

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Prologue

Judging from only the prologue, what do you think the ultimate conflict is about?

(The characters discuss Light and Darkness)

Chapters 1-2

Based on what you have read about Sam's feelings, what are some reasons that may have contributed to him feeling this way?

(Sam's parents died in a car crash; He was passed around to different foster homes; His foster parents abandoned him; He is bullied by Bush)

Chapter 3

One of the themes in chapter three is about judging too quickly. Give an example of one situation where that is true in the chapter.

(Sam's judgement of church, Sam's judgement of Miss Karpatch, That everyone living in White Pine is backwards or barbaric, etc.)

Chapters 4-5

What do you believe motivated Sam to follow the group into the forest at night? How did his feelings change for Emma, Gus, and Lillia during the chapter?

(Some reasons could be that he was motivated by Emma's invitation, or a desire to belong. He was skeptical and cynical at first, but came to enjoy being around the others)

Chapters 6-7

What were some of the emotions Sam was feeling coming into a new world like Lior?

(Wonder that such a world existed, confusion about the world he knew, fear of the unknown, a drive to learn more, etc.)

Chapters 8-9

What are some things that make Lior different than Earth?

(The concept of time not by a clock, people are very friendly, dinosaurs and other creatures still exist, the Descendants can manipulate Light, Descendants wear robes/cloaks, The food is slightly different and has different names)

Chapters 10-11

What were some of the things that the Sterlings did to help make Sam feel at home?

(They empathized with his confusion, Mrs. Sterling gave him pajamas, and gave him a party, She took him to get a robe, etc.)

Chapters 12-13

What are some of the conflicting relationships between characters so far in the story?

(Emma jealous about Sayvon; Sam upset with Mr. Sterling and others for keeping information from him; Lillia suspecting Cooley; etc.)

Chapters 14-15

What are some of the questions about Sam that are still unanswered at this point?

(Sam's past, The reason Sam is having dreams, Why the others didn't tell Sam he wasn't invited into Lior, What the Dark Legend is, etc.)

Chapters 16-17

Why do you think Sam was reluctant to tell the others about his dreams?

(He was afraid of them, He didn't understand them, He didn't trust the others, He didn't believe they were real, etc.)

Chapters 18-19

Why do you think Emma is so vehemently against believing the legend is real?

(She is a trusting person, and perhaps afraid of the possibility that such evil could exist)

Chapters 20-21

How do you think Sam, Emma, Gus, and Lillia were feeling about going on a journey to Old Lior City?

(Sam was unsure but wanted to find out more about his past, Emma was reluctant and afraid, Gus was calculating but intrigued, Lillia was up for adventure)

Chapters 22-23

Some Outsiders were rejected by the regions, while others would rather live in villages on their own. Why do you believe they didn't want to be a part of the Descendant regions?

(Various answers, but may include answers: Since they were different, they didn't feel a part of the Descendants; They feared the power of the Descendants; They wanted a more simple life; They were afraid of the war between the Descendants and the Dark forces)

Chapters 24-25

While Sam, Emma, Gus, and Lillia were going through the wave of Darkness, they talked about Descendants who had chosen to follow the Darkness and became Metim. Lillia believed that that once they chose the Darkness, they were lost forever. Emma, however, believed there was still hope. In the same manner, do you believe people that have chosen evil have hope? Why do you believe this?

(Various answers)

Chapters 26-27

How did each character react to the impending danger with the wolves? What would you have done?

(Sam was courageous and strategic, Lillia reacted with a cool head and worked under pressure, Emma was afraid but did what was necessary, and Gus didn't know what was happening)

Chapters 28-29

What were the theories surrounding the reason why the Office of Research hadn't documented that the library/temple was still standing while the rest of the buildings were destroyed? Which do you believe? Do you have any other theories?

(Reason 1: The Office of Research overlooked it when they returned to survey the Old City. Reason 2: They are hiding the fact that the building is still standing)

Chapters 30-31

Do you believe Emma is being naïve about the fact there could be a spy in Lior? Why do you think that? What about Lillia? Is she too quick to pass blame? Why? What do you think is a more balanced approach to the problem?

(Various answers)

Chapters 32-33

What makes dragons unique from other creatures in Lior? How could dragons help the Descendants to expose the Darkness? Do you think some Descendants are threatened by the fact that dragons can see the difference between Light and Darkness? Why?

(Dragons can see the difference between Light and Darkness; Various answers)

Chapters 34-35

Who (or whom) of the characters Sam, Emma, Gus, and Lillia would you say is the hero of the resistance against Arazel?

(Various answers, but should lead to all of them were heroes on some level)

Chapters 36-37

Why do you think Sam had trouble producing his Light gift until he met Arazel? Why do you believe he had trouble controlling it when he did find it?

(He wasn't ready, or didn't understand it, or the Creator didn't allow him to use it, etc. His Light gift may have been too powerful, or he didn't have training, various answers)

Chapters 38-39

Sam has a connection with Orono, the dragon. Why do you believe this is? How does the story reveal this?

(From the time he met the dragon, they seemed to understand one another. Sam gets feelings about it when the dragon 'heard' his thoughts to fly near the glacier, and again when he was ready to go at the lake.)

Chapters 40-42

What task from Nuriel is given to Sam? How does this task defy logic and seem to allow the Dark Lords to win?

(To use the Watcher Stone to open the original Sha'ar gate. The Dark Lords wanted the stone to reunite their forces, and by doing that it would help them become stronger)