



The June Boys

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Tome Society It List Discussion Guide

August 2022 Book of the Month



Pre-reading questions

1. Read the summary of *The June Boys* on the back of the cover or the inside jacket of the book. What could be some reason the kidnapper takes the boys for a year?
2. A main theme of *The June Boys* is family. While reading this story, you will meet cousins that consider themselves siblings even though they do not share the same parents. For example, Don and Scottie and Aulus and Thea. Is family something that you are born into or can you choose your family? What defines a sibling or family member?
3. Throughout the book, multiple characters talk about “trusting their guts”. Have you ever experienced a time when your gut was telling you something and it was right?

Post-reading questions

1. What would you do in Thea’s position? Would you be able to consider someone close to you could be a murderer or kidnapper?
2. Thea helps her father hide Aulus’s backpack, what do you think about her decision to hide evidence to protect her father?
3. Aulus and the other June Boys had to do some scary things to survive. How far do you think you would go to survive?
4. Towards the end of the story, Thea discovers that Scottie, Aulus’s absentee father has returned and is looking for his missing son. How did this make you feel? Were you happy that Scottie decided to come back to look for Aulus? Do you think there is ever such a thing as too late?
5. Go to page 290 in *The June Boys* and read the passage beginning, “Everyone, even my best friends, even my father...”. After reading the passage, consider what Thea said about some things requiring more than we have to give and how she did not think twice about the danger on the other side of the door. What do you think gave her the courage to keep looking for Aulus and the June Boys? How was she able to open the door and face what was on the other side?
6. In the story, Aulus discovers that Zarad and Rufus weren’t really in the bunker with him and Tank. Did you think his reaction was appropriate? Why do you think the author chose for Aulus to imagine such a thing?
7. Did you know who the real kidnapper was? Now that you have discovered who Welder is, do you have any sympathy for them? Consider Thea’s feelings about this person, what do you think about her conflicting emotions?
8. At the end of the book, Tank discusses feeling multiple emotions at the same time. Fear, anger, guilt, shame, relief, happiness, etc. Sometimes it is difficult to deal with just one of these emotions, how might trying to deal with multiple emotions at the same time be extremely hard but also confusing? Why do you think victims of trauma tend to have more than one emotion relating to an event?

Post-reading activities

1. Look at the cover of the book, there are some hidden easter eggs relating to the story. What can you find now that you have completed the book?
2. *The June Boys* was a fast paced thriller that keeps many people turning the page in order to discover who the kidnapper really is. Create a book trailer promoting *The June Boys* and encouraging others to give it a try. Ask your advisor to submit your completed work to the It List Book Trailer competition.

More About This Book

Author's Website: <http://www.courtneystevens.com/>

The audiobook version of *The June Boys* also includes a full “interview” of the characters post-kidnapping.