



Red Queen

By Victoria Aveyard

Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

1. In the book, Red Queen, the world is divided into 2 races of people. Those with red blood and those with silver blood. The people of the silver blooded race have special super-human powers. They believe themselves to be more important than a red blooded person without power and have taken over the government and all decision making roles in the country. In today's society, do we give more importance to those individuals with seemingly above-average power or talents, such as professional athletes, actors, or musicians?
2. How much importance do you give a person based on their talents? Would you rather be friends with the star athlete at your school or the kindest person at your school? Would you rather BE the star athlete at your school or the kindest person in your school? Is character or talent more important? Which do you strive to develop most in yourself? Which is harder to develop?
3. Innate talent in an area is a great thing to have, but is it enough? Is success always based on a person's talent? What other character traits are just as important to develop as your talents?

SPOILER ALERT (Wait until you have read the book first).

Post-Reading Discussion Questions

1. Mare is a thief. It's the only thing she thinks she is good at that can help her family. Even with the bad circumstances for her family, her mother and father do not want Mare to steal. Why do you think Mare goes against her parent's wishes and steals anyway? After Gisa's hand is injured, do you think Mare realizes if she hadn't made the plan to steal something again that Gisa would be okay? Why do you think Gisa turns to stealing when it appears all options run out for Kilorn? (Chapter 4).
2. Why do you think it doesn't matter that Mare has power, only that her blood is red? If powers are what make everyone special, why does the silver royal family go to such lengths to cover up that Mare's blood is red? Why isn't her special power enough? Their powers are why they are special, not their blood after all.
3. Lady Blonos is a blood healer and she is able to use her powers to reverse her aging, basically like plastic surgery. Sara Skonos is a skin healer, and can use her power to heal other people, but not herself. Compare Mare's physical description of Lady Blonos on page 120 (Chapter 20) to her description of Sara Skonos on page 208 (Chapter 17). Which lady is Mare's physical description more favorable toward in your opinion? Why? How do these passages speak to the saying "growing old gracefully"?

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4. Before the planning of the murders of the key figures that Maven picked, Mare didn't want to be a part of their murders. But Maven explained the strategic reasoning and Mare gave in. After Maven's motives became clear, Mare realized she had been tricked. Has there been a time when your conscious told you something was wrong and you allowed yourself to be pressured into doing something you didn't think was right?
5. Power, pride, trust, deception, loyalty, and vanity are three recurring themes in the Red Queen? Which character(s) do you think are most focused on each of these?
6. Throughout the book Mare is torn between trusting Maven and trusting Cal. Which character seemed the most trustworthy to you? What did Mare miss in her evaluation of each?

After Reading Activity

1. Make a word cloud that describes Mare. Emphasize the many complex characteristics that make up this character. (Hint: You can use an online tool like Woordle).
2. Make an infographic that compares and contrasts Cal and Maven. (Follow the Tome Infographic Competitions guidelines and you can enter this Infographic into our Spring competition).

