

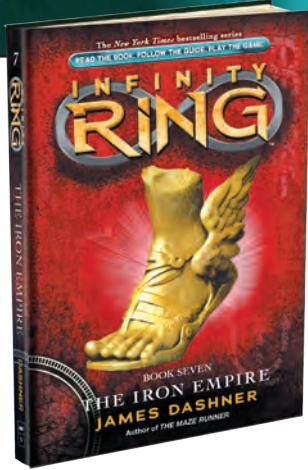
# INFINITY RING

CCSS  
READY!

## TEXT-BASED DISCUSSION GUIDE WITH COMMON CORE CORRELATIONS

### Infinity Ring Book Seven: The Iron Empire

by James Dashner



James Dashner returns to the series he began! Dak, Sera, and Riq have sailed on the *Santa Maria*, defended famous cities from Vikings and Mongols, and come face-to-face with some of the greatest figures in history. Now, at long last, they travel back in time to the moment it all began. Their mission: to save the life of young Alexander the Great. But they are not the only time travelers in ancient Greece. An epic battle against their most dangerous foe awaits them . . . and history will be written by the victors.

Fix the past. Save the future. It's now or never!

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. *The Iron Empire* opens with a Prologue that features an exchange between Aristotle and Plato where Plato says, "Perhaps it's time for the teacher to become the student, and for the student the teacher, when the student must teach the teacher what the teacher ought to teach the student." What do you think Plato means by this?
2. Plato tells Aristotle, "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." Do you agree? What is it about competitive endeavors that brings out the best and worst in others?
3. Considering the ending of *Infinity Ring: Behind Enemy Lines*, what do you predict is in store for Sera, Dak, and Riq in *The Iron Empire*?
4. Aristotle tells Plato, "It is the mark of an educated man to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." What do you believe Aristotle means by that comment?
5. When their story opens, Riq, Sera, and Dak find themselves at Ford's Theater right before the assassination of President Lincoln." Why is this particular setting and the events that follow so significant?
6. President Lincoln tells Dak, "Do good things. Make the world a better place." What are the ways Dak, Sera, and Riq have worked to make the world a better place?
7. When Dak wants to prevent Lincoln's assassination, Riq asks him, "Have you not learned a thing since we started all this?" Why do Riq and Sera insist that Dak not create a new Break to save Lincoln's life?
8. Lincoln tells Dak, "There's a lesson I want you to learn. A lesson about destiny. My path has been laid before me. As has yours. Now it's our job to walk it." Why does President Lincoln not allow Dak to share what he knows about Lincoln's future? Do you agree with his sentiment about destiny? Why or why not?
9. Why is stopping the assassination of Alexander the Third so critical to the overall objective of the Hystorians?
10. Citing evidence from the story, in what ways have the three Hystorians become a family in their own right?
11. In what ways is 336 BC so different than any of the other points in history the trio have visited so far?
12. Each chapter in *The Iron Empire* opens with a unique chapter title. Which one was your favorite? What about it stood out to you?
13. In strategizing for their current mission, Dak declares, "...there's no way we can do this before talking to The Man himself. Let's go find Aristotle." Why does the prospect of doing so excite the group so much?

14. Considering what you've learned about them from the seven novels in the Infinity Ring series, describe Dak, Sera, and Riq. What are three things that you find most (or least) appealing about each of them?
15. Dak tells their would-be attacker, "Sir, I know you're holding a knife and all . . . but I'm just going to give you one word of warning. We've been through a lot of junk, and we're the last people on earth you want to mess with. So stand aside or pay the consequences." Why do you believe Dak feels so confident? Explain why you think this is or is not a smart choice on his part? Review the concept of irony and describe how that term applies to this encounter.
16. Using the phrase, "In this story, sacrifice means . . .," discuss ways in which sacrifice is shown in *The Iron Empire*. Explain your choices.
17. What makes Aristotle's role in the League of Corinth so important? Why is the work done by the League so significant to the course of history?
18. Aristotle declares, "Oh, if Plato could see me now! Aristotle, traveler of time!" In what ways does the philosopher show his enthusiasm for joining the Hystorians in their journey to right the wrong and prevent a major Break?
19. What do you believe are the underlying themes or universal truths to be found in *The Iron Empire*?
20. Right before smashing the Infinity Ring, Riq tells Tilda, "You could've done so much good for the world." What do you think he means by this statement?
21. What is it about this particular mission that is so challenging for Riq, Dak, and Sera? How is it different from the missions they have taken on before?
22. Using the phrase, "This is a story about . . .," supply five words to describe *The Iron Empire*. Explain your choices.
23. Aristotle tells the Hystorians, "this time will be a little different. Instead of putting our focus on *changing* history, we will now do everything in our power to *protect* it." Do you think Aristotle's plan is a good one? As the series comes to an end, how do you feel about the choices each of the characters makes for themselves? Does Riq's choice surprise you? Why or why not?

## 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



Photo © Ken Karp

James Dashner is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Maze Runner*, *The Eye of Minds*, and the 13th Reality series. Born and raised in Georgia, he now lives with his family in the Rocky Mountains. Learn more at his

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By James Dashner

Ages 8-12

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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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