

Discussion Questions for *The WindSinger*

Use these questions for whole-group or small-group discussions. Students may also answer them in writing.

- 1) At the beginning of the story, James disappears but is found three days later. At the end of the story, he disappears again for a matter of hours and returns on his own. Each time, James is relatively “unharmd” (has some injuries the second time, though not serious), yet he is changed by his encounters with the WindSinger. Explain.
- 2) “Point of view” refers to who is telling the story. Most of *The WindSinger* is told from James's point of view. We see what is happening through his eyes. Yet the beginning and the very end of the book are seen from Z'Nia's viewpoint. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story this way? How would the book have been different if we could see only through James's eyes?
- 3) Parts of the story are also seen from Lindsey or Barry's viewpoint. How did each of these characters add to the reader's understanding of James and the overall story? Why do you think the author chose to add their viewpoints rather than Matt's or Slade's or some other character's?
- 4) In the story, James realizes he sometimes solves a problem by letting his subconscious work on it while he's asleep or doing something else. Have you ever done this? How do our experiences influence the decisions we make? How does that explain why two different people might make entirely different decisions based on the same information?