



**CCSS  
READY!**

## TEXT-BASED DISCUSSION GUIDE WITH COMMON CORE CORRELATIONS

### Infinity Ring Book One: A Mutiny in Time

by James Dashner



When best friends Dak and Sera stumble upon the key to time travel—a hand-held device known as the Infinity Ring—they're swept up in a centuries-old war for the fate of humankind. Recruited by a secret society named the Hystorians, the kids learn that history has gone disastrously off course. Now it's up to Dak, Sera, and young Hystorian Riq to travel back in time to fix the Great Breaks.

#### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. In *A Mutiny in Time*, readers learn that the United States of the future is in peril; natural disasters and food shortages abound throughout the world. What can be inferred about the possible causes for these conditions?
2. While thinking about the relationship she has with her best friend Dak, Sera considers, "...something deep inside her felt that there was a reason for their friendship. That something great waited on the horizon of their lives." In your opinion, what is the "something great" she anticipates? While considering her friendship with Dak, why does Sera feel so drawn to him? Do you see any similarities between these two friends? How are they different?
3. Consider the role of the SQ; in what ways is their style of leadership similar to any other governments who lead by force?
4. Why do the modern Hystorians believe that history has gone wrong and things in their world are so beyond fixing that their only solution is traveling back in time to fix the past? What might be the challenges of attempting to carry out Aristotle's two-thousand-year-old plan to save the world? Do you agree with their actions? Why or why not?
5. While discussing their displeasure with the leadership of the SQ, Dak tells Sera, "Maybe it'll be us who stand up. You never know." In what ways does his statement foreshadow the events to come, and specifically, Dak and Sera's role in bringing about change?
6. Using the phrase, "In this story, loyalty means...", discuss the issue of loyalty in *A Mutiny in Time*. Explain your choices.
7. In what ways are the Great Breaks in history an indicator that things are not right in Dak and Sera's world? Offer your predictions of how correcting the Breaks will change their lives and the lives of others.
8. Why does Dak's need to "share his tremendous knowledge of history" with others make him an ideal assistant to the Hystorians? Given this background, why do you think his parents chose to not involve him in their work?
9. Consider the American history Break that Dak and Sera get to correct. What other major historical events would you like to see these junior Hystorians tackle? Why do you find these events significant?
10. In *A Mutiny in Time*, fear both motivates and incapacitates Dak. Consider how he deals with his fears. Does he acknowledge them? In what ways do we witness him turning to others for assistance? Who are the people you seek out to assist you when you are afraid?
11. Why do Dak's parents feel pressured to fly the flag of the SQ? What do they hope to gain from their nod of support? Do you agree with their decision to do so? Why or why not? Have you superficially supported something to keep yourself out of trouble? If so, share your experience.
12. When Sera stops by to visit Dak, she finds him in a lawn chair under an apple tree, reading from a gigantic book.

“Normal people used their SQuare for such a thing, but not Dak. He’d search every library in town until he found the printed version of what he wanted, no matter how old it was or how battered.” What can be inferred about Dak’s choice to experience books in their printed form? Do you have a preferred format to reading and experiencing stories? If so, explain your preference.

13. Describe Dak, Sera, and Riq. What are three things that you find most (or least) appealing about each of them?
14. What makes the Remnants experienced by Sera so difficult? Readers learn that there are others who have similar Remnant sensations. Predict what these experiences suggest for those who are afflicted with them.
15. Consider the role played by Gloria and Eyeball; why are these two characters so important to the ultimate success of the mission? In what ways might their actions prove problematic in their world?
16. Discuss the role that learning and knowledge plays in the lives of the characters: Is it a source of hope? Of meaning for life? Of understanding their world better? Explain your responses.
17. *A Mutiny in Time* contains a number of characters who exhibit a variety of strengths. Who most impresses you with their strength? Explain your choice.
18. Throughout the course of the novel, Dak and Sera learn that the world as they know it may never be the same if they succeed. In what ways will it be better or worse for them? Have you had an experience that reshaped your life? In what ways have you changed due to this incident?
19. Using the phrase, “This is a story about...,” supply five words to describe *A Mutiny in Time*. Explain your choices.

## USE THIS GUIDE TO TEACH THE FOLLOWING COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

### Fourth Grade

#### Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details – RL 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

#### Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration – SL 4.1a, 4.1b, 4.1c, 4.1d

### Fifth Grade

#### Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details – RL 5.1, 5.2, 5.3

#### Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration – SL 5.1a, 5.1b, 5.1c, 5.1d

### Sixth Grade

#### Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details – RL 6.1, 6.2, 6.3

#### Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration – SL 6.1, 6.2, 6.3

### Seventh Grade

#### Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details – RL 7.1, 7.2, 7.3

#### Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration – SL 7.1, 7.2, 7.3

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



PHOTO CREDIT: KEN KARP

James Dashner is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Maze Runner trilogy and the 13th Reality series. Born and raised in Georgia, he now lives with his family in the Rocky Mountains.

### Infinity Ring Book 1: A Mutiny in Time

By James Dashner

Ages 8–12 • 192 pages • 978-0-545-38696-8 • \$12.99

This guide was prepared by Rose Brock, a teacher, school librarian, and doctoral candidate at Texas Woman’s University, specializing in children’s and young adult literature.



[scholastic.com/teachinfinityring](http://scholastic.com/teachinfinityring)

SCHOLASTIC, INFINITY RING and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.