Theodore about this?

Thirteen Reasons Why



This realistic fiction book by Jay Asher is published by Razor Bill, an imprint of Penguin Group. 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:

1. How do the rumors about Hannah affect her? How would you react if a rumor about you or one of your friends spread, even though it wasn't true? Why are rumors so powerful? Why do people start them? What can you do to stop them?
2. Do you agree with Hannah that everything affects everything else? Would the people on the tapes have behaved differently if they had known their actions would influence Hannah to commit suicide? What are some "small" things your friends have done or said that you still remember years later? What are some things you can do to encourage the people around you?
3. Do you agree with Hannah that everyone on the tapes is at least partially responsible for Hannah's suicide, or do you agree with Marcus, who thinks Hannah was just looking for an excuse to kill herself? When, if ever, can you be held responsible for someone else's choices? Can you hold other people responsible for your choices?
4. Hannah didn't want to tell anyone what she was thinking, so most of her peers were surprised by her death. If Hannah was your friend and you suspected she was having suicidal thoughts, what could you do?

Three Times Lucky



This humorous mystery book by Sheila Turnage is published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of the Penguin Group Inc. *Three Times*

Lucky 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. Mrs. Simpson ostracizes Mo because she is not from their town. Her daughter, Anna, teases Mo at every opportunity, calling her “Moron” and bringing up her motherless state. How does Mo respond to these taunts? Is she justified in her hate for Anna? How does the Bible say you should respond to insults (Matthew 5:39)?
2. Consider Mo’s statements about church attendance. How does each person rationalize not going to church? Why do you go to church? How is our worship at church designed to please and glorify God? Is its purpose to please people, as these characters seem to think?
3. What is the difference between infatuation and love? Do you think Lavender spends as much time thinking about Mo as she does about him? When Lavender kisses Mo on her cheek, how does she react? Do you think Lavender has any idea that Mo is infatuated with him?

Throne of Fire



This fantasy book by Rick Riordan is the second in the “Kane Chronicles” series and is published by Disney Hyperion Books, an imprint of the Disney Book

Group. *The Throne of Fire* 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 Egyptian mythology say about good and evil? How is this different from what the Bible teaches? If Ma’at and Chaos were the two greatest opposing forces, how would you tell right from wrong?
2. The hippopotamus nurse spends her time tenderly caring for elderly, infirm gods who will never recover or recognize the sacrifices she makes for them. Do you know individuals like this? How does the world regard people who spend their lives sacrificially? How is this different from what God thinks about them? How is sacrificing your time, money, and energy while

you are alive similar to sacrificing your life for someone else?

3. The bas of the Roman mummies can’t continue to the afterlife because they were improperly buried. Does the Bible say anything about the way you are buried affecting what happens to you after you die? What choices can you make that will impact your afterlife?
4. Ra, when awakened, remains feeble and incoherent. Isis and Horus scheme or use force to gain power for themselves. Set helps others only when by doing so he is also helping himself. Gods choose to align themselves with the forces of Ma’at or Chaos, and act accordingly. How would you feel if such flawed, amoral forces controlled the universe?
5. Carter and Sadie act as authority figures and role models for their trainees. Have you ever acted as a role model or been in a position of authority over another child or teenager? Did you find this stressful? How did you behave when you knew people were watching? Is this different from the way you act when you are alone?
6. Desjardins plots to attack Sadie and Carter because Menshikov put him under a spell. Menshikov is possessed by Apophis, who makes him do things he wouldn’t choose to do on his own. Gran and Gramps, possessed by gods, try to kill Sadie and her friends. In the Bible, how did people possessed by demons behave? Are people always responsible for their actions? If no, when aren’t they responsible?

Through Thick and Thin



This contemporary Christian book is the second in the “London Confidential” series by Sandra Byrd and is published by Tyndale House Publishers.

This book 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. Describe a time when you saw people put down or make fun of someone. What is Savvy’s response when she is faced with this situation? Is refusing to laugh successful? Does walking away from the conversation work? Why should you stand up for those who are being put down? How might you stand up for someone this week?
2. How does Hazelle feel when she realizes why Savvy is spending time with her? Has anyone ever tried to change you? How did that make you feel?
3. Describe the popular girls in this story. Do popular people always make bad choices? How does being popular make you feel? Can you be popular with one group of friends and not another? Does being popular make the girls in this story happy? Where do true joy and contentment come from?
4. How concerned is Savvy about fashion? Can a person be too

concerned about how she looks and what she wears? What does the Bible say about how we look on the outside? (Hint: Savvy bases one of her columns on a verse about this.)

5. Have you ever struggled with knowing who you are? Have you ever wanted to be someone else, just for a short time? Explain. Tell about a time when you have tried to change who you are in order to fit in (as Savvy did). Where are Christians supposed to find their identity? How do you do this?
 6. Who does Savvy say is the most important thing in her life? What is the second most important thing in Savvy’s life? Are God and your family the first and second most important things in your life? Does Savvy always put God and family first in this story? Explain. How do you put God and your family first and second in your life?
1. What role does fear play in this story? What do the different characters fear? How does fear dictate the way they live their lives? How does Davey deal with her fear? What do you fear? How do you deal with it? What does the Bible say about fear?
 2. Why is Davey so deeply impacted by Mr. Ortiz’s death?
 3. How would you respond to Davey’s belief that organized religion is based on guilt and fear? What does the Bible say about the church and its role in the life of a Christian?
 4. How does Davey try to help Jane with her alcohol abuse? How can you help and support a friend or loved one who is dealing with an addiction?

