

Discussion Guide For  
**INVINCIBLE**  
by  
**SHERRILYN KENYON**

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**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Setting: Modern New Orleans  
*#1 New York Times & USA Today Bestseller*

*Just when he thought things couldn't get any worse...*

Nick Gautier's day just keeps getting better and better. Yeah, he survived the zombie attacks, only to wake up and find himself enslaved to a world of shapeshifters and demons out to claim his soul.

His new principal thinks he's even more of a hoodlum than the last one, his coach is trying to recruit him to things he can't even mention and the girl he's not seeing, but is, has secrets that terrify him.

But more than that, he's being groomed by the darkest of powers and if he doesn't learn how to raise the dead by the end of the week, he will become one of them...

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

In the past three years, New York Times bestselling author Sherrilyn Kenyon has claimed the #1 spot sixteen times. This extraordinary bestseller continues to top every genre she writes. With more than 25 million copies of her books in print in over 100 countries, her current series include: The Dark-Hunters, The League, Chronicles of Nick, and Belador. Since 2004, she has placed more than 50 novels on the New York Times list in all formats including manga. The preeminent voice in paranormal fiction, with more than twenty years of publishing credits in all genres, Kenyon not only helped to pioneer, but define the current paranormal trend that has captivated the world.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE:**

1. In Chapter 1, Nick discovers his new boss and benefactor is an immortal Dark-Hunter. On page 5, Kyrian says, "You know about Acheron, and you accepted him. Why don't you trust me?" Why did Nick trust Acheron and how does he use that to begin to trust Kyrian? If you discovered your boss was a vampire, what would you do?

Would you trust him or her, and believe them if they told you they didn't drink blood?

2. When Nick enters Sanctuary for the first time, he meets a number of shapeshifters who work and own the establishment. Can you describe some of the different animals who call Sanctuary home? What are your favorite shapeshifters? If you were creating a world, what species would you include, and why?

3. Nick is somewhat baffled by his power of perspicacity. What exactly is this power and what does it allow him to do? Do you think this power is useful? What other things might he be able to do with it?

4. Death teaches Nick what power(s)? What powers does Death have?

5. On page 60 Death/Grim says to Nick, "Every mortal creature is born with an expiration date. Some immortals, too. Set by the big Clockmaker. But excessive stupidity and moronic tendencies can shorten it..." What do you think this means? Do you believe this is possible? What are your views on mortality?

6. On page 85, Nick thinks, "His mom always said that 90 percent of intelligence was knowing when to shut up." Why do you think she says this? Do you agree? Has running your mouth ever gotten you into trouble?

7. On page 95, Ambrose makes the comment, "He'd never understood how creatures who were so brutal and merciless to others expected someone else to show them the mercy they'd been unable to dispense to their victims. A peculiar hypocrisy, to be sure." Do you think this is true? Why would someone beg for mercy when they have never shown it to someone else? Have you ever met a person like this?

8. Savitar reveals that Ambrose is trying to rewrite his life and change things that happened in his past. Why do you think Ambrose would want to do this? Savitar also warns him that tampering with fate has dire consequences. What do you think those are? What new mistakes do you think Ambrose will make? Is there something in your past you'd like to change?

9. When Nick meets Nekoda at the Café Du Monde, he's extremely nervous, and terrified of saying the wrong thing. Do you think this is typical of teenagers? Do you think people outgrow that as they age? Do you think there are topics that are inappropriate to discuss on a date? Have you ever stuck your foot in your mouth?

10. On page 160, Nick jokes that he wants to be a Dark-Hunter. Kyrian counters with, "You don't want to become what I am. It looks great from the outside, but two thousand years gets hard. All my family is long gone... I'd give everything I have and then some if I could just see my parents one more time. Tell my dad that I'm sorry for things I said to him. Never, ever leave your mother after a fight. Whatever you do, don't let the last words you say to her be hurtful." What do you think Kyrian and his father fought about? Do you think you'd get bored being rich and immortal? What are the drawbacks? What

are the advantages? Have you ever fought with someone you loved? How do you think you'd have felt if something had happened to them before you had a chance to apologize?

11. Nick is torn between his new feelings for Nekoda and the long-time crush he's had on Casey, who is now pursuing him. Which girl would you choose if you were Nick? Why? Do you think this happens to a lot of males? How hard do you think it would be to choose between them? Have you ever had to make a similar choice?

12. Laguerre tells Grim that she has conjured an old ally to help turn Nick to evil. Who do you think this person is? Do you think Nick could be so corrupted? What do you think it would take to make him evil? What would it take for you to turn against your moral code?

13. In English class, Nick and Caleb argue about whether or not their high school classes are relevant to the real world. Do you agree or disagree? Can you think of everyday practices where you use Math? How important is English in everyday life? Grammar? What do you think would happen if no one learned those skills?

14. Nick and Caleb discuss the need for vengeance and how harmful it is to the one going after it. Nick makes it sound easy to let go of tragedy and move forward with your life, and his teacher scolds him for this. Do you think it would be easy to put the death of a loved one behind you and not one to go after the one who killed them? At what point do you think obsessiveness becomes harmful to the person who bears it? Is there ever a time when vengeance is a good thing?

