

Grades 9
and up

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE WORLD OF MAGGIE STIEFVATER



Meets Common Core State Standards—SEE INSIDE

THE SHIVER SERIES

The search for love, loss, and humanity isn't what it seems in this heartbreakingly beautiful trilogy. When Grace falls in love with Sam, a boy who becomes a wolf every winter, both must decide how much they're willing to risk in order to be together.

And now, from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Maggie Stiefvater comes *Sinner*, the newest page-turner from the world of the Shiver trilogy.



A New York Times Bestseller
A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year

HC: 978-0-545-12326-6 • \$17.99 (\$22.99 CAN)
PB: 978-0-545-68278-7 • \$9.99 (\$10.99 CAN)
EBK: 978-0-545-22725-4 • \$9.99 (\$9.99 CAN)

★ “Stiefvater skillfully increases the tension throughout; her take on werewolves is interesting and original while her characters are refreshingly willing to use their brains to deal with the challenges they face.” —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ “Beautiful and moving.”
—*School Library Journal*, starred review



A #1 New York Times Bestseller
A USA Today Bestseller

HC: 978-0-545-12328-0 • \$17.99 (\$19.99 CAN)
PB: 978-0-545-68279-4 • \$9.99 (\$10.99 CAN)
EBK: 978-0-545-28316-8 • \$9.99 (\$9.99 CAN)

“Skillfully captures the four teens’ longings for love, forgetting, remembering, righting wrongs and life itself...will leave readers panting for the next sequel.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Riveting...impossible to put down...beautifully written.”
—*Voice of Youth Advocates*



A New York Times Bestseller
A USA Today Bestseller

HC: 978-0-545-25908-8 • \$17.99 (\$19.99 CAN)
PB: 978-0-545-68280-0 • \$9.99 (\$10.99 CAN)
EBK: 978-0-545-38940-2 • \$9.99 (\$9.99 CAN)

“An intelligent paranormal romance that surreptitiously folds in serious adolescent issues, including teens’ relationships with their parents, suicidal ideation, morphing bodies and young love.”
—*Los Angeles Times*

“Stiefvater’s emotional prose is rich without being melodramatic, and she clearly shares her fans’ love of these characters.”
—*Booklist*



HC: 978-0-545-65457-9 • \$18.99 (\$19.99 CAN)
EBK: 978-0-545-65458-6 • \$18.99 (\$18.99 CAN)

Everybody thinks they know Cole’s story. Addiction. Downfall. Disappearance. But only a few people know Cole’s darkest secret—his ability to shift into a wolf. One of these people is Isabel. At one point, they may have even loved each other. But that feels like a lifetime ago.

Now Cole is back. Back in the spotlight. Back in the danger zone. Back in Isabel’s life. Can this sinner be saved?

All books also available as Scholastic Audiobooks.