Tiger Eyes



This coming-of-age novel by Judy Blume is published by Delacorte Press Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Books for Young

Readers, a division of Random House Inc., and 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:

Tigers at Twilight



This fantasy adventure novel by Mary Pope Osborne is the 19th book in the “Magic Tree House” series and is published by Random House. *Tigers at Twilight*

is written for children ages 4 to 9.

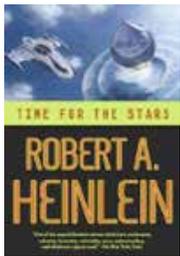
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. How does the tiger act after Jack and Annie rescue it? How are animals different from people? Why can’t they expect the tiger to change its nature? What would you do if someone did something nice for you? How are you and a tiger different in your responses?

2. How can Teddy, a tiny little dog, chase away a big tiger? Why isn't that realistic? Why is it OK for some things in make-believe stories to be exaggerated, even though that's probably not how it would happen in real life?
3. Would you be cautious around a tiger like Jack is, or would you act more like Annie? Why might Annie not listen to Jack, even when he's right? Who do you not listen to when you probably should? How can you change your attitude toward that person?
4. The hermit says the sounds of the forest are his teacher. Who is your teacher? Is your teacher a sound of something in nature or a person? In the Bible, God says He made people in a special way—in His own image. Why aren't forest sounds, animals or something in nature the same as people?

Time For the Stars



This science fiction/adventure novel by Robert A. Heinlein is written for kids ages 12 and above.

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 Pi's argument in support? Would you want to travel into space? Where would you want to go? Would you want to go on a mission if you might not return to Earth?

2. Tom's twin brother, Pat, initially has a lot of influence over him. Do you have any friends who have a lot of influence over you? Have you ever gone along with someone even when you knew they were doing something wrong?
3. What do you think about mental telepathy? Do you think people can read other people's minds? Explain.
4. Tom's parents are taxed for having more children than the government allows its citizens to have. Why should or shouldn't a government tell people how many children they may have? Explain.
5. Tom struggles with the new captain's decision to continue the mission despite all the crew they lost. What do you do when someone in authority over you tells you to do something you think is wrong?
6. What did Dr. Devereaux tell Tom about the unconscious mind? How much power does the unconscious mind have? Read Psalm 139: 2 and Hebrews 4:12. What does God know? How can He help you with your unconscious thoughts and desires?
7. Why does Tom applaud Pru's kiss even though the person she kisses means nothing to her? Is it right to kiss someone just to get kissing experience?
8. Who was called a bad name in this story? Has anyone ever called you a bad name? How did it make you feel? Why do people belittle others? What could you do instead?

The Time Quake



This time travel book is the third book in "The Gideon Trilogy" by Linda Buckley-Archer and is published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young

Readers. *The Time Quake* 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. Why does the Tar Man criticize Tom for letting sentiments rule his actions? Why does the Tar Man try so hard not to make any decisions based on his emotions? How does he change throughout the book? What are some of the situations or people that help bring about that transformation?
2. When the Marquis damages the Dyer's wall, what does Sam say he'll do to cover for him? How does the Marquis respond? Do you agree with him, that one untruth invariably leads to another? Can you think of a time you've seen this happen in your own life or one of your friends' lives?
3. What does the Marquis think is the greatest, most important thing in the world? Do you think knowledge is a human's most valuable asset? Explain your answer. When is knowledge important? When and how can it be dangerous or harmful, as Dr. Pirretti suggests with regard to time travel? How did

the Marquis approach his quest for knowledge?

4. How is Sam impacted by Kate's disappearance? Why is he so angry and frightened? What does the Marquis say to him about the past and the future? What about the future frightens you or makes you nervous? How can you manage your concerns about the future and not become paralyzed by fear?
5. According to Dr. Dyer's theory, gravity on its own would reverse the expansion of the universe and squeeze everything down to a single point where time would stop. What do you think about this theory?
6. How does it agree or disagree with what you believe about the universe? Do you think there could be parallel worlds, as the scientists in the book suggest?
7. Inspector Wheeler and the Marquis discuss living in a time where information is readily available vs. living in a period where people are largely ignorant of current events. Which would you prefer? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of each? Do you ever feel overwhelmed by all the information available to you through the media, the Internet, etc.? Why or why not?
8. If you, like Lord Luxon, could change the past to make it exactly what you wanted it to be, what would you change? Why? What might be the results of those changes to the lives of others? Do you believe life is a random series of events, or that the events that happen are orchestrated by a Higher Power?
9. Does the future Lord Luxon creates for himself turn out to be

everything he dreamed? What happens to his future self? How does Luxon feel when he visits the future and learns about the legacy he has left? Does he ever gain the honor he so desperately wants from his family and comrades in arms? Why or why not?

