



Discussion Questions for *The Iron Trial* by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare

All his life, Callum has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. If he succeeds at the Iron Trial and is admitted into the Magisterium, he is sure it can only mean bad things for him. So he tries his best to do his worst — and fails at failing. Now the Magisterium awaits him. It's a place that's both sensational and sinister, with dark ties to his past and a twisty path to his future.

1. How is Call's life at the Magisterium different from his life at home?
2. How does Call's relationship with Tamara and Aaron change over time?
3. Why does Call take part in the log exercise, despite Master Milagros' warnings that it is too physically demanding? Have you ever insisted on doing something even though you knew it might not be a good idea? Explain.
4. How is Tamara's family different from Aaron's and Call's families? How does she feel about her family?
5. How do you think Call's friends and Master Rufus would react if they knew Call's secret? If you were Call's friend, how would you react?
6. How might things have been different if Call had not intercepted the letter and bracelet from Alastair Hunt?
7. Do Call's feelings toward the Magisterium change over time or stay the same? Explain.
8. Call wants to tell Master Rufus his secret, but when he tries, the words don't come out. Have you ever had a hard time telling the truth about something? Can you relate to the way Call felt?
9. Do you think Call's fate is predetermined or can he change it? Do you think fate plays a part in your own life?
10. How is this book similar to and different from other fantasy books you have read?

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