Discussion questions for the Shiver series

1. The teens that were turned into wolves all faced difficult personal and home situations. Using evidence from all three books, explain how each one feels that becoming a wolf would fix his or her problems. (RL.1, 2, 3, 6, 9)
2. Learning coping skills is an essential part of emotional growth. Throughout the series there is a lack of good parental role models. Give examples from the books that show how the adults let their children down. (RL.1, 3, 9)
3. What are some other books that feature werewolves? How are the wolves of Mercy Falls different from other portrayals of werewolves? (RL.1, 9; W.3, 4, 9)
4. Love and wanting to be loved is a prevalent theme throughout the series. Children want to be loved by parents. Teens want to be loved by siblings and peers. Adults want the love of their children. Give an example of each from the series. (RL.2, 9)
5. Only being human for part of the year would have its advantages and disadvantages. Discuss three pros and three cons of living as both a wolf and a human. Use at least one example from each book to back up your answers. (RL.1, 9)
6. Sam feels that shifting is horrible. He is terrified to lose his humanity, whereas other wolves like Beck, Ulrick, Shelby, Cole, and even Grace and Olivia seem much more comfortable when they become wolves. Using examples from all three books, cite evidence depicting how each one feels about shifting. (RL.1, 6, 9)
7. Each chapter in *Shiver* begins with the current temperature. How does knowing the temperature add to the story? Why didn't the author use any temperatures at the beginning of each chapter in *Linger* and *Forever*? (RL.1, 5, 9)
8. Officer Koenig had heard tales about humans turning into wolves from his father. How would things have been different for the pack if Tom Culpeper had known of these stories? Would it have made life easier or harder for the wolves? (RL.1, 3, 9)
9. Change is a theme that runs through the books. How did the following characters' views change over time: Sam, Grace, Beck, Cole, Olivia, Isabel, and Rachel? (RL.1, 2, 3, 9)
10. Beck talked to Grace about the pros and cons of being a wolf. What did he confess was going to be his greatest regret when he was no longer able to be a human? Citing specific examples from *Shiver*, explain why. (RL.1, 2, 3)
11. Isabel and Grace seem like an unlikely duo. Isabel's attitudes toward school, Mercy Falls, and fashion are the opposite of Grace's. What does each gain from the friendship? (RL.1, 3)
12. Both Grace and Sam have a hard time calling the place that they were raised "home." Why? Where do Sam and Grace consider home? (RL.1, 2, 3)
13. Sam surrounded himself with literature and poetry and often quoted Roethke. Use examples from the book to explore the reasons why Sam liked Roethke's writings. How did Roethke's words help Sam cope with the following aspects of his life: his childhood, being a wolf, his feelings for Grace, and his growing anger with Beck? (RL.1, 3, 4, 5, 9)
14. Who do you think played the biggest role in saving the wolves from Tom Culpeper? Why? Do you think anyone could have done more? Use examples from *Forever* to back up your findings. (RL.1, 3)
15. Opposing forces such as life and death, truth and lies, winter and summer, love and hate, acceptance and rejection, and selflessness and selfishness can be found throughout the book. Tell how each of the following characters had to choose between two of these forces: Sam, Grace, Beck, Cole, and Isabel. (RL.1, 2, 3, 4)
16. Compare and contrast how Cole is depicted in the previous books (*Shiver*, *Linger*, and *Forever*) to his portrayal in *Sinner*. (RL.3)
17. Throughout *Sinner*, the author uses words and phrases commonly associated with wolves and dogs to describe human characters and their actions. Why do you think she does this? Find three of these instances and explain how each word choice impacts the meaning and tone of the passage. (RL.4)
18. Why do you think the author chooses to structure *Sinner* with narration alternating between Cole and Isabel? Do you think this style of storytelling works for *Sinner*? Why or why not? Choose your favorite chapter from *Sinner* and rewrite it in the third person point of view. (RL.5; W.4)
19. Using specific details from the book, examine how the following themes are portrayed throughout *Sinner*: authenticity, trust, escape, and change. Then choose two of these themes and describe how they relate to each other in at least two different points of the story. (RL.2)
20. Many of the characters in *Sinner* deal with feelings of loneliness throughout the story. Using specific examples from the book and your own conclusions, choose one character and analyze how he or she deals with being alone. (RL.1, 3)

THE RAVEN CYCLE

Mystery, romance, and the supernatural combine in this new series from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Maggie Stiefvater. The Raven Cycle takes readers on a journey with Blue Sargent, Richard “Dick” Campbell Gansey III, and their friends as they embark on a quest to find Glendower, a vanished Welsh king.



A New York Times Bestseller
A USA Today Bestseller
A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year
An ALA Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults Book

HC: 978-0-545-42492-9 • \$18.99 (\$19.99 CAN)
 PB: 978-0-545-42493-6 • \$9.99 (\$10.99 CAN)
 EBK: 978-0-545-46979-1 • \$9.99 (\$9.99 CAN))



A New York Times Bestseller
A 2014 Indies Choice YA Book of the Year Finalist
An ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults Book
A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

HC: 978-0-545-42494-3 • \$18.99 (\$19.99 CAN)
 EBK: 978-0-545-57717-5 • \$18.99 (\$18.99 CAN)

