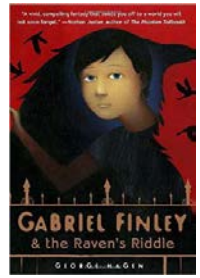


READY-TO-GO BOOK DISCUSSION FOR:
George Hagen
GABRIEL FINLEY & THE RAVEN'S RIDDLE



- **Before the discussion, if there are new members, ask all participants to introduce themselves, stating age/grade and whether or not they have ever talked about books in a group setting before.**
 - **Below are some possible discussion questions, but always ask participants what questions they think should be discussed.**
1. Did you like the book? Why or why not?
 2. Who is your favorite human character?
 3. Who is your favorite avian character?
 4. Which of the children are you most like? What qualities do you share? Who are you least like?
 5. Is Gabriel brave? Is he the bravest of the children in the book?
 6. What is the turning point of the novel?
 7. This is Mr Hagen's 3rd novel, although his first for kids. Do you think he has successfully transitioned to writing for adults to writing for youth?
 8. It is obvious why Gabriel wants to find his father, but why do you think each of the other children choose to join him on his journey?
 9. What is the difference between a raven and a valraven?
 10. How does a raven become a valraven?
 11. What should you do if a valraven asks you a riddle? Why?
 12. What does it mean to paravolate? Do you think this is a real word?
 13. Would you like to have a magical connection with an animal? If so, which animal and what would you be able to do together?
 14. What is the significance of turning 12 for Gabriel?
 15. What does Gabriel learn from his father's diary?
 16. What is the importance of the desk? Did you like it or think it was weird, silly, ridiculous or fabulous?
 17. What are the similarities between Gabriel and Paladin's lives?
 18. Even though this is quite a serious story, there are many silly/funny scenes. Which parts did you find funny?
 19. Why do you think George Hagen chose birds to play such an important role in his story?
 20. Explain the power of the torc.
 21. Riddles and puns appear throughout the text. Were you able to solve them all or do you just skip past them?
 22. Do you believe that Corax is dead?
 23. Did you like the ending? What about it makes you think there will be a sequel?
 24. What do you think the 2nd book will be about?

ACTIVITIES:

- Write the 1st chapter of the sequel.
- Solve the author's "Stinky Pinky Riddles"
(<http://gabriel-finley.tumblr.com/STINKY>)

Example: What's a rhyming pair of words that mean a smelly finger?

Answer: STINKY PINKY.

1. **What does a one-legged pirate lean on?**
2. **Another name for an amusing rabbit?**
3. **A cute baby cat?**
4. **A bad-mannered guy?**
5. **A talkative taxi-driver?**
6. **A pony with laryngitis (sore throat)?**
7. **A disgusting grin?**
8. **A cushion for a small armor-plated animal from South America?**
9. **What would you call the *enemy* of an American writer famous for a poem about a raven, a raven who says "Nevermore?"**
10. **A vegetable that mimics anything you say?**
11. **A flowerseller on vacation?**
12. **A tidal wave of Italian sausage?**
13. **A carbonated beverage named for a small, green, very wise jedi master?**
14. **If a crocodile-like creature burst out of space and struck the earth with the impact of a meteor, it would leave a mark called a ...**
15. **What do you call a storm in which pieces of ice as large as Moby Dick fall out of the sky?**
16. **If ancient roman warriors could fly airplanes, they would be called ...**
17. **If divers put together a brass band, they would definitely have somebody playing the ...**
18. **What do you call an abominable snowman sweltering on a very hot day?**

ANSWERS:

1. *A peg leg!*
2. *A funny bunny!*
3. *A pretty kitty!*
4. *A rude dude!*
5. *A gabby cabbie or a blabby cabbie!*
6. *A hoarse horse!*
7. *A vile smile!*
8. *Armadillo pillow!*
9. *Poe foe!*
10. *Parrot carrot!*
11. *Tourist florist!*
12. *Salami tsunami!*

13. *Yoda soda!*
14. *Gator crater!*
15. *Whale hail!*
16. *Gladiator aviators!*
17. Scuba tuba!
18. A sweaty yeti.

- **Invent your own stinky pinky riddles**
- **AND SOLVE MORE RIDDLES!** Either from the book or from other sources.

Riddles from the book:

From the dedication

This raven tale is written for a soul whom I adore. To spell her name correctly, please solve these riddles four:

Let's go back to the Romans, who,
When writing 50, always drew
This letter for a numeral, too.

Oh, the shame and dreadful woe
Expressed by poets long ago
(this very clue's a rhyme, y'know).

Letter three can best be found
Upon the banknote of a pound
Before the number, safe and sound.

At last, the fourth, a note played clear
For all the orchestra to hear
Before the maestro may appear.

G.H.

Answer: L (roman 50)
 O (rhymes with *woe, ago*)
 L (symbol for British pound note)
 A (note played by 1st violinist to tune orchestra)

(p.151) What's the difference between a churchgoer and a donkey?

A: One sits & prays, the other spits & brays.

(p.265)

"I travel to earth with the greatest of ease,
Borne on the breath of a northerly breeze,
Shapes have I many, words I speak none,
Quickly I die in the bright warming sun."

A: Snowflakes

(p.270) "I may sit on a scale,
But I cannot be weighed.
One step down I am flat. One step up I go...fa!"

A: mi

From The Duel (between Corax and the kids)

(p.350) "Every day they say I break,
Yet never am I whole.
Every day I rise again,
Never do I fall."

Answer: the dawn

(p.351) "A Baby hasn't much of me.
Old men consult me endlessly.
Without me, time's a mystery.
What am I?"

Answer: the past

From: <http://gpuzzles.com/quiz/clever-riddles-with-answers/>

1. What belongs to you but other people use it more than you do?
2. How do you write cow in 13 letters?
3. What is special about the following sequence? 8549176320
4. That attorney is my brother, testified the accountant.
But the attorney testified he didn't have a brother.
Who is lying?

1. Your name
2. See o double you
3. All numbers (0-9) appears in alphabetical order and once.
4. Neither, the accountant was his sister.

From: <http://www.seriousshops.com/blogs/post/Clever-Brain-Teasers-and-Witty-Riddles-for-Kids-and-Adults.aspx>

Q: Johnny's Mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?

A: Johnny

Hannah Peacock

hpeacock@colchestervt.gov

DCF Conference

Lake Morey Resort

May 1, 2015