

Discussion Guide For
INFINITY
by
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ABOUT THE BOOK:

Setting: Modern New Orleans

At 14, Nick Gautier is an average kid who runs with the wrong crowd. But on the night he decides to go straight and refuses to mug an innocent tourist, his crew turns on him and just as he thinks his life is over... a new one begins.

Kyrian of Thrace isn't just a vampire slayer, he's a Dark-Hunter and he introduces Nick to a world that he never imagined.

With new enemies who make his old ones look like wimps, Nick must either measure up or get sized for a body bag. It's kill or be killed and this kid who was born on the wrong side finds a strength inside him that he never knew existed.

Now if he can only find someone to help battle the demons that don't reside inside him

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 the prologue, Nick discusses human free will versus divine destiny. Do you believe in his point of view or Acheron's? How is this theme dealt with all throughout the book? What are your thoughts about how we determine what our fates are and who controls our destiny?

2. Nick gets into a fight as soon as he arrives at his locker. Describe his motivations for attacking Stone. What could he have done to avoid this? Could he have diffused the situation by some other means? Why do you think some people are innately cruel and don't care about how they treat other people, or how they make others feel? Have you ever hurt someone's feelings intentionally? Did you ever try to make amends?
3. Describe the events and motivations that cause Nick to side with his friends and disobey his mother's instructions to go straight home from work. Would you have agreed to watch the street for them while they did something illegal, or would you have gone on home like you were supposed to? Would you hang out with someone you knew was involved in illegal activities, even if you had known them all your life?
4. Why do Nick's lifelong friends turn on him? How does that make him feel? Have you ever had a friend who turned on you and hurt you?
5. Why does Kyrian decide to help Nick when he knows Nick was involved with criminals? Why doesn't he pursue the muggers?
6. On page 50, Acheron tells Kyrian, "It's a different time and place, General. Don't let the past ruin your future." What do you think he means by this? Do you have something in your past that affects what you do and how you behave today?
7. Cherise Gautier is angry over Kyrian's willingness to help them. Do you think she should accept his charity? Do you think she has a right to be suspicious of Kyrian's motivations for wanting to help them without taking payment for it? What would you do if you were her?
8. In the hospital, Nekoda visits Nick. While he really likes her, he's embarrassed by the differences in their social status. He is often embarrassed by his poverty. Do you think he should feel the way he does? How would you feel if you'd been raised like he was? Have you ever felt like you didn't belong somewhere? Do you think everyone feels this way at some point? How is this feeling of isolation dealt with throughout the book?
9. After Nekoda leaves Nick, it's revealed that she isn't an average high school student, but rather an ancient being sent to spy on and possibly kill Nick. What do you think she is and where do you think she came from?
10. What do you think the Cimmerian Magus is and how did it affect Nick?
11. What powers do Nekoda and Srosha reveal about Nick? What do they think his destiny will be?
12. What is the Malachai? Have those powers affected Nick? Do you agree with Srosha or Nekoda about Nick's ability to control that darkest side of himself?
13. Who and what is Menyara? How is she really important to Nick, and what do

Nekoda and Srosha think of her? Why does Nick think she's been helping them over the years?

14. On Page 91, Nick refuses to let Brynna carry his backpack. "No thanks. I'm not having a girl carry my stuff." Is his attitude outdated or does it come from the way he's been taught to watch over and protect his mom? Does he mean to offend Brynna or is it his own insecurities that make him carry it even though his recovering from a gunshot wound? What would you do in that situation if you were Brynna? What would you do if you were Nick?

15. Bubba describes the different types of zombies and a bokor. What are they? Can you think of one he might have missed? Why do you think Bubba and Mark are so concerned with hunting zombies and protecting other people from them? What personal reasons do you think might be motivating them. How do you personally feel about zombies?

16. How did Madaug create the zombies that are terrorizing the school? What was he really trying to do? Do you think zombies could be created that way or that people could really be controlled as Madaug describes? Have you ever tried to do something good and have it turn out bad for you?

