

Discussion Questions

Every reader knows it's more fun to read with someone you can discuss the book with. In addition, as an educator, you want to make sure the material gets your student thinking. Below are some questions about the text of *Asteria: The Discovery* that you might want to use in a discussion group. Or pick a few and divide the class into groups to discuss on their own, then report what the group consensus was.

1. What are some of the indications that the lab hadn't been used in a very long time? Why would a closed-up lab get these indications? *(Be sure to indicate the rafters aren't covered; as people walk above, dust flakes from the ceiling; the room probably has cracks in places where dust could enter)*
2. Why is eavesdropping a dangerous habit? *(You might only get part of the story, you may misunderstand what was said, you might hear information you don't want to know)*
3. You're going to explore Humphrey's Row. What equipment would you pack?
4. Is there any way the boys could have stopped Annese from joining their adventure?
5. Why would the boys want to mark the portal entrance so no one else could see it?
6. What suddenly changed Jeremy's attitude towards his sister? Why would he be so concerned about her?
7. What are some similarities to our lifestyle and Gralena's? What are the differences?
8. What would be the procedure to make leathers as soft as the ones Gralena gave Jordon? Is it possible to get leather that soft?
9. What is a page boy? *(A boy from a noble medieval family typically served a major lord as a **Page** from seven years of **age** to fourteen years of **age**. Upon reaching around fourteen years of **age**, if the **Page was** deemed*

*appropriately trained in the courtly manners and skills, he **was** promoted to the position of a squire. – medievalchronicles.com)*

10. The wizards are preparing a solstice ceremony when Jeremy crashes through the glass dome. What is a solstice and why would they be celebrating it?
11. Jordon and Zelmar get into quite the argument with Jordon refusing to go to the oracle and Zelmar demanding he does. In what circumstances is it ok to ignore experience, stand your ground, and follow your instincts?
12. There is obviously a bad past between Durmond and Thrundra. Can you speculate what it might have been?
13. Faeyruun is home to the fairies and many other more dangerous creatures. What kind of creatures did Jeremy and Jordon fight against on this particular island?
14. Zelmar begins Jordon's sword training. Why would he train someone who disobeyed his king? Someone who disobeyed him? Would you do the same?
15. We get our first look at King Jamiss in Chapter 10. What is your impression of him?
16. Jeremy pulls off pretending to be a girl getting dressed to avoid the guards chasing them. What do you think of his performance? Who do you suppose Kianne is?
17. Dragonkeepers live as long as 3000 years. What would you do with your life if you lived that long? Would you want to live that long?
18. What do you think is the connection between the murals in the nursery, the prophecy, and the boys being in Asteria?
19. What is your initial reaction to Thaurlonian's introduction? What do you think about his personality? Is it different than you expected? Why?

20. The High Council has agreed to help the boys against Jamiss. That means each of the islands needs to prepare. Do you think this was a wise choice? Why or why not?
21. Back in Chapter 10, Jamiss said he wanted Markea to take care of Annese in the garden. What did he mean? What happened to Annese? How did Jeremy save his sister? Was there another way?
22. The boys found Annese. Why do you think they didn't just leave with her and head home? What would you do?
23. Jeremy defeated Jamiss with the same spell Jamiss issued on Annese. Do you think this was a fair punishment? Why or why not?