“Stiefvater is a master storyteller.” —*USA Today*

- ★ “One unexpected and wonderful surprise after another...a marvel of imagination.” —*Booklist*, starred review
- ★ “Simultaneously complex and simple, compulsively readable, marvelously wrought.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review
- ★ “Haunting...a tour de force of characterization.” —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review
- ★ “Incredibly rich and unique...a supernatural thriller of a different flavor.” —*School Library Journal*, starred review

- ★ “The second installment of Stiefvater’s Raven Cycle is as mind-blowingly spectacular as the first...astounds with its sensitivity and sophistication... an engrossing, believable whole.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review
- ★ “More tense and foreboding than its predecessor—and every bit as gripping.” —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review
- ★ “Richly written and filled with figurative language...this story of secrets and dreams, of brothers and of all-too-real magic is an absolute marvel of imagination and an irresistible invitation to wonder.” —*Booklist*, starred review
- ★ “Atmospheric.” —*School Library Journal*, starred review
- ★ “Plot and pacing are perfect.” —*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, starred review



HC: 978-0-545-42496-7 • \$18.99 (\$19.99 CAN)
 EBK: 978-0-545-66290-1 • \$18.99 (\$18.99 CAN)

Available Fall 2014!

Watch for the fourth Raven Cycle book coming in 2015.

All books also available as Scholastic Audiobooks.

Discussion questions for The Raven Cycle

1. Reread the quotes in the prologue from Edgar Allan Poe and Oscar Wilde. Do they mean something different to you now that you've read *The Raven Boys*? What character or characters does each quote remind you of? Use examples of their actions, personality traits, and thoughts to support your answers. (RL.1, 3, 5, 9)
2. Blue is the only person in her family who is not a psychic. Using examples from the books, explain how you think she really feels about this. Then describe how this shapes her personality. (RL.1, 2, 3)
3. Why was Czerny important to Whelk when he was both alive and dead? Why did Whelk think that Czerny made the perfect sacrifice? Was he right? Why or why not? (RL.1, 3)
4. On more than one occasion, Noah's friends describe him as "the smudgy one." Is this an accurate description? Why or why not? How does this make it more plausible that Noah's friends never suspected that he was a spirit? (RL.1, 3, 4)
5. Every character in *The Raven Boys* is on a quest for something. Choose three characters from the following and explain what each of them is looking to find: Gansey, Adam, Blue, Noah, Ronan, and the Gray Man. (RL.1, 2, 3)
6. The theme of home is prevalent throughout *The Raven Boys*. List one word that you think your three favorite characters best associate with the word *home*. (RL.2, 4)
7. Do you think that Henrietta became a magical place because a ley line is located there, or do you think that the ley line was placed there because Henrietta already possessed magic? Why? Cite specific examples from the book to support your answer. (RL.1, 3)
8. For as long as she can remember, Blue has known that if she were to "kiss her true love, he would die." Use examples from the books to back up why you feel it was or was not fair of Blue's family to tell her this prophecy? (RL.1, 3)
9. Ravens—both physically and symbolically—are featured throughout *The Raven Boys*. List five examples of their presence. (RL.1, 2, 4, 5)
10. Reread the quotations before the prologue of *The Dream Thieves* from Samuel Taylor Coleridge, T.E. Lawrence, and August Strindberg. How do each of these relate to the story? Find another quotation from a poem, book, or song that could have also been used in the opening of *The Dream Thieves*. Explain how it relates to the story. (RL.1, 9)
11. *The Dream Thieves* begins with the line, "A secret is a strange thing." All of the characters in the book have secrets. Choose three characters, list their secrets, and explain why he or she chose to keep them from other characters. (RL.1, 2, 3, 6)
12. Compare and contrast the following pairs of characters: Ronan and Kavinsky, Adam and Blue, Gansey and the Gray Man. (RL.1, 3)
13. The author associates colors with many of the characters. In what ways is the Gray Man gray? In what ways is Blue blue? (RL.1, 4)
14. Adam has trouble disconnecting from his upbringing and breaking free from his father's constant abuse. Even though he obviously doesn't want to live with his parents under the circumstances, he struggles with the decision to leave. Why is it so hard for Adam to leave? Do you think he should have left home and moved into Monmouth Manufacturing before he finally did? Why or why not? Cite evidence from the book to support your answers. (RL.1, 3)
15. Why does Gansey feel the need to take care of Ronan? What, if anything, does Gansey get out of this seemingly one-sided relationship? (RL.1, 3)
16. Adam continually lets his pride get in the way of letting his friends help him. Do you think Adam's pride is a good or bad trait? Cite examples from *The Dream Thieves* to back up your thoughts. (RL.1, 3)
17. Why does Blue kiss Noah and not tell anyone else about it? Do you think Blue should have told Adam about the prophecy earlier? Cite examples from the book to prove why or why not. (RL.1, 3)
18. Both Ronan and the Gray Man like the idea of brothers, yet they both have problematic relationships with their own brothers. Explain how Ronan and Declan's relationship is strained, and why the Gray Man and his brother are at odds. (RL.1, 3)
19. Gansey believes that Adam is the way he is because he has never been wealthy in either money or love. Is Gansey's assessment of Adam accurate? Why or why not? (RL.1, 3, 6)
20. Explain how the past, present, and future are all connected in *The Dream Thieves*. (RL.1, 3, 5)
21. How does Cageswater become hidden? Why is Adam the only person who can fix it? How does fixing the ley line make Adam more like The Magician, the tarot card he pulled from Persephone's deck? (RL.1, 3)
22. Explain how the loophole in Niall Lynch's will worked. (RL.1)
23. How does listening to music aid the Gray Man? Create a playlist of songs that makes you think about *The Dream Thieves*, and then match each song to a character or location from the book. (RL.1, 3, 7)