10. Which of her father's words does Kate remember as she tries to save Peter from Lord Luxon? Is that good advice, to trust yourself and rely on your own intelligence and judgment? Why or why not? Where else can you get wisdom and help when you're faced with a difficult situation?
11. As the book closes, what does Gideon say to the Tar Man about changing the past and changing the future? Do you agree that we have a new chance to be better with each new day? What does the Bible say about the decisions you have made in the past? Are you stuck with them, or can you make a fresh start for yourself? What are some things you'd like to try to do better or differently today?

The Time Thief



This time-travel novel is the second book in "The Gideon Trilogy" by Linda Buckley-Archer and is published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. *The Time Thief* is written for kids ages 10 to 14.

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

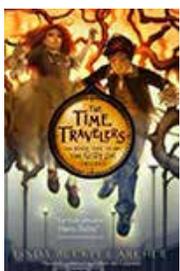
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What prevents Drs. Dyer and Pirretti from immediately using the time machine to retrieve Peter? What do they fear may happen if they travel through time again? What does the Tar Man want to do with the time machine? Do you think time travel would be a positive or negative discovery? Why?
2. What was the Tar Man's first response to life in the 21st century? What did he grow to like about his new surroundings? What did he dislike? What did he determine about people and human nature after living in two different time periods?
3. How did the Tar Man make his living when he first arrived in 21st-century England? How did he use technology and his newfound skills of fading back to the 1700s to make his work more profitable? How did he drag Anjali and Tom into his schemes? What kind of lives did Anjali and Tom lead before and during their experiences with the Tar Man? What does the Bible say about the kind of people with whom you should keep company? What would you have said or done if you could have talked to Tom and Anjali?
4. What led the Tar Man to a life of crime? How did being unjustly imprisoned during the 18th century fuel his anger? How does this anger carry over when he learns Gideon is his brother? How does his anger show itself in his relationships with Anjali and Tom, and in his dealings with others in the 21st century? How can being intensely angry make a person dangerous to himself and others? How do you manage your anger?
5. If you could live in another time period, which would you choose

and why? What do you think would be better about that era than the 21st century? What would be harder or worse?

6. How was alcohol mentioned and used in this book? Which situations involving alcohol bothered you the most?
7. What does the Marquis de Montfaron say is the key to a man's happiness? How did Peter's attitude allow him to grow into a confident, well-to-do man, despite being trapped in another century? What would have become of him if he had wallowed in self-pity rather than moving forward? What are some struggles you're facing? How could you make them better by approaching them with a positive attitude?
8. Why was Kate so desperate to go back to the 18th century to find Peter? How did her parents feel about her going after him? Was her behavior noble or disobedient?
9. Why did grown-up Peter lie about who he was? What was he afraid of? What did he learn about his father in the course of his deception? What does the Bible say about deceit?

The Time Travelers



This Time Travelers was previously titled *Gideon the Cutpurse*. This fantasy adventure is the first book in the “The Gideon Trilogy” by Linda

Buckley-Archer and is published by Aladdin Paperbacks, Simon & Schuster Children's Books. *The Time*

Travelers is written for kids ages 10 and up.

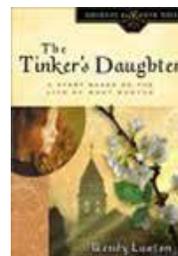
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. If you could travel back in time, what year would you choose to visit and why would you choose that year? How would that time period be fun and difficult at the same time? What did Peter and Kate like about the time period where they found themselves? What did they find difficult about being in that time period?
2. What characteristics made Gideon a good friend? What did Gideon do that caused Peter to admire and respect him? How important are those characteristics between friends today? Whom do you admire? Whom do you respect? What did these people do to gain your admiration and respect?
3. How do you think Peter's relationship with his parents will improve if and when he gets back to the present? What has Peter learned that will make him a better son? What have his parents learned that will make them better parents? What can you learn from Kate or Peter about being a better daughter or son? What do you hope your parents could learn from Kate's or Peter's parents to make them even better parents?
4. What did Gideon do when he was working for Lord Luxon? Did he have to steal? What would have happened if he didn't steal for Lord Luxon? What would you do in his place, when there are no easy answers and nothing seems like a good solution? How

important is it to do what is right, regardless of the outcome? How did Gideon's choice continue to follow and hurt him?

The Tinker's Daughter: A Story Based on the Life of Mary Bunyan



This historical fiction book is the third in the “Daughters of the Faith” series by Wendy Lawton and is published by Moody Publishers. This

book is written for girls 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:

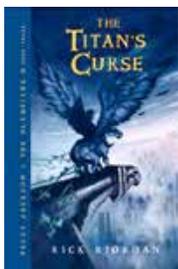
1. Mary experiences the world without sight. Close your eyes and describe a favorite place, using any of your senses except sight. How do these details reveal what makes your favorite place special?
2. Mary struggles to rely on others—even God. What does the Bible teach about stubbornness? What qualities or fruits of the spirit should replace it? What areas of your life do you hesitate to turn over to God? Can you recall a time when you trusted God with something, and He came through?
3. John responds with prayer when he learns that Elizabeth miscarried. What does that reveal about his faith?

- Gifre and his father come to apologize to Mary. Was Gifre penitent at the end? What lesson did Gifre learn? What do you think happened after he and his father visited the Bunyan home? How would you handle someone like Gifre in your school or neighborhood? How would you react if he were bothering you? How would you react if he were bothering someone else?
- In what ways do you think John represents the kind of father God wants to see in families? In what ways do you think Elizabeth is the kind of mother God desires for families?
- Why do you suppose Mary is so mature for her age?
- Should John have made different choices to avoid being arrested for preaching?

