

A DARKNESS OF DRAGONS



BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

MAIN THEMES:

- * An uneasy truce between humans and dragons
- * A retelling of the Pied Piper story
- * Friendship / Loyalty
- * Courage
- * Truth and lies
- * Enchantment
- * Magic
- * Music



p5: The villagers of Patterfall fear the Ice Beast – what do you imagine an Ice Beast might look like?

p25: In order to get rid of the rats Patch plays an illegal song. Do you think he should have done that and why?

Patch teaches Wren Merisax Language – can you make up your own sign language and teach it to your friend?

p132: The man in the mask reveals he's not the Piper of Hamelyn. Can you describe how you would feel if you were locked up for years for a crime you didn't commit?

p136: Do you think the dragons were right to come and kill the man they thought was the Piper of Hamelyn? Did your views change as you found out more about what the real Piper of Hamelyn had done?

One of the major themes in the book is about truth and lies. Patch, Wren and the Eight (the group who captured the man they thought to be the Piper of Hamelyn) all withheld the truth. Think about the following:

Why does Patch keep the news that the prisoner is not the Piper of Hamelyn to himself for so long? Should he have done that?

Wren pretends she comes from a wealthy family when in fact her family is poor. Why do you think she does that?

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On p256: We find out the devastating truth about both sets of children. Why did the Eight not tell the truth? Do you think they were right to withhold this information?

P190: Obsidian or black diamond is precious to dragons because it is formed from the bones of their dead loved-ones. To humans it has magical qualities that they desire. Do you think humans were right to try to take it from the dragon-lands?

Throughout the book music is used as a weapon of war and a weapon of destruction. It's also used as a means to help people and to control them. Do you think that's good or bad? Is there a song or piece of music that stirs a strong emotion in you?

P305: How did you feel when Patch knocked Erner off Barver's back and into the lake? Were you surprised? Did Patch do the right thing?

P329: The End of Skies is a legend in which the earth gives up a vast store of black diamond and all life is destroyed in the chaos that follows. Imagine you were the person who has to stand against the End of Skies – how would you feel? If you could take two people or creatures with you to stop the End of Skies who would you take and why?



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