THE SCORPIO RACES

It happens every November—the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live; many die.

At nineteen, Sean Kendrick is the returning champion. He's a young man of few words, and if he has any fears, he keeps them buried deep, where no one else can see them.

Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn't given her much of a choice. So she enters the competition—the first girl ever to do so. She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen.



A 2012 Michael L. Printz Honor Book

An ALA Notable Children's Book

An ALA Top Ten Best Fiction Book for Young Adults

A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year

A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year

A *New York Times* Notable Children's Book

A *Horn Book* Fanfare Book

A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Teen Book of the Year

PB: 978-0-545-22491-8 • \$9.99 (\$10.99 CAN)

EBK: 978-0-545-38827-6 • \$9.99 (\$9.99 CAN)

"[Stiefvater] not only steps out of the young adult fantasy box with *The Scorpio Races* but crushes it with pounding hooves...If *The Scorpio Races* sounds like nothing you've ever read, that's because it is." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"With this beautifully executed drama, Stiefvater has established herself as one of the finest YA novelists writing today." —*Entertainment Weekly*

★ "Masterful. Like nothing else out there now." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "A study of courage and loyalty tested...an utterly compelling read."
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "An intoxicating ride." —*Horn Book*, starred review

★ "A book with cross-appeal to lovers of fantasy, horse stories, romance, and action-adventure." —*Booklist*, starred review

★ "Action, conflict, excitement, and a heart-stopping climax...marvelous."
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

Also available as a Scholastic Audiobook.

