

# The World Of Dormia

## Questions for Book Clubs

*Spoiler Alert! These questions reveal important details about Dormia.  
Finish the book before reading on.*

(1)

In Fort Krasnik, Alfonso tells his mother that he has decided to accompany his Uncle Hill to the Urals. Judy replies: *Your father said that this would happen someday. ...Your father always wanted to return to his homeland. Of course, he never did. But he told me... He said, one day Alfonso will want to return as well and I'm afraid you'll have to let him.* Why would Leif Perplexon (Alfonso's father) have said this to his wife? Why was he so certain that Alfonso would want to return to Dormia?

(2)

En route to Dormia, when Alfonso meets with Kiril -- and Kiril relates his tragic past and the story of the Gahnos -- are you sympathetic with Kiril? Do you even believe him at that point? In general, do you find Kiril to be a sympathetic or intriguing character, or do you see him as a classic villain?

(3)

Throughout the book there is a sense that someone in Alfonso's camp is a traitor. Who did you think the traitor was? Who were you hoping most was *not* the traitor?

(4)

When Alfonso and Resuza discovered the perfectly square tunnel in the mountain, did you have a sense that this would be something that would figure importantly later on in the book?

(5)

Did you find Straszzydlo Forest to be scary? What was the most unnerving part about it? Were you disappointed that you never saw the monsters or did this add to the tension? And did you think that Resuza really died?

(6)

Throughout the book Spack and others charge that Bilblox is addicted to the purple ash and that he can no longer be trusted. And, even after Bilblox breaks his word and burns a leaf from the plant in Straszydlo Forest, he keeps a pinch of the ash in his pocket. Is Bilblox addicted to the ash? And if he is, can he still be trusted? At one point Spack says: *Even if he was a good man, that's finished now. He will keep burning the Bloom until there is nothing left. I've read about this. He's no longer human – he doesn't know right from wrong.* People often say the same thing of people who become addicted to alcohol, heroin, or even gambling. To what extent has the purple ash changed Bilblox?

(7)

When he is in prison, Bilblox encounters Spack, a Dormian pickpocket who is desperate to get out of Somnos. Spack describes Somnos as a prison because it is impossible for the city's inhabitants to leave. To what extent is this true? Some Dormians might argue that they have to seal themselves off from the real world because the Dragoonya are out to get them. What kind of mentality might such isolationism breed both in Dormia and in other situations in the real world?

(8)

During his discussions with General Loxoc, the general tells Alfonso that he could never live in outside world as a Dormian. He says it would be too strange to live among people who were so fundamentally different from him. Do you think that Alfonso feels more at home in Dormia or in World's End? Or do you think that Alfonso is an outsider in both societies? Ultimately, Alfonso decides to return to World's End while Hill opts to stay in Somnos. What explains this and, which one of them stands the better chance of finding a true home?

(9)

What were your initial thoughts about Doctor Van Bambleweep? Did you suspect he was Dragoonya, and did you suspect at any point that he may have been Nartam?

(10)

Did the book have any impact on the way that you thought about your own sleep and sleeping habits? By the way, hypnagogia is real – it is indeed the term for the state between sleep and wakefulness.