

#TQ4T Discussion Questions

Taken

1.0 Prologue | 13

1. What was Samuel trying to tell his friend?
2. Did his friend listen?
3. Share about a time when you tried giving a friend advice. Did he or she accept or reject it? How did it affect your friendship?
4. What does “Faith in the Truth” mean?

1.1 Shock | 19

1. Oliver takes great pride in his physical strength. What do the events of the first chapter tell us about his mental and emotional strengths?
2. Why do you think Oliver’s inclusion in the Academy Squadron gives him “a feeling of belonging and pride”?
3. Do you ever react to your siblings or friends in the same way Oliver reacted to his siblings? What should Oliver have done rather than getting irritated with his younger siblings?
4. Why do you think Oliver’s parents were hiding things from him? What is the best thing to do if you think someone you trust is hiding something from you?
5. What are some of the differences between the character and morals of Mr. and Mrs. Wikk and Captain Vedrik?
6. What do you think of Vedrik’s statement, “People can always be bought”? Is it possible to stand up for what you believe and not give in to pressure?
7. What do you think is in the book? Why does Vedrik want it so badly?
8. Why does Vedrik believe that the origin of humanity is the greatest mystery? What does he hope to find that is so important?
9. Is the Übel’s goal of eternal life obtainable?
10. What Scripture does this chapter bring to mind? Do you think Oliver is afraid? If so, how does he handle it?

11. Do you think Oliver sees himself as a natural leader? Will/should his siblings respect his leadership skills, or resent him for being bossy? Provide passages from this chapter to support your opinion.

1.2 Pursuit | 29

1. Do you think Oliver did the right thing by not trying to save his parents?
2. Was it by chance or design that Vedrik's gun didn't work on Oliver?
3. Why might the Übel want to capture Oliver alive as opposed to finishing him off?
4. Would you be willing to do the things Oliver did to escape the Übel and save his siblings? Why or why not?
5. Consider how many things affect the way people act and think. For example, Oliver's experiences with the Übel greatly impacted the way he behaved toward his siblings at the end of this chapter. How did not knowing why Oliver was acting that way affect how his siblings interpreted his actions?
6. How would the Wikk kids' adventure be different if their parents hadn't already had the ship loaded and ready to go? Take a moment to consider alternate paths the plot might have taken....

1.3 Getaway | 37

1. Do you think that Oliver would be better off on his quest unhindered by his siblings or do you think they will prove their worth?
2. Is Oliver really as capable as he believes he is? Provide examples from the book to support your opinion.
3. What are the strengths of Oliver and Tiffany at this stage of the story?
4. If you were one of Oliver's siblings, would you be terrified (like Tiffany and Mason) or excited (like Austin) about Oliver's escape plan?
5. Knowing that Oliver has failed the flight simulator twice but still has professional flight training from the Academy, would you have more, less, or about the same amount of confidence as Tiffany does in Oliver's flying abilities?
6. What do you think Brock was inspired by when writing this chapter?
7. Do you think the Wikks leaving their home planet, Tragiws, symbolizes anything?

1.4 Hyper Flight | 45

1. What positive character traits does Tiffany exhibit in this chapter? Did she respond to the situation wisely?

2. Like Austin, do you wonder if their parents are dead? Does Austin have any foundation for these fears?
3. Why do you think the e-journal has a secret code to get into it?
4. To whom could you turn in the midst of a crisis?
5. Why do you suppose the Wikk parents kept all of their children in the dark about their plan? Do you think they would have filled them in if they'd had more time together?
6. Do you think it was wise for Oliver to blindly follow the course of action that his parents had planned? Have you ever needed to blindly follow someone else's plan? How did it work out? Was it wise for you to have followed that plan?

