

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS FOR READING UNITS



Issue	Prompts and Questions
Growing Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What kinds of event can cause a child to grow up? ◆ How do family and friends affect growing up? ◆ Can you show how growing up affects emotional development? ◆ How does growing up change the person or character in your book? ◆ Explain how the person or character's decisions and motivations change once they've grown up.
Stereotyping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How are other cultures stereotyped in your text? ◆ How did you recognize the stereotyping? ◆ What dangers do you see in stereotyping groups?
Conformity/ Nonconformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Why do people want to fit in? ◆ Are there advantages to being part of the in-group? If so, what are these? ◆ What makes people want to conform? ◆ What kind of personality do you think nonconformists have? ◆ Is it tough to not conform? Why? ◆ How do characters or other people view conforming or nonconforming in your book?
Rebellion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Is the rebellion against family members, friends, or school, or is it part of a war? ◆ What causes rebellion in your book? ◆ Is the rebellion well received? Explain why or why not. ◆ How does rebellion affect the lives of others? ◆ Does rebellion change people's lives? Explain how.
Relationships with parents, friends, siblings, romantic partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What cements relationships and brings people closer? ◆ What messes up relationships and separates people? ◆ Why are relationships with others important? ◆ How does your book deal with relationships that adults frown upon? ◆ How do power and control affect relationships?
Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What are rights all human beings should have? ◆ Do people or governments, or both, violate human rights? Explain your position. ◆ How can you stop the violation of human rights anywhere in the world? ◆ Should countries take an ethical stand in favor of maintaining human rights? Explain your position.

Justice/ Injustice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Explain what is just and/or unjust in your book. ◆ Is it possible to repair injustices? Explain. ◆ How does injustice affect people's lives? ◆ Are laws always just? Explain.
The Natural World: global warming, erosion, preserving species, preserving the rain forest, and so on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What can we do to preserve the natural world? ◆ Why is nature important? ◆ Is everything about nature good? Positive? Explain. ◆ Why do we have natural disasters? ◆ Why are trees, parks, and open land important? ◆ Are there conflicts between nature and technology? Give examples. ◆ Why are forests important? ◆ What can we learn about changes in nature from the oceans? From global warming? From glaciers? ◆ Are all species on earth important to keeping balance in nature? Explain your position. ◆ What kinds of pollution does your book deal with? ◆ How does pollution affect people's lives? ◆ What can be done about air and water pollution? Food pollution?
War/Peaceful Resolution to Conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Why do countries make war? ◆ How does war affect people's daily lives? ◆ How can people achieve peace? ◆ How does war relate to human rights? To justice and injustice? ◆ Is conflict part of all relationships? Explain how. ◆ How can conflicts be resolved peacefully? Does your book show this? ◆ What increases anger and frustration among countries? Between characters or people? ◆ Is war inevitable? Explain why or why not. ◆ Does power and control have anything to do with war? Explain.
Physical and Emotional Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What makes relationships abusive? ◆ Can you get out of an abusive relationship? How? ◆ How can someone break the cycle of abuse? ◆ Why do the abused try to protect their abusers? ◆ What have you learned about emotional abuse?
Fears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Can fears control lives? Explain. ◆ How can you overcome fears? ◆ What causes the buildup of fear in characters and people? ◆ Why do characters and people fear the unknown?