Discussion questions for *The Scorpio Races*

1. How many people live on Thisby? Describe the physical characteristics of the island, and explain how they contribute to the narrative. (RL.1, 3, 5)
2. The recurring themes of trust and love run throughout the story. List two examples of each. (RL.1, 2, 3)
3. There are many similarities between Puck and Sean, such as their backgrounds, hobbies, and the type of people they respect. Compare and contrast their similarities as well as their differences. (RL.1, 3)
4. Does Sean trust Corr? Do you think he should have trusted him? Give examples from the book to back up your answers. (RL.1)
5. Why does the author choose to use the butcher shop as the location where the townsfolk sign up for the races? (RL.1, 5)
6. Puck's mother tells her, "Sometimes obstacles were there to stop you from doing something stupid." What are some of the obstacles that Puck has had to face? Find examples in the story that show that Puck's mom may have supported her decision to race. (RL.1, 3, 4)
7. Is Mutt Malvern jealous of Sean Kendrick, or is he just a bully? Use evidence from *The Scorpio Races* to back up your answer. (RL.1)
8. What is a "sea wish"? Using evidence from the book, explain if "sea wishes" are good or evil. (RL.1, 4)
9. Peg Gratton mentions that she did not think everyone was meant to live on Thisby. What does she mean by this? Why does Kate feel that she was meant to stay and Gabe was meant to leave? (RL.1, 2, 3)
10. Peg Gratton performed a pre-race ritual after the parade. She says, "If you feed the island blood before the race, maybe she won't take as much during it." What was the ritual, and what is the meaning behind her cryptic comment? (RL.1, 4)
11. George Holly is an outsider, yet he seems to take the place of Sean's father. In many ways he is the antithesis of Benjamin Malvern. Compare and contrast the two men's personalities and their actions toward Sean. (RL.1, 3)
12. Which character has the biggest advantage in the Scorpio Races? Why? (RL.1, 3)
13. How do the Scorpio Races help the people of Thisby? Are there any negative consequences from the tourists coming to town? (RL.1, 3)
14. How does reading both Puck's and Sean's narratives make the story more complete? How would the story have been different if the reader only heard it told from either Puck's or Sean's point of view? (RL.1, 6)
15. Use examples from the book to explain why the author chose to call this book *The Scorpio Races*. What does the word *scorpio* have to do with the story? Come up with an alternate title, and explain how this new title connects to the story. (RL.1, 4, 5; W.3, 4, 9)

Available for Middle Grade Readers from Maggie Stiefvater

SPIRIT ANIMALS: HUNTED



Ages 8–12

HC: 978-0-545-52244-1 • \$12.99 (\$14.99 CAN)

Reinforced Library Edition:

978-0-545-59972-6 • \$16.99 (\$18.99 CAN)

EBK: 978-0-545-52256-4 • \$12.99 (\$12.99 CAN)

Also available as a Scholastic Audiobook.

In the world of Erdas, only a rare few are able to summon a spirit animal in the way Conor, Abeke, Meilin, and Rollan have. The bond they share with their animals is a partnership that allows them to access more-than-human abilities.

But what if there was another way to create a spirit animal—to force the bond, giving the human partner total control? And what if someone with selfish intentions was offered this gift . . . with a catch. The four young heroes have barely had time to come together as a team, and their own spirit animal bonds are still greatly untested. But now they face a brutal confrontation against an enemy who will break any rule to defeat them.

Find out more about the Spirit Animals series, get a full discussion guide to *Hunted*, and explore the games and challenges for young readers at scholastic.com/spiritanimals.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo © Robert Severi 2011

Maggie Stiefvater is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Shiver*, *Linger*, and *Forever*. Since publication, rights to thirty-seven foreign editions of *Shiver* have been licensed. Maggie is also the author of *The Scorpio Races*—a 2012 Michael L. Printz Honor Book. Her latest series, *The Raven Cycle*, combines mystery, romance, and the supernatural, and has received numerous starred reviews. An avid reader, award-winning artist, and accomplished musician, Maggie lives in Virginia with her husband and their two children.

Visit Maggie Stiefvater online at maggiestiefvater.com for teaser chapters, book trailers, free music downloads, and much more. Follow Maggie on Twitter at [@mstiefvater](https://twitter.com/mstiefvater), on Facebook at facebook.com/MaggieStiefvaterAuthorPage, and on Tumblr at maggie-stiefvater.tumblr.com.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR GRADES 9-12 REFERENCED IN THIS GUIDE

Anchor Standards for Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- RL.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- RL.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- RL.3 Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

- RL.4 Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- RL.5 Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
- RL.6 Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- RL.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- RL.9 Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Anchor Standards for Writing

Text Type and Purposes

- W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

- W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

This guide was written by Mary Kate Doman, Children's and Young Adult Book Consultant, Author, and Professor.



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