1.5 Übel | 53

1. Why do you think the Übel wanted the entire Wikk family and not just the parents?
2. Does this chapter remind you of your own sibling interaction? How? Is this right or wrong, and why?
3. In this chapter we hear Oliver retell the story of his encounter with the Übel. Do you think that if he had it to do over again he would make the same decisions, or would he respond differently? Would you have a similar response under the same circumstances, or would you chose another route?
4. Was it right for Oliver to leave out the part of what happened to his father?
5. Why do you think Mr. and Mrs. Wikk did not plan on returning to their home?
6. Do you think there is any significance to the Übel's skull insignia?
7. Is Oliver a little too obsessed with his need to prove himself as a leader? Is this a characteristic of a natural leader or of an immature leader?
8. Do you think the kids already have the tools and skills they'll need to complete their quest and reunite with their parents, or would it be in their best interest to confide in an adult or another potentially helpful individual?
9. Who do you think was the most surprised by what Mason deduced about the Alliance toward the end of the chapter?
10. At the end of this chapter, both Tiffany and Mason express an interest in contacting an adult for assistance, but ultimately decide to wait and trust their older brother. Do you think this is foolish or wise? Explain.
11. Do you think Tiffany did the right thing at the end of this chapter in backing Oliver up instead of agreeing with Mason? Why or why not?

1.6 e-Journal | 63

1. Do you think that in this chapter Austin and Oliver set a good example for dealing with conflict between siblings? What did they do? What could have been done differently between the two of them?
2. How might the artifacts Mr. and Mrs. Wikk discovered at Dabnis Castle help Oliver, Tiffany, Mason, and Austin on their adventure?
3. What might Mr. and Mrs. Wikk have discovered in the book that would put them all in this kind of danger?
4. Should the four siblings continue on to Jahr des Eises, or should they change their plan and head to Evad first? Explain your answer.
5. What did Tiffany mean when she said that their parents were more than treasure hunters?

1.7 Sky Scooter | 77

1. What animal did Tiffany describe from the e-journal?
2. What do you think of Austin's desire to get revenge on Mason?
3. Were Oliver and Tiffany right to say what they did to the twins? Should Oliver and Tiffany be in charge of the twins in their parents' absence? Does Oliver and Tiffany's prior irresponsibility — not getting their chores done — affect the level of authority they've taken on?
4. Do you think Austin has a right to be angry at his siblings?
5. What are some obvious differences between Mason and Austin?
6. Why did Mason react differently than Austin to their older siblings' lecture?

1.8 Jahr des Eises | 87

1. Why do you think Austin did not strap himself back in when Mason told him to?
2. Do you think it was a good decision to land in the forest instead of at one of the ports? Why or why not?
3. Is Oliver's determination to leave the twins in the ship while he and Tiffany go to Brighton wise? What are some potential problems with leaving the twins alone on the *Phoenix*? Do you think Austin and Mason will be able to stay out of trouble while Oliver and Tiffany are gone?

1.9 Separated | 93

1. Is Mason correct in believing that what happened to the scooter was all Austin's fault?
2. Should Oliver have scolded Mason for trying to pass off the blame to Austin?

3. Like Mason, have you ever had the feeling you were being watched? If so, were you right?
4. Do you think Tiffany should keep the twins in the dark about the dangerous weather coming? Explain your answer.
5. Do you think the twins will obey Oliver's order to stay inside the ship? Why or why not?
6. What do you think Austin was trying to say to Mason with his smirk?

1.10 Reflection | 99

1. Did you expect Mason and Austin to start a fight so soon? Why do they keep fighting?
2. What do you think the blue thing in the forest is? Is it dangerous?
3. Can you remember any of Oliver's instructions to the twins? Have they disobeyed any yet?

1.11 Asterisk | 103

1. Why did Tiffany want to crack the pin?
2. What might these locked entries contain? Why are they hidden behind a pin?
3. Do you think she should read the entry about Oliver's scholarship? Why or why not?

1.12 Obbin | 107

1. What did Obbin want from Mason and Austin?
2. What happened to Mason and Austin when they looked at the crystal? Why?
3. Out of all the things in the *Phoenix* that he could have taken, why do you think Obbin chose the space suit?
4. Should the twins have again left the ship to chase Obbin?
5. Do you think Obbin is a friend or an enemy? Explain your answer.

1.13 Ploy | 111

1. How does the information contained in these journal entries affect the mission of Tiffany and her siblings?
2. Why would the Übel want Oliver to go to the Academy?
3. Do you think Mr. and Mrs. Wikk made the right choice when they let Oliver go the Academy?