17. On page 177, Nick meets Acheron for the first time and discovers he has incredible powers, and that he's not human. Likewise, Acheron realizes that Nick isn't what he seems either and that their destinies are entwined. If you were Nick and you met someone like Acheron, how would you have reacted? What would you have done in that situation? Likewise, if you were Acheron, what would you do about Nick? Would you continue to be their friend?

18. Who is Caleb and why is he so worried about Nick? On page 226, he tells Stone, "Trust me, the animal in you is no match for the demon in me." Throughout this scene and others, Caleb is very honest about who and what he is, and what others around him are. How is he able to tell the truth about everything and keep other people from believing it? Likewise, Simi does a very similar thing. How are they alike? How do their explanations differ? Can you think of such a way to describe something about you or your life?

19. Nick is extremely suspicious of Ambrose. Who do you think Ambrose really is? Is he there to help Nick or to hurt him? Have you ever met someone who claimed to be your friend, but a voice inside you told you not to trust them?

20. Like most teenagers, Madaug doesn't get along with his family. Yet when his annoying little brother and mother are kidnaped, he doesn't hesitate to go alone to save them. Do you think he was foolish for doing that? What would you have done in his place? Is there anyone in your life you'd die to protect?

21. Nick has a crush on several girls in his school. Some are aware of him and some

are not. What is revealed about the girls and how they see Nick by their actions and words? Do you think his behavior is typical for a teenager? How is the theme of unrequited love dealt with in Infinity? Who do you think Nick should pick?

22. The book ends with a major cliffhanger. How do you think Nick will react in the next book? What would you do in his place if you were face to face with a real vampire? Do you believe in the paranormal? Have you ever had an otherworldly experience?

Projects

English:

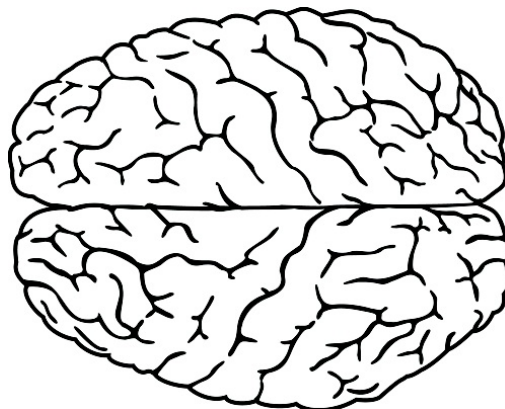
Nick receives a magical book from Ambrose that will add pages to itself as he learns his powers, and once his powers are unlocked, it will give him incantations. Likewise, it will foretell the future, but the book always speaks in rhymes. It can also draw pictures. Keep a journal for a week and try to predict future events by using rhymes. Discuss with your friends what you think will happen in your future and in theirs, and how your pasts will color and affect your futures.

Art:

Draw your own preternatural creatures and tell, in rhyme, what they are and where they come from. Draw a picture of Acheron or Caleb in their nonhuman forms.

Science:

Madaug uses neuroscience to create his zombies. He was trying to raise the serotonin levels in the jocks' brains and thereby calm them down. What other name is serotonin known by? ***** Hormone. Using this diagram, color in the areas of the brain that Madaug's game reprogrammed and the areas he was trying to reprogram.





History:

What is the history of the Malachai? How has that affected human beings? Create your own timeline of how the Malachai has evolved and how you think past and current events will change and impact the future.

Music:

Sherrilyn Kenyon always uses music when she writes. Songs routinely appear in her books and she posts the songs that she listens to while writing the book on her website. Create your personal playlist for *Inifinity*. Tell why you selected those songs and what characters and scenes they remind you of.

Computer:

Can you create your own *Zombie Hunter* game like Madaug did? How many characters would you use and what weapons would you give them? Who would be the heros and who would be the villains?