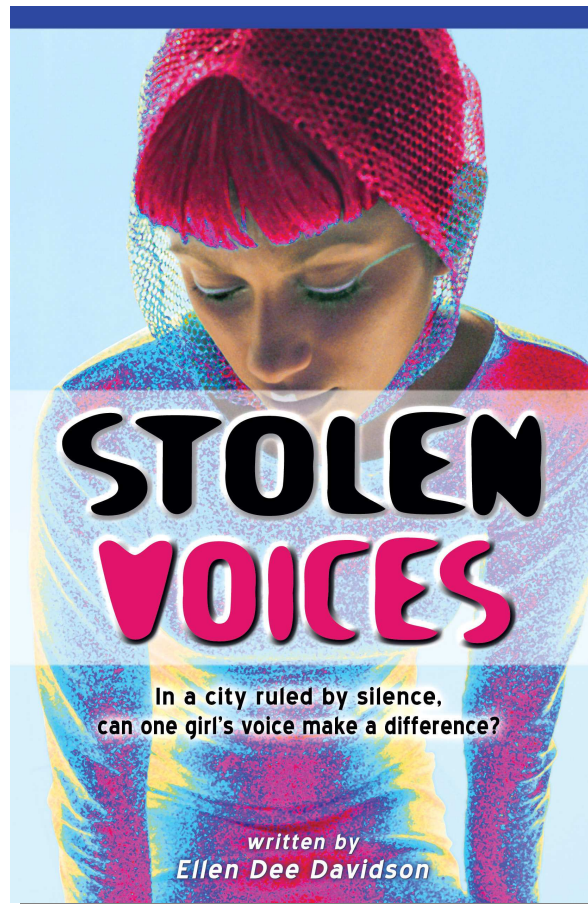


Discussion Guide for Stolen Voices



Guide submitted by author **Ellen Dee Davidson**

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Pre-reading:

What is the meaning of conformity? What other books have you read that deal with this issue?

Questions to consider:

1. Describe Noveskina. Does it seem perfect to you?
2. Why is it important for everyone to have a Talent?
3. Do you think it is fair that social status is based on a person having a Talent, or not?
4. Why would a culture want to Mask people once their Talents had developed? What is threatening about Talents?
5. Explain what happened when Miri "read" the book. Why was this a turning point for her?
6. What were the main events in the story?
7. How does Miri discover what her Talent is? Why is it so hard for her to figure out?
8. Do you think everyone has talents and abilities?
9. If someone finds out something about their society that is wrong, do they have a moral responsibility to reveal it, or "blow the whistle"? What are the risks in doing this?
10. When is conformity appropriate? Why do societies need people to conform?
11. Does having a strong leader, such as the Masker, make things work more smoothly in a community?
12. How do you think Miri will change her society?
13. Predict how the main characters in the story will adapt, now that they no longer wear the Masks.

Curriculum Activities:

Language Arts:

Write about how Masks can conceal and reveal the true nature of a person. What do you keep Masked about yourself? What don't you want people to know? How would you like people to see you? Discuss image.

Read books about fascist societies, real and imagined: *The Diary of Ann Frank*, *Brave New World*, *The Giver*, *Fahrenheit 451*

Art:

Design and create a Mask that reveals something about yourself, even as it conceals your face.

History:

Research more about the effects of governments upon people. How did the Ancient Greeks raise their children? Was there a difference in Athens and Sparta? How did this affect their cultures? What do you notice about the way your own culture raises children?

Music:

Why was music so important in this story? How does music affect people? Why do you think the Masker thought playing instruments and singing was too dangerous? Write lyrics that express how this book affected you, or make a recording of a song, or some music you like. Explain how this music reminds you of the book.

Science:

Research one of the following topics mentioned in the story:

- synesthesia
- sound waves
- resonance
- harmonics
- telepathy
- parapsychology
- the relationship between colors and sounds

Define the topic you chose. What is it? What are its potential uses? What are its potential abuses?