4. Did Tiffany make the right choice when she decided to wait for a better time to tell Oliver what she had learned?

1.14 Chase | 115

1. Have you ever nearly made a huge mistake like Mason and Austin almost did?
2. What do you think happened to Obbin?
3. Austin believes he is responsible for Obbin's falling over the cliff. Is he right? Do you think his regret will change his behavior? How? Why?

1.15 Prisoners | 121

1. How do you react in thunderstorms?
2. Who are these blue soldiers? Why do they have the Wikks' things? Why did they capture Mason and Austin?
3. Have you ever done something you thought was right only to find out later that you did the wrong thing (like the blue soldier who broke the mTalk)?
4. Compare Austin's thoughts toward the end of this chapter with those he had at the end of the previous chapter. What changed? Why? Which are true?

1.16 Maglev | 131

1. What do you admire about Oliver's and Tiffany's character in this chapter?
2. Has something good ever happened to you that at the time you couldn't explain why or how it occurred? Did you ever find out?
3. Have you been camping before? What was it like?
4. From where did that footprint come that Oliver saw?
5. Out of a desire to keep the other from worrying, Oliver and Tiffany each withhold information from the other. Is this wise? Evaluate the possible consequences, good and bad, of each one's desire to be strong for the others.
6. Why didn't the twins answer Tiffany's call?
7. Why is it good to spend time with people talking about simple things, like favorite foods, as well as bigger things, like your hopes and fears?

1.17 Mist | 141

1. What is one thing the boys might be afraid of in this chapter? Do you think that this fear is justified?
2. Explain one act of compassion Captain Feng showed to his prisoners. What does this say about his style of leadership?

1.18 Blue | 149

1. Captain Feng seems to treat Austin and Mason very well; so, why did he capture them and raid the *Phoenix*?
2. Are Austin's dreams of escape realistic?
3. Do you like heights, as Austin does, or do you relate more to Mason in that regard?
4. Describe the city.
5. What is the most unusual thing the boys witness in the new city?
6. Pretend you are a visitor in this city; write a few sentences about your experiences and what you witnessed.

1.19 Squirrel | 155

1. Were the fears Tiffany experienced early in the chapter justifiable?
2. If you were in Tiffany and Oliver's shoes, what would be the scariest part about not having any parents?
3. What is your opinion about the theory of evolution? Can you support your belief with evidence?
4. What was the funniest thing in this chapter?

1.20 King | 161

1. Use two adjectives to describe the king.
2. Compare and contrast Mr. Thule's personality with that of Captain Feng.
3. Discuss your theories about the Blauwe Mensen. Who are they? Why are they blue? What do they want with Mason and Austin?

1.21 Morning | 165

1. While waiting to enter the city, Oliver chose not to answer the stranger's questions. Do you think this was wise or rude? Why?

2. Who is Mr. O'Farrell and what is his significance? Do you think he'll be able to help Oliver and Tiffany?

1.22 Awake | 173

1. Do you like reading? Why?
2. What do you think Mr. Thule's backstory might be? Why is he living with the Blauwe Mensen?
3. Why might the Blauwe Mensen feel the need to be so secretive about their past?
4. How would you feel if you were Mason and Austin and were waiting to be taken to the king of the Blauwe Mensen?
5. Why might Austin and Mason's captors be treating them with such kindness?

1.23 Tea | 179

1. If you had an automated home assistant, what would you ask it to do?
2. What is the significance of the sketch of the Valley of Shadows that Tiffany found?
3. What might Mr. O'Farrell have meant when he said that Mr. and Mrs. Wikk's work "may lead to Ursprung or even greater secrets"? Why does he want to find Ursprung? What might the "greater secrets" be? Why won't he tell Oliver and Tiffany what they are?
4. What do you think of Oliver's behavior in this chapter? What characteristics does he display?
5. Do you think Oliver's desire to move on so quickly is wise or foolish? Why?

1.24 Aqueous Cathedral | 189

1. When the boys play too near to Mr. Thule, does he have a right to be angry with their behavior? Why or why not?
2. What is your favorite part of the Aqueous Cathedral?
3. What do you think Mason and Austin saw at the end of this chapter?

