

# INFINITY RING

CCSS  
READY!

## TEXT-BASED DISCUSSION GUIDE WITH COMMON CORE CORRELATIONS

### Infinity Ring Book Six: Behind Enemy Lines

by Jennifer A. Nielsen



World War II is raging across Europe, and the Axis and Allied powers are in a stalemate. Riq, Sera, and Dak can tip the scales in the Allies' favor . . . if they can pull off the most daring spy mission of all time. But even if they succeed, are they playing into the SQ's hands? Jennifer A. Nielsen, author of *The False Prince*, brings her talent for intrigue and suspense to the Infinity Ring series!

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Considering the ending of *Cave of Wonders*, what do you predict is in store for Riq, Sera, and Dak in *Behind Enemy Lines*?
2. When the story opens, Riq, Sera, and Dak find themselves in 1943 Europe. Why is this particular setting so significant?
3. What is it about this mission that is so challenging for Riq, Sera, and Dak? How is it different from the missions they have taken on before? How does being forced to separate for longer periods of time affect each of the three Hystorians?
4. Though the three Hystorians have become a family in their own right, what is it about their own families that motivate each of them to try to fix the Breaks?
5. We learn that the trio has just come from a visit to the American frontier where they had an adventure with Sacagawea in episode 5 of the Infinity Ring online game. Based on what you know about this historical figure, what do you believe would be the best part of getting to have an adventure with her?
6. Sera tells Tilda, "I have to save history. Even if my parents are the SQ, I still have to save them." How does Sera deal with learning that her own parents are part of the SQ? Why is this knowledge so difficult for her?
7. Given the events that transpire between the British, Spanish, Germans, and Italians, what did you learn about how espionage works? What do each of the Hystorians sacrifice to carry out their missions as spies?
8. What's the significance of the Mincemeat Man? How does this trick ultimately help turn the war around for the Allies?
9. Consider Tilda's motivations. What does she hope to gain from taking possession of the Infinity Ring? In your opinion, why is she such an evil villain? Does learning that she is following the course set forth for her by her family make you understand her motivations any better?
10. Each chapter in *Behind Enemy Lines* opens with a unique chapter title. Which one of these was your favorite? What about it stood out to you?
11. Considering what you've learned about them from the six novels in the Infinity Ring series, describe Riq, Sera, and Dak. What are three things that you find most (or least) appealing about each of them?
12. Using the phrase, "In this story, loyalty means..." discuss the importance of being loyal in *Behind Enemy Lines*. Explain your choices.

13. Riq tells Tilda, “You’re destroying the world! Every time you pull history off course from how things are supposed to be, you destroy it a little more.” Is he right? How so?
14. What do you believe are the underlying themes or universal truths to be found in *Behind Enemy Lines*?
15. Dak states, “Von Roenne isn’t finished in this war. The things he’ll do are going to save many more lives. He’ll be arrested before the war ends, but he’ll die as a hero.” Do you think Von Roenne makes the right decision? Why or why not?
16. After considering the actions of Von Roenne, Riq thinks about his own place in history and if called to do something truly great, hopes he will have the courage to stand up and do whatever is necessary. Knowing Riq’s character, do you believe he will ultimately be successful? Explain your position.
17. At the end of the novel, the trio discovers they are headed back to Paris, a city they became familiar with earlier in their adventures. Why do you predict they are set to return to this city?
18. In the Epilogue, Tilda ends up face to face with Dak’s parents, and thinks, “They were her ticket to revenge against Dak, Sera, and Riq. And to controlling time travel forever.” Why do you think she takes such great joy in being in this situation? How do you predict she will use it to her advantage?
19. Using the phrase, “This is a story about...,” supply five words to describe *Behind Enemy Lines*. Explain your choices.

## USE THIS GUIDE TO TEACH THE FOLLOWING COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

### Fourth Grade

#### Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details – RL 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

#### Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration – SL 4.1a, 4.1b, 4.1c, 4.1d

### Fifth Grade

#### Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details – RL 5.1, 5.2, 5.3

#### Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration – SL 5.1a, 5.1b, 5.1c, 5.1d

### Sixth Grade

#### Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details – RL 6.1, 6.2, 6.3

#### Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration – SL 6.1, 6.2, 6.3

### Seventh Grade

#### Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details – RL 7.1, 7.2, 7.3

#### Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration – SL 7.1, 7.2, 7.3

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jennifer A. Nielsen is the acclaimed author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The False Prince*, *The Runaway King*, and *The Shadow Throne*—collectively known as *The Ascendance Trilogy*. She collects old books, loves good theater, and thinks that a quiet afternoon in the mountains is a nearly perfect moment. You can visit her at [www.jennielsen.com](http://www.jennielsen.com).

### Infinity Ring Book 6: Behind Enemy Lines

By Jennifer A. Nielsen

Ages 8–12 • 192 pages

Hardcover: 978-0-545-38701-9 • \$12.99

Reinforced Library Binding: 978-0-545-48462-6 • \$16.99

Ebook: 978-0-545-48463-3 • \$12.99

Also available as a Scholastic Audiobook

This guide was created by Dr. Rose Brock, a teacher and school librarian in Coppell, Texas. Dr. Brock holds a Ph.D. in Library Science, specializing in children’s and young adult literature.



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