



Replication: The Jason Experiment Reader's Guide

These questions will appear in the back of the book

- 1) Martyr believes his purpose is to die to help save those living outside from toxic air. Why would the scientists tell the Jasons such a lie? And when Martyr learns the truth, why does he care so much about a new purpose for his life? Have you ever wondered about your own purpose?
- 2) When Abby comes home to find her apartment empty, she weighs the pros and cons. Why do you think Abby does this?
- 3) Describe Dr. Max's relationship with Martyr. Why is he willing to offer the clones some forbidden things like pictures of the sky and ice cream but refuses to take Martyr to see the sky? Is this type of kindness dangerous for the clones? How does knowledge of the outside world affect Martyr?
- 4) When Abby and JD are debating issues of pharmaceutical testing on humans, JD calls Abby a "religious type" and Abby surmises that JD is a "liberal extremist." How are such conclusions harmful to a healthy debate?
- 5) How does the way the Jasons were forced to live and the simple questions they ask about the sky, color, marriage, God, etc make you think about the freedoms you have each day and how you view the world?
- 6) What do you think about the lies that Abby and her father tell the police in order to throw the scientists off Martyr's trail? Could they have handled the situation another way? How? Can you name some of the consequences that came from their lies?
- 7) In a facility with fifty-five boys with the same DNA, where scientists force obedience and conformity, the boys have very different personalities. Why do you think that is? Have you ever been stereotyped based on your age or how you look? How do you seek out individuality and purpose in your life?

8) Abby and her father react differently to Abby's mother's death. Abby tries to find beauty in ashes. Have you ever tried looking at devastation in a positive light? How might such a practice be helpful? Is there a way it might be harmful?

9) Abby claims to have standards as to who she dates and that JD doesn't measure up. Then later, Abby is the one who kisses Martyr, breaking her own rules. Have you set any standards in regards to dating? If so, have you ever broken your own rules? Why might having standards be a good thing?

10) The police take Martyr and Abby to the station, and Martyr is put into handcuffs. How might such bonds be considered a metaphor for his life?

11) Abby tells the police that Dr. Kane is the real criminal. How has Dr. Kane stolen the lives of all those living on the Farm? As different as he and Martyr are, how might environment influence actions more than DNA?

12) Dr. Corrine Markley gave the Jasons something no other scientist did, and Martyr remembered her for it. What was so powerful about Dr. Markley's presence on the Farm? Was it simply the fact that she was female? Or was there something more?

13) Why do you think JD injected himself with the syringe after having seen what an injection did to Dr. Elliot? Do you think JD wanted to die?

14) Abby and Martyr both have a tendency to try and be heroes. How are they alike and/or different in their motivation and methods? In the end, Martyr donates one of his kidneys to Dr. Kane. How is Abby's interpretation of this act different from Martyr's? How does Martyr's explanation of his choice change the way Abby views herself?

15) Do you feel that the possibility of human cloning is an ethical option for scientists to investigate further, or do you feel that the cost of such experimentation is too high? What are the pros and cons of human cloning? For more information on both sides of this controversial issue visit www.cloninginformation.org and www.humancloning.org.