- get older? Why or why not? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of being immortal on this earth?
- Why are the gods nervous about Thalia and Percy becoming too powerful, even though they are on the Olympians' side? What can happen when people are offered great power or wealth? Give an example. What kind of prize or honor might tempt you to do something you know is wrong?
- Are the gods and goddesses good parents? Why or why not? In what ways do they help their children? In what ways do they make their children's lives more difficult? How could the gods and goddesses be better parents?
- What is a fatal flaw? What does Athena identify as Percy's fatal flaw? Do all people have a fatal flaw, or an aspect of their personality that can cause them trouble if they aren't cautious? Do you have a fatal flaw? What is it? What can you do to keep it in check?

- Can you think of any modern-day "mockingbirds" (innocent people who are persecuted by society)?
- Where do you witness social inequality today?
- Through her description of Scout's early schooling, we get the impression the author doesn't have much faith in institutional education. She seems to feel children can learn more about values—and everything else—at home. What do you think?
- Do you think it was right that Boo Radley wasn't tried for murder?
- Why do you think Atticus made the children read to mean Mrs. Dubose?
- What did he want them to learn from that experience?

The Titan's Curse



This fantasy adventure is the third book in "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series by Rick Riordan and is published by Miramax Books, a division

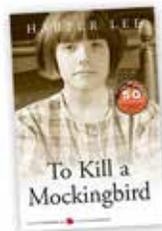
of Hyperion Books for Children. This book is written for kids ages 10 to 14.

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:

- Why do Bianca and Thalia both decide to join Artemis and become Hunters? Would you want to be immortal and never

To Kill a Mockingbird



This Southern drama by Harper Lee is published by Harper Perennial Modern Classics 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:

Toliver's Secret



This historical fiction novel by Esther Wood Brady is published by Yearling, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of

Random House Inc., and is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

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

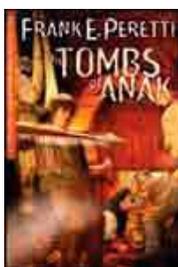
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- What were some of the things or people Ellen fears early in the story? What do Grandfather and Higgins say about overcoming fear? Are they right? How does

Ellen become a more courageous person? How might acting brave in situations help you become more courageous?

2. What things used to scare you but don't anymore? How did you get over your fears?
3. What does Higgins tell her about bullies? What advice does he give her in dealing with them? Does his advice work? How might his advice work for you??

The Tombs of Anak



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

Crossway Books. *The Tombs of Anak* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

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

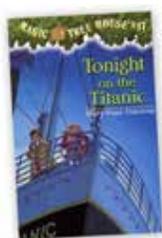
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What does Mara desire? How does her greed eventually control her? What types of things control your life? Are they of God, or are they of the world and lead to bondage and death? What can you do with sin that controls you?
2. How does the Cooper family demonstrate godly character in tough circumstances? How does this convince Ben-Arba of his need for God? How do you show God's nature to others in your life? Are people drawn closer to God by watching how you live?

In what ways do you think you are you doing well? In what ways do you need to improve?

3. How does Mara lie to Anak? What does he start to believe? What lies do you believe in your life? Do you believe that no one likes you?
4. Do you believe that you are not as good as someone else? Do you believe that God does not love you? Where do you think these lies come from? What does John 8:44 say about Satan? Who does 1 John 3:1 say you are?

Tonight On The Titanic



This fantasy adventure book by Mary Pope Osborne is the 17th in the "Magic Tree House" series and is published by Random House. *Tonight On The Titanic* is written for kids ages 5 to 8.

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

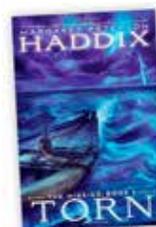
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- 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 aren't the travelers afraid when Annie says the ship was sinking? Why should they be afraid? Tell about a time when you weren't afraid because you didn't know what was really happening. If you'd known what was happening, would you have been afraid? Explain.
 2. Talk about a time when you believed a toy would work right, but it did not. What are some man-made machines that haven't

worked in your house? The Titanic did not work right. What went wrong with the Titanic?

3. What did the people on the Titanic have faith in? What does it mean to have faith in something? What or who should we have faith in?
4. How many lifeboats did the Titanic have? Why was the decision to have that many lifeboats a mistake? What assumption allowed people to only install that many lifeboats? Are assumptions always right? What is bad about basing something important on an assumption?

Torn



This science fiction novel by Margaret Peterson Haddix is the fourth in "The Missing" series published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers,

an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, a trademark of Simon & Schuster, Inc. *Torn* is written for kids ages 8 to 12.

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

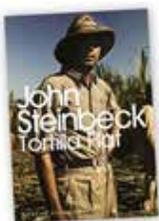
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. In what time period do Jonah and Katherine land, and where are they when they do? Which historical people, places or events in this story interested you most? What really happened to Henry Hudson?
2. Why does Second want to change history? What kind of damage

might he inflict by following his own agenda rather than letting things play out as they did originally?

3. Why might God sometimes allow circumstances that leave people in pain or unhappy? What does the Bible say about God's plans for the world and for those who follow Him?

