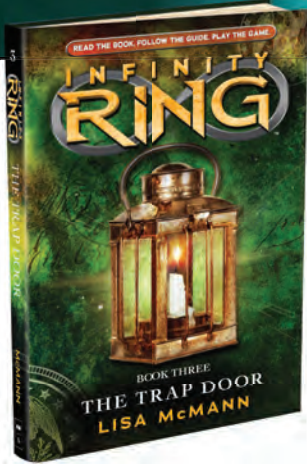


INFINITY RING

TEXT-BASED DISCUSSION GUIDE WITH COMMON CORE CORRELATIONS

INFINITY RING BOOK 3: *The Trap Door*

by Lisa McMann



Dak, Sera, and Riq return to the United States, but there's big trouble waiting for them!

The year is 1850 and the nation is divided over the issue of slavery. In these dark days, the Underground Railroad provides a light of hope, helping runaway slaves escape to freedom. But the SQ has taken control of the Underground Railroad from within. Now Dak and Sera are left wondering who to trust . . . while Riq risks everything to save the life of a young boy.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Considering the ending of *Divide and Conquer*; what do you predict is in store for Sera, Dak, and Riq in *The Trap Door*?
2. At the beginning of the story, Sera, Dak, and Riq have just used the Infinity Ring to warp back from Washington D.C. in 1814 where they fixed a Break at the White House and saved First Lady Dolley Madison from the invading British army. Though it's not stated in the story, how might life have been different in the United States in 1850 if the time travelers had not fixed the previous Break in history?
3. When *The Trap Door* opens, the trio find themselves in the middle of a weather-beaten cornfield during a severe thunderstorm. What is it about these conditions that make them susceptible to the SQ agent impersonating Mrs. Beeson?
4. While trying to lure them in, Mrs. Beeson's impersonator tells Dak and Sera, "You two and your slave will be comfortable down here." Why do Dak and Sera react the way they do? Why do you think Riq is able to keep his composure rather than speaking up? Do you agree with his decision?
5. Considering what you've learned about them from the first three novels in the Infinity Ring series, describe Dak, Sera, and Riq. Name three things that you find most (or least) appealing about each of them.
6. When thinking about how desperately he needed to get a true full night of sleep, Riq reflects and thinks, "Somebody was always wanting to fight him, or . . . or he wanted to fight himself. His Remnants were like an inner war." What is it about this Break that has the potential for Riq's life to be changed forever? Why is he so fearful of it?
7. Using the phrase, "In this story, family means . . ." discuss the importance of family in *The Trap Door*. Explain your answer.
8. After Sera thanks Riq for giving up his jacket to help keep her warm, he tells her, "I'm fine. My manliness is more than enough to keep me warm." Though Riq intends that the comment be taken as a joke, Dak's reaction to it is less than positive. Why do you believe there is tension between these two characters? Can you think of any way to help resolve it?
9. Besides the three main characters, *The Trap Door* contains a number of secondary characters that exhibit a variety of strengths. Who most impresses you with their strength? Explain your choice.
10. Readers learn that because of the SQ's involvement, in this history that the junior Hystorians are trying to fix, Abraham Lincoln is never elected president of the United States and the Underground Railroad's efforts failed. In your opinion, why is it so critical for the trio to succeed in repairing this Break?

11. Throughout the course of the novel, Riq learns that the world as he knows it may never be the same. In what ways will it be better or worse for him? Have you had an experience that reshaped your life? In what ways have you changed due to this incident?
12. What do you believe are the underlying themes or universal truths to be found in the Infinity Ring series?
13. Consider the song Riq and Kessiah overhear being sung by the slaves who work on the plantation where they are being held; how does this music empower Kessiah to have faith that help is coming for them?
14. Examine the poster on page 52; what is most startling about this image? Did you know that similar posters were created and posted throughout the United States before slavery became illegal?
15. For Sera and Dak, seeing Riq on display and in shackles is unbelievably disturbing. Why do you think the two of them react differently to the experience?
16. Riq considers, “He thought of all the people throughout history—Hystorians, but other people, too—who had sacrificed everything to help others.” How does being surrounded by Minty, Quakers, and the others Abolitionists empower these young Hystorians to continue fighting to right this wrong?
17. Consider the manner in which Sera outwits Ilsa; have you ever been able to get the upper hand on an adult by using your wits? If so, how did you accomplish it?
18. In your opinion, how does helping Kessiah and her family ultimately change Riq? In what ways do you predict he will be different in the future?
19. Using the phrase, “This is a story about...” supply five words to describe *The Trap Door*. 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

Lisa McMann is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the paranormal Wake trilogy, the dystopian fantasy The Unwanteds series, and other books for teens and tweens. She lives with her family in Arizona.

Infinity Ring Book 3: The Trap Door

By Lisa McMann

Ages 8–12 • 192 pages • 978-0-545-38698-2 • \$12.99

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