1.25 Gift | 199

1. Describe Mr. Krank.
2. Describe the relationship between Mr. O'Farrell and Mr. Krank. Are they friends? Enemies? Somewhere in between?

3. What are some emotions Oliver might have felt upon receiving the package from Mr. Krank? Would you have accepted the package if you were Oliver? Why or why not?
4. Why would Mr. Krank tell Oliver not to open the package until they're "rid of O'Farrell"?
5. What could be in the package? Do you think it is something that can help them on their quest, or will it be harmful?

1.26 Sold | 205

1. Summarize the history Mr. O'Farrell gives of himself and the Federation.
2. What is the significance of Mr. O'Farrell's confession? What do we learn about his character?
3. Do you think Oliver trusts Mr. O'Farrell? Would you trust Mr. O'Farrell? Why or why not?

1.27 Prince | 213

1. What kinds of games do you like to play in the water?
2. What is one danger the boys could face if they tried to use the tunnels to escape the palace?
3. Which palace resident is your favorite and why?
4. Describe the characters of the Blauwe Mensen princes and princesses.

1.28 Package | 223

1. Why does Oliver always get upset at being called a kid?
2. What might be the meaning of the strange look that Tiffany noticed Mr. O'Farrell gave her and Oliver?
3. Do you think Tiffany feels safer camping in the woods now that Mr. O'Farrell is accompanying them? Do you think Oliver feels any safer?
4. What could possibly be the purpose of the item inside the package from Mr. Krank?

1.29 Celebration | 227

1. If you were the king of the Blauwe Mensen, would you choose to honor the custom of protecting your people's secrecy by adopting the visitors, or would you release them?

2. If you were their captive, would you try to escape from the Blauwe Mensen, or would you happily integrate into their way of life?
3. Compare and contrast Mr. Thule and Captain Feng; think about how each man interacts with Obbin. Does Obbin treat either one properly?
4. Should Obbin do what Mason and Austin asked him to do? Why or why not? What would you have done if you were Obbin?

1.30 Oath | 235

1. Name the two objects you find to be the most interesting things the twins see in Obbin's room.
2. Why would Obbin pack so many things for such a short journey?
3. What separates a formal "blood oath" from a simple verbal promise? Should there be any difference?
4. What do you think E4:32 Phoenix stands for?

1.31 Whispers | 249

1. Whom do you think Oliver overheard talking? What does their conversation mean?
2. What could Oliver have done to ensure his own safety in this chapter?
3. What might happen to Oliver going forward?

1.32 Blow Dart | 251

1. Do you think it would be wise for Austin and Mason to plan to return to the gorge at some later point? Why or why not?
2. Do you think it was wise for the twins to promise Obbin a ride in their aircraft? Why or why not?
3. Did Mason and Austin mislead Obbin? How? What should they have done differently?
4. Describe or draw Cobalt Gorge.

1.33 Missing | 261

1. Do you know how to help people with first aid?
2. What range of emotions did Tiffany experience in this chapter? How might the course of events in this chapter be different if Mr. O'Farrell weren't with them?
3. Why is Oliver not as concerned as Tiffany about what happened to him?

1.34 Schlamm | 265

1. Mr. O'Farrell said, "The desperation of a man can lead him to do things he would not if his circumstances were better." Is what Mr. O'Farrell said true? How do you know?
2. Describe your first impressions of Mudo. What type of people would you expect to find in that city?
3. Do you think it was wise to do business with Schlamm?
4. What would you have done in Oliver and Tiffany's circumstances?
5. For what do you think C1:4-13 Griffin stands?
6. Do you approve of Mr. O'Farrell's negotiation technique? Why?

1.35 Reunited | 279

1. Describe the reunion between the twins and the older Wikk children.
2. Where might Obbin have gone and why?
3. What could Tiffany's idea be?
4. Which Wikk do you think was the most surprised to see the blue warriors?

1.36 Escape | 293

1. Summarize the events of this book.
2. What was your favorite part of this book?
3. Briefly describe the main characters. Have any of them changed since the beginning of the book? If so, how?
4. What will happen to the characters in the next book?