Tortilla Flat



This historical novel by John Steinbeck was first published in 1935 by Covici-Friede Publishers. Today it is available primarily in paperback ver-

sions published by Penguin Group. *Tortilla Flat* is written for adults, but high school students are sometimes assigned this book in the classroom.

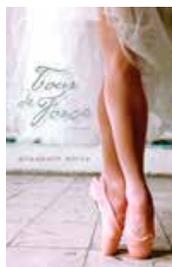
Search for a review of this book for parents at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. Steinbeck compares the paisanos to King Arthur and his knights. Do you think this is a fair comparison? How are they alike? How are they different?
2. How did the paisanos view women? What does God want from the relationship between a man and a woman?
3. The Bible warns us against idleness (see Ecclesiastes 10:17-19 and 2 Thessalonians 3:6). How did idleness lead to the paisanos' illegal behavior?
4. Danny was clearly in the depths of depression at the end of the

book. Have you ever felt this way? If so, how do you keep from self-destructing as Danny did?

Tour de Force



This romance novel written by Elizabeth White and published by Zondervan is for teens 17 and up.

Search for a review of this book for parents

at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

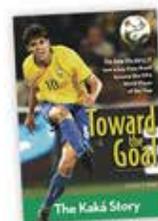
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. What struggles does Gillian face as a Christian ballet dancer in New York City? How does she incorporate her faith into her career? Does she make compromises? How do Victoria and Dmitri react to her convictions? As a student, how do you incorporate your faith? Where have you compromised? Where have you stood for Jesus? How have others reacted to your convictions?
2. When confronted by Victoria, what does Gillian say about God's design for sex? What does Victoria believe is the purpose of sex? What does God's Word say about sex? Why does God reserve sex for marriage?
3. How is Gillian able to make friends with Dmitri without condoning his sexual behavior? Because they are friends, where does Dmitri go with Gillian? What does God's Word teach about homosexuality? What does God's Word teach about loving your neighbor? How can you

reach out to others without saying that their behavior is OK?

4. How did Jacob become a father to Graham? What are the most important things that fathers do? Did Jacob do those things? Does your father do those things? How did God use Jacob to reflect His heart as a Father to Graham? Who does God use to reflect His heart as a Father to you?
5. What does Victoria consider before she decides to have an abortion? How does Victoria's decision to have an abortion affect her? How does her decision affect Nicholas and Gillian? How does God bring healing and forgiveness to Victoria?
6. What does Jacob decide when his ballet is accepted in New York? Why? What event in his past caused him to choose this path? Do you agree with his decision? How did he bring honor to God in this situation?

Toward the Goal: The Kaká Story



This biography by Jeremy V. Jones is published by ZonderKidz Books, a division of Zondervan Publishers, and is written for kids ages 9 to 12.

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

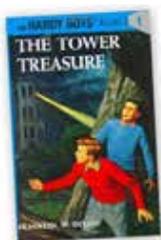
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. If you achieve fame like Kaká's, do you think you would use it as a platform to share your faith?

Why might it be difficult or daunting to be open about your Christianity?

2. What does Kaká tell Soccer World magazine was the most important match of his life? Why is he always looking toward the next game rather than reveling in his achievements? In what areas of your life do you need to keep pressing on rather than simply letting yourself rest in the victories you've already gained?
3. Why isn't Kaká angry at God for allowing him to be seriously injured? How does his injury and healing process give him a new perspective on life?
4. What actions does Kaká take to achieve success as a soccer player? What goals does he set for himself, and how does he accomplish them? What are some dreams you'd like to achieve in your life, and what goals can you set to make them a reality?

The Tower Treasure



This mystery book by Franklin W. Dixon is book No. 1 in the "The Hardy Boys Mystery Stories" series and was published by Grosset and

Dunlap Inc. in 1927. The 1987 edition of *The Tower Treasure* adds that Grosset and Dunlap Inc. is a member of the Putnam and Grosset Group. *The Tower Treasure* 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. Frank and Joe Hardy are angry when the speeding car almost runs them off the road. Is anger ever justified? What do you do if you feel angry? What might be some appropriate ways to handle feelings of frustration or anger?
2. The Robinson family has to move after Henry Robinson loses his job, is accused of theft and is put in jail. How would you express friendship to someone whose circumstances have changed? If you were the Hardy boys, how would you try to help your friend?
3. The Hardy family shows a strong work ethic while trying to solve the case. How would you define or describe a good work ethic? How does that apply to homework, chores at home and volunteering?
4. Henry Robinson keeps a promise when being questioned by police. Are promises good or bad? Explain. When is it OK to promise something? When is it not OK to promise something? How hard would it be for you to keep a promise if your not saying something hurt you?
5. Hurd was wrong about Henry Robinson being a thief. When you find out you have been wrong about something or someone, what do you think is the right thing to do? When is a private apology appropriate? When would a public apology be appropriate? What might be some helpful things to include in an apology?

Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea



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

Crossway Books. *Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea* 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 Lila feel when her father refuses to talk about her mother? What does she conclude about his love for her mother? How does her heart change while she is trapped in the pod? Is there someone in your own life who needs forgiveness? Why is it difficult? What should you do if the person does not apologize first? Is it okay to hold a grudge against the person? What does Romans 5:8 say about Christ's love for us? How can you show this type of love to those who have not asked for forgiveness yet?
2. How does Dr. Cooper deal with the death of his wife? How does his attitude affect his children? What issue in your life do you refuse to deal with? How does this attitude affect those around you?
3. What consequences occur as a result of Ivanovich's false assumptions? Have you ever jumped to conclusions without knowing all of the facts? How can you tell if

your conclusions are grounded in a biblical worldview? What does James 1:5 say about wisdom?

Trash



This mystery by Andy Mulligan is published by Ember, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House Inc., and 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. What kind of families do Raphael, Gardo and Rat have? In what ways do they become family to each other? Who becomes the final member of their family, and why? When have you had friends you loved like family? What made you feel so close to them?
2. Why are Father Julliard and Sister Olivia in Behala? In what ways do they help and support the boys? How do the boys feel about them? What is honorable about what Father Julliard and Sister Olivia do? Why might they be concerned about poor people in Behala? Why should you be concerned about poor people in your country and other countries?
3. What do the dumpsite boys think about themselves? What are they told by others about who they are? How does this change after the boys solve a mystery and aid their people? When have you helped someone else or accomplished something big?

How did doing this boost your self-confidence?

4. What do the dumpsite boys steal from the mission school? How do they lie to the mission school workers? How do they take advantage of their kindness? Are their intentions mean-spirited? What could they have done to achieve what they wanted without behaving in this way?
5. What do the boys do with the money they find? Why do they pay back the money to the mission school? What don't they like about stealing from the mission school? In the end, how do the mission school people view the outcome?

A Tree for Peter



This drama by Kate Seredy is published by Purple House Press and is written for kids ages 9 to 12.

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

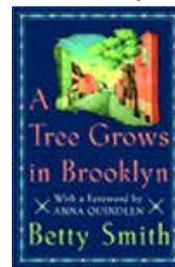
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. The author writes in a more innocent time (1940s) and depicts Peter immediately crawling into the lap of a vagrant he has just met. Peter keeps this friendship from his mother because he doesn't want to reveal his "secret treasure." In our day of rampant pedophilia and child pornography, these scenarios raise red flags. Parents may want to discuss the difference between fear (which Peter learns to overcome

in this tale with King Peter's help) and wise caution concerning strangers.

2. Do you think King Peter was meant to represent Christ in this story?
3. Which of his attributes or actions were godlike?
4. Peter didn't save the whole world; still, he became a hero to those in Shantytown. What can you do to make your community a better place?

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn



This contemporary coming-of-age drama by Betty Smith is published by HarperCollins Publishers and is written for ages 13 and up.

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

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

1. Katie felt education was more important than nearly anything else for her children. Why do you agree or disagree with her beliefs and methods concerning education?
2. While Katie is giving birth, the spinsters in her building suggest that her pain and struggle are proof she is living her life. How did hardship impact Francie's life in both positive and negative ways?

- Parents may also wish to use Francie's problem with lying to discuss honesty.

Trion Rising



This first science fiction, fantasy book in the "The Shadowside Trilogy" by Robert Elmer is published by Zondervan. *Trion Rising* is written for kids

ages 13 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:

- Oriannon made a few questionable choices, like disobeying her father and "borrowing" a vehicle with Margus. How did she justify her actions?
- What would you have done in her situation?
- When Oriannon's father is trying to convince her to say she doesn't know Jesmet, he urges her not to "make herself confused" by thinking for herself, but to "just obey." What did you think of that statement?
- Are there times we should just obey without asking questions?
- When is it important to question authority?
- Both Jesmet and Oriannon behaved sacrificially to save others' lives. Who have you seen make a sacrifice like that?
- Could you make such a sacrifice?

- How did the Assembly resemble the Pharisees of Jesus' day?
- Do you think there are people like that today, who read God's word but don't really understand it?
- Why does it sometimes seem easier to follow a set of rules than to seek a relationship with Jesus?

Trouble According to Humphrey



This contemporary adventure book by Betty G. Birney is the third in the "Humphrey" series and is published by Puffin Books, a division of Penguin Books.

This book is written for kids ages 7 to 9.

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

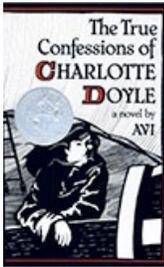
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

- What does Humphrey do that Miranda is blamed for? Tell about a time when someone was blamed for something you did. How did it make you feel? What did you do to set things right? What does Humphrey have to give up to set things right?
- Why doesn't Paul fit into Room 26 at the beginning of the story? What do the children do that makes him feel more included? Tell about a time when you felt alone, even though you were with a group of people. How did someone make you feel a part of the group?

- What are ways you can encourage and include others to feel more a part of your group? What kinds of complaints do Mandy and her family make? What are some of your complaints? How can you keep from grumbling and worrying about them? What does grumbling do to Mandy's family? What might it do to you?
- Why does Art have trouble focusing in class? What distracts you like trains distract Art? How do you pull yourself back to thinking about what is important in the moment? Are distractions always bad thoughts? What are some examples of how even good thoughts can be a distraction? What do you think Jesus means when He said to "seek first the kingdom of God" in Matthew 6:33? What distracts you from doing this? How can you remind yourself to focus on God and the things that are of value to Him?

