



The Book of Stolen Dreams

David Farr

Tome Society Book Award

Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. What do you like about the cover? Does it match the description of the book? If you could change the cover, how would you redesign it?
2. This fiction novel has an evil ruler in power. Have you read other books with an oppressive, unjust leader?
3. Kristina Kister is the illustrator of this novel. Please visit her gallery and select your favorite illustration.
<https://thebrightagency.com/uk/childrens-illustration/artists/kristina-kister#gallery>

Post-reading questions

1. Rachel Klein struggles with watching others do horrible things and remembers what her mother taught her. "Grown-ups are just strange, she thought. Something happens to them. Perhaps it has to do with what mother used to call 'the moral compass.' Some lose it for a while. Some forever." (Farr 161) Do you ever have difficulty listening to your moral compass? Do you think yours is lost?
2. Charles Malstain restricts a lot of art, literature, and other freedoms to the people of Krasnia. What are some dangers of limiting what people are allowed to learn or how they live?
3. Felix Klien turns himself in for the hope that his children make it out alive with The Book of Dreams. Has anyone in your life made a sacrifice for you in hopes of a better future? Please explain.
4. Josef Centurion originally befriended Rachel Klein as part of a trap. He later learned what he did wrong and tried to make amends. Have you ever made a mistake and worked hard to make things right? If so, describe what it was like.
5. Charles Malstrain works hard to make sure children are not seen or heard. List and explain some of the potential outcomes this would have on Krasnian society.
6. If you could change something about one of the characters, what would you change and why?
7. If you were Solomon Rose, would you forgive Walter Meyers? Justify your answer.
8. If you could use The Book of Stolen Dreams to bring someone back from the dead, would you or would you let things be? Please explain.
9. Do you think more scientifically like Robert Klien or are you a dreamer like Rachel Klein and why?

Post-reading activities

1. Since children are not allowed to play outside in Krasnia, the Kline family played many imaginary games in the safety of their own home. Have you ever made up a game with your family or friends? Take time to create your own game and play it with your friends.
2. The Book of Stolen Dreams is a collection of poems that bring a loved one back to life. Write a poem about a memory you would like never to end. Be sure to take time to include an illustration with your poem.
3. Choose one of the characters and create a digital scrapbook page for them based on events in the book. Follow the guidelines at tomesociety.org and enter your final project into the Character Scrapbook competition.

More About This Book

Publisher's Discussion Guide:

https://usborne.com/media/usborne/teacher_resource/file/t/h/the_book_of_stolen_dreams_teaching_resources.pdf

Author's Website: https://davidfarrbooks.com/#outside_shop