15. There's a thief loose in their school and Nick was initially blamed for it. Why would the principal assume Nick was the thief? Do you think his background is really the reason for this? Every statistic says that Nick, with his family history, is never going to amount to anything. That he'll end up in jail. Do you think someone can overcome their past? How hard do you think it would be?

16. The coach blackmails Nick into joining his ring of thieves. Nick tries to convince himself that he's only "borrowing" the items. When he sees that the coach has killed one of his classmates, he panics. If you were in Nick's shoes, what would you do? Could you ever steal? Do you think there's a time or circumstance when stealing is okay?

17. Nick decides he needs leverage to use against the coach so that he won't have to steal for him. As a result, he spies on the coach and breaks into his office- actions that are also illegal. Do you think those are better or worse than stealing? Does the reason why we do something justify the action?

18. On page 217, Kyrian says, "That's the trick. People deceive and they lie. The more you have, the more they scheme to take and the more often they try. The world's an ugly place, and apparently many people think it's easier and better to take from others

than earn it themselves.” What do you think he means by this? Do you agree? Why do you think Kyrian feels this way? What do you think happened in his past to cause him to feel like this?

19. Coach Devus isn't human and he made an evil pact to win an important football game. The theme of the end justifies the means runs throughout the book. Do you agree that sometimes you have to do the wrong thing in order to do the right one? Does it make a difference if you're doing it for yourself or to save someone else? What if your own life was at risk? Would you take someone else's life to save your own? Is there ever a time when the end really does justify the means?

20. The theme of misjudging people, and making snap judgements about them, runs all through *Infinity* and *Invincible*. How is Nick and his mother misjudged? How do people see Acheron, Bubba, Ambrose, Coach Devus, Nekoda, Caleb and Kyrian? Rosa? Papa Bear? Wren? Do you believe that people tend to rely on stereotypes whenever they meet someone new? What stereotypes do you think apply to teenagers as a whole? How do you think you could keep others from misjudging you? Do you think the characters intentionally allow others to misjudge them? Could it be some form of wall they put up between them and the world? Why would they want to do that? Why would you?

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## Projects

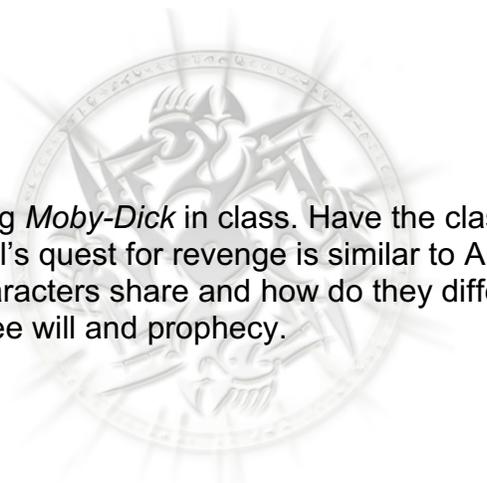
### English:

#### Activity A:

On page 120, Simi says, “The Simi has that effect or is it *affect* on people? Affect. Effect. What is the difference between those two words and really, does it matter? Some people get so testy when you misuse a word. But I likes doing it. Language should be fun and so long as people know what you mean, what difference does it make?”

Affect and effect are two words that are often confused and misused. Can you list ten more?

The reason grammar is important is that it allows us, when reading, to clarify the author's intent. There's a big difference between “Man-eating Shark” and “Man eating shark” or “Let's eat, Grandma” and “Let's eat Grandma.” Can you list ten more examples of punctuation and capitalization errors that could get you into trouble, or convey the wrong meaning to the reader?

**Activity B:**

Nick and crew were reading *Moby-Dick* in class. Have the class read *Moby-Dick* and then compare how Ishmael's quest for revenge is similar to Ambrose's. What characteristics do both characters share and how do they differ? How does each book deal with the concept of free will and prophecy.

**Art:**

Make a piece of art or a drawing of your favorite character or one of the symbols. What do you think they would look like?

Do a collage from magazines of things that remind you of the book. Explain why you chose the pictures you did and how they fit in with the characters and stories.

**Life Skills:**

Nick loves beignets and talks about Cajun hashbrowns and gumbo. Look up recipes online and Cajun dishes. Have students prepare a dish and then bring them in to sample.

**History/Social Studies:**

The book takes place in New Orleans where there is a lot of history. Research when the city was founded and why Cajuns such as Nick are so prevalent there. Why are the counties called Parishes? Who were the Creoles?

**Geography:**

Print maps of New Orleans from the 1800's and compare with the modern day city. Imagine and discuss all the changes the Peltiers would have seen in the last one hundred years since they founded Sanctuary in the city.

**Music:**

Nick loves Zydeco. Listen online and try to find which is your favorite tune. The history of the song *Iko, Iko*, which is synonymous with Cajun culture and New Orleans, is extremely interesting and debated. Which version do you think is correct? What do the words in the song mean to you?