- How is Seth's grandmother treated at the beginning of the story? How is she treated at the end? How should we treat our elders? What sort of things can you learn from your grandparents? What's one way growing up was different for your grandmother or grandfather than how growing up has been for you? (If you don't know, call and ask them or another family friend who is older than your parents.)

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle



This historical adventure by Avi is published by Scholastic, Inc. and is written for kids ages 10 to 13.

Search for a review of this book for parents

at pluggedin.com/book-reviews.

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

1. Do you think Charlotte made the right choice to abandon her proper upbringing and put on the clothing and duties of a crew member?
2. What choice did Charlotte have when she discovered the plot of the crew members to overthrow the captain?
3. Do you think she was right to tell Captain Jaggery?
4. Later Charlotte does not know whom to trust. What could she do to ensure she was getting the truth from the men on the ship?
5. Is personal safety Charlotte's biggest concern?
6. Do you think Charlotte's father acted wisely to keep Charlotte secluded at home upon reading her journal and learning of the happenings aboard the ship?
7. Charlotte feels she isn't being rebellious by leaving home in search of further adventures. How do you think her parents will feel? Did Charlotte act wisely when she left home to join the crew on another journey?

8. How would you define selfishness? How are Charlotte's actions selfish? What does the Bible say about looking out for others first? Who is Charlotte looking out for?

True Friends



This first drama book in the "Carmen Browne" series by Stephanie Perry Moore is published by Moody Publishers 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. It turns out that Layah was mean to others because she was hurting. Do you know people who treat others badly? Could it be because they have struggles of their own they're afraid to share? How can you be a friend to a person like that?
2. Can you think of a time when your sense of direction got "blurry"? How did you get back into focus?
3. What did you learn about racial prejudice from True Friends?
4. Do you ever see people being treated differently at your school because of their skin color?
5. Carmen often felt blessed to have Riana in her life. Why is it important to have a good friend who shares your belief in God?

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs



This humorous picture book by Jon Scieszka, with illustrations by Lane Smith, is published by Viking Penguin, a division of Penguin

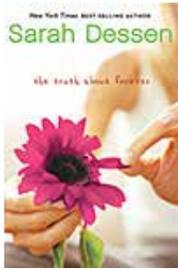
Books USA, and is written for kids ages 3 to 8.

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. What is the same about the wolf's story as the story you remember? What is different? Do you think he's telling the truth? Why or why not?
2. When have you gotten in trouble for doing something you didn't do? What helped make you look guilty? How did you feel about not being believed? What should you have done differently so others would have believed you?
3. According to the wolf, why was he pounding at the third little pig's door when he was caught? When have you gotten yourself in trouble because you did something in anger? What are some good ways to calm yourself down when you're mad?

Truth About Forever



This slice-of-life, grief book by Sarah Dessen is published by Viking Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group and 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. Once Macy starts hanging out with the Wish crowd, she begins to drink and go to parties. The alcohol loosens Macy up and gets her talking (communicating to readers that drinking, not therapy, may help resolve grief issues). Macy's sister and new friends seem to think she's not really living until she has started partying. Do you agree or disagree with their definition of what it means to live your life to the fullest?
2. What does the Bible say about partying (Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18)?
3. Based on the author's portrayals of Jason, the girls at the library and Macy's mother, you could get the idea that being responsible and hardworking are bad character traits. Did those characters seem realistic to you, and how did you feel about them?
4. Is there a godly balance between working hard and enjoying life?

The Truth of the Matter



This action adventure book by Andrew Klavan is third in "The Homelanders" series published by Thomas Nelson. This book is written for kids ages 13

and up.

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

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

1. Why does Charlie agree to help Waterman, knowing he will lose the people he cares about in the process? Do you think you would have made the choice he made? Why or why not?
2. What kind of person is Charlie? What are some things he does that give you clues about his character?
3. What did Charlie and Waterman discuss about good vs. evil? Are there absolute truths in the world, or just a lot of different opinions that may be right for different people? Explain your answer. How would the Bible back up your opinion?

Truth Slayers



This contemporary Christian book in the "The Powerlink Chronicles" series is written by Josh McDowell and Chuck Klein and is published by

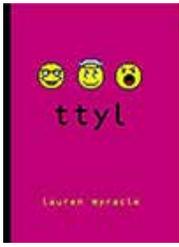
Word Publishing. *Truth Slayers* is written for kids, ages 13 to 17.

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 problem with believing in relative truth? What is wrong with Brittany and Philip's argument that their choices should be okay if they don't hurt anyone? Read Romans 12:1-2. Why should you commit all your choices to God?
2. How can staying sexually pure help you eventually have a better marriage?
3. How does Avi's respect for her father (Shebati) show the importance of respecting your parents even when you don't understand their rules?

TTYL (Talk to You Later)



This first teen chick-lit book in the “Internet Girls” series by Lauren Myracle is published by Amulet Books, an imprint of Harry N. Abrams, Inc. *TTYL*

is written for kids ages 13 to 17.

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 15-year-olds in *TTYL* drink, use fake IDs, lie to parents, gossip, swear and teeter on the edge of sexual activity. Any of those issues could be discussed in conjunction with this book. Angela convinces Zoe to stop being so good and “try whatever comes along.” What is so wrong with being “good”?
2. What are some possible consequences of trying whatever comes along?
3. Do you know anyone like Jana (the girl who constantly stabbed her “friends” in the back)?
4. What do you think of people like that?
5. How can you avoid hurting others as she did?
6. What is your impression of Zoe, Maddie and Angela and their discussions?
7. Explain why you would or would not enjoy having girls like them as your friends. Would you consider these girls cool or shallow?

8. Do you feel as though you could talk to me (your parent) if you found yourself in a predicament like Zoe was with her teacher?

Tuck Everlasting



This fantasy book by Natalie Babbitt is published by Square Fish and Farrar Straus Giroux, both imprints of Macmillan Publishers, and 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. How does Winnie feel when she is with the Tucks? How do her feelings change? Why do they change? When have your feelings changed in a situation? What made them change? How did the change in feelings affect your actions and relationships?
2. What does Winnie think about the Tucks’ story? How does she decide what to believe? How do you make decisions about what to believe about what people tell you?
3. What does Winnie decide to do about drinking the water? What would have been some of the advantages and disadvantages of drinking the water? What would you have done? What do you think is the difference between the Tucks’ type of everlasting life and eternal life in heaven as described in the Bible?

4. Why do you think Winnie wants to help Mae escape? Describe a time when you had to decide whether something was right or wrong. Why did you make the decision you did? What were the consequences of the decision?
5. How do schoolmates and others in the community treat Winnie when she comes home from the Tucks? How is that a change from before? What would you have done if Winnie were one of your classmates?

Twerp



This humorous book by Mark Goldblatt is published by Random House Children’s Books, a division of Random House Inc., and is written for kids ages 9

to 12.

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

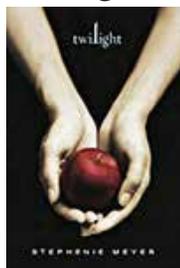
If your children have read this book, consider talking about the story using these discussion questions:

1. How does Winnie feel when she Julian defines twerp as “going with the flow.” Is Julian a twerp? How does being a twerp get Julian into trouble? When are you a twerp? When are you a leader? If you were Julian, how would you respond to Lonnie when he tries to convince you to do something wrong?
2. How does Julian’s story about the pigeon he injured exemplify Julian’s relationship with Lonnie? (Lonnie always convinces Julian to do things he doesn’t really want to do.) How does Julian rationalize his bad decisions each

time? How have you rationalized a bad decision?

3. Cite instances in which Julian devalues people or things (for example: saying Victor is useless and a tub of lard or that pigeons are filthy). How have you devalued people in the past? Why shouldn't you do this?
4. With which character do you identify the most—Lonnie, Julian, Jillian or Eduardo? Why? How would you characterize each?
5. How do Julian and his friends treat others? What does the Bible say about how we should treat others (Luke 6:30-32)?
6. How does Julian feel after his best friend shuns him? Have you ever had that happen to you? If so, how did you feel? What did you do to cope? When have you seen something like that happen to others? What do you think of the rabbi's advice? How would you respond if someone shared a similar story with you?
7. How is Julian a changed person by the end of the book? What lessons does he learn through his writing assignment for Mr. Selkirk? What lesson has this book helped you learn?

Twilight



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

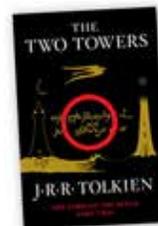
Twilight is written for kids ages 9 and up.

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

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

1. How does Winnie feel when she iWhy is Edward so filled with rage? How would you feel being in a close relationship with someone who was so angry? What would scare you about this person?
2. To whom does Bella lie, and what are some of the lies she tells? How do her lies put her in dangerous situations? How might her near-death encounter with James cause her to use more caution or tell fewer lies to her family?
3. How do Edward, Carlisle and the others attempt to be “civilized” despite their violent tendencies? How is Edward admirable in his efforts to practice self-control? How does he fail to watch out for Bella's best interests?
4. What are some of the keys to a healthy, enduring romantic relationship? Do Bella and Edward have a healthy relationship? Explain your answer.
5. With what kind of obsessions, desires or addictions do humans often struggle? What are the risks people take when they allow their passions to rule their actions? What part should your beliefs and common sense play in your thoughts and your actions? What are some ways you can protect yourself from giving in to temptations?

The Two Towers



This fantasy novel written by J.R.R. Tolkien is the second in “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy. Originally published by George Allen & Unwin

in 1954, editions are now published by a variety of companies including HarperCollins Publishers, Mariner Books, The Science Fiction Book Club and Unwin Books. The novel is often read by children 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. Lord Acton, a British historian, once said, “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men.” Which characters display this truth in the story? How? What characters, if any, disprove this theory and how?
2. What lessons might Tolkien have wanted to teach his readers through the characters of the Ents? What are some things you can do in this area?
3. Aragorn praises Pippin for being able to use his valuable elvish brooch as a clue for anyone tracking them. What does Aragorn mean when he claims that someone is in fetters (chains) if he can't throw away a treasure when in need?
4. How does Frodo view Gollum? What does Sam think about the creature? Whose opinion do you

agree with? What does Matthew 7:15 warn? Inwardly, is Gollum really a wolf?

5. How does Sam change throughout the story? What effect might carrying the ring have on him? What would you have done if you were in Sam's situation at the end of the book?