

Discussion Guide For  
**INFAMOUS**  
by  
**SHERRILYN KENYON**

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**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

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

The world has fallen in love with Nick Gautier and the Dark-Hunters. Now Nick's saga continues in the next eagerly anticipated volume...

Go to school. Get good grades. Stay out of trouble. That's the mandate for most kids. But Nick Gautier isn't the average teenager. He's a boy with a destiny not even he fully understands. And his first mandate is to stay alive while everyone, even his own father, tries to kill him.

He's learned to annihilate zombies and raise the dead, divination and clairvoyance, so why is learning to drive such a difficulty? But that isn't the primary skill he has to master. Survival is.

And in order to survive, his next lesson makes all the others pale in comparison. He is on the brink of becoming either the greatest hero mankind has ever known.

Or he'll be the one who ends the world. With enemies new and old gathering forces, he will have to call on every part of himself to fight or he'll lose everyone he cares about.

Even himself.

**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 discovers he's the son of a demon, and that his destiny is to end the world. How do you think you'd handle this news if you learned it today? What do you think you'd do if you were told this at age fourteen?
2. In the Prologue, we learn that Ambrose has tried to change the past several times and yet certain events continue to happen, and his attempts often worsen things. Do you believe destiny is more powerful than free will? Where do you think one begins and one ends? What do you think Nick could do differently than Ambrose did at his age?
3. Cherise Gautier is completely oblivious to Grim's, Kyrian's and Acheron's immortal powers. Why do you think she's unable to see them? Is it something she's doing, or do you think someone else is influencing her? Do you think you would pick up on someone who wasn't human if they brushed past you?
4. Death teaches Nick what power(s) in this book? Do you think that power would be useful to you?
5. In the first chapter, Nick is arguing with his mother about dating. Do you agree with Cherise or Nick? What age do you think would be appropriate for someone to date? Do you think it should be a fixed age, or depend on the maturity of the individual? Do you think Nick could have stated his case better?
6. Brynna is the victim of a vicious bully, and runs out of the classroom. Nick and Caleb argue over what to do. Do you think Caleb was right? Or should Nick have gone after her? Do you think he would have been blamed as Caleb warned?
7. On page 65, Caleb says: "No, Nick. Human cruelty. All the centuries I've lived, I've never understood it. Instead of banding together, your kind seems ever determined to tear each other down. And for what? Jealousy? I just don't get it." Do you think this is a true statement or is Caleb, as a demon, jaded?
8. On page 114, Nick quotes Eleanor Roosevelt to Brynna, "No one can make you feel inferior without your permission." Do you agree? Have you ever let something get to you when you know it shouldn't?
9. Nick defies his mother so that he can check on Brynna and make sure that she's all right. In his vision, he sees Brynna kill herself. How far would you go to save a friend if you thought they were in trouble? If it was your friend being bullied, what would you do? How would you handle it if someone did that to you?
10. In Chapter 5 we learn that Bubba gave up his chance to play pro football so that he could be with his family. Would you have done it? Does the fact that Bubba was a successful jock/football player color the way you see him in any way? Do you think more of him for it, or less?

11. We also learn that Bubba made a bad mistake in college that cost him what? How do you think such an event would affect you? Would you be able to get past it? Or would you be like Bubba and have it bother you for the rest of your life?

12. In Chapter 6, Nick learns the truth of his birth. How would you handle seeing what your parents really thought about you when they had you? How do you think your parents reacted? If you were Nick, what would you do? Would it influence how you treated your mother and father? How you saw them?

13. On page 210, Nick is confronted by a friend who believes Nick betrayed him. If you thought someone had publicly lied about you and posted it online, would you confront them for it? What do you think is the best way to handle that situation?

14. Because of his promise to his mother and after having seen Wren walk away from a fight, Nick doesn't fight back when he's attacked. He allows himself to be viciously assaulted. Later, Dr. Burdette talks about how she'd have skinned Bubba had he not fought back. Which point of view do you hold? Do you think there's a time when it's better to fight or flee?

15. Nick refuses to tell on Bristol. Do you think he should have? Would you have told on him or would you have protected him even though he put you in the hospital?

16. In Chapter 8, why do you think Thorn helps Nick? What ulterior motives can you find for it? Do you think someone who is intrinsically evil could ever do a good deed just for the sake of being good?

17. On page 306, we learn that Wren is a billionaire busboy. Do you agree with Nick that he's insane for staying at Sanctuary? What do you think you would do in Wren's place?

18. In page 337, Nick thinks: "Women and girls carried a grudge like nobody's business." Do you think he's gender stereotyping or do you think he's being honest? Can you think of a time when a girl you've known carried a long-running grudge? What about a boy?

19. Between Nick's two bodyguards, Caleb and Kody, who do you think is the most powerful? If they were to fight each other, who do you think would win?

20. Nick is falsely accused of crimes he didn't commit and is arrested for them. What do you think you would do if that happened to you? Would you be able to handle it, especially if your classmates witnessed it? Do you think that event will haunt Nick in the future?

21: Bullying and lies are the themes in this book. In what ways do you think those two things can destroy someone's life? Do you think someone would kill themselves over such a thing? How would you get over such atrocities if they happened to you? What

would you do to help a friend recover from such horrors? Do you think freedom of speech should apply to someone who is posting lies on the internet? Who do you think is ultimately responsible? The person posting the lies or the website that hosts those lies? Why do you think someone would tell such lies about someone else? What would motivate them. What steps could we, as a community and individual, do to prevent this from happening to others in the future?



# Projects

## English:

### Activity A:

On page 115, Nick says, "...While other people have kicked me, coming and going, you never did. You are an angel, Brynna. Don't let the haters win. They would not have attacked you had they not felt inferior to you. So you hold your head up high and dare them to come after you." Write a letter, email or blog post to a friend you know who has been hurt by other people, or an apology to someone you might have hurt either intentionally or unintentionally.

### Activity B:

This book deals with a lot of false stereotypes that people often use to misjudge others such as: all jocks are stupid, all Southerners speak slowly, all cutters are Emo, etc. Create six characters who defy stereotypes that others might want to label them with. Can you put them all in one story and see how they might interact with each other?

## Art:

Draw the layout of the Nether Realm. How do you think it differs from earth landscapes?

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.

## Language Skills:

Nick speaks Cajun to his teacher in the book. Have the students look up more Cajun words and try using them with each other or in a story. Have them create their own language from scratch. Would they base it on a pre-existing language or not?

## Science:

Dr. Burdette specializes in genetics. Have students write a paper about what family traits they think might go to their children. What traits did they inherit from their parents and grandparents? Have them fill out the attached worksheet. For extra fun, have them do one for a demon such as Caleb or Azmodeus or a god. What kind of traits do you think they inherited or what would they pass on?



### **Computer Science:**

Mark and Madaug trace the IP of the bully who is terrorizing classmates online. Have students learn how to identify IP's and what they're used for, download tracing software and use it.

### **Geography/Math:**

Bubba is from Perry County, TN and grew up partially in Bucksport, TN. How far is that from Nashville and Memphis? Since Dr. Burdette works out of both St. Jude's in Memphis and Vanderbilt in Nashville, how long would her commutes be? What would be the best schedule for her to follow so that she could best serve her patients and not live on the road all the time?

Have them use Mapquest to find the best route and shortest distance.

### **Music:**

Nick talks about Emo and Goth. What genre of music do they belong to? Can you list three other kinds of subgenre music in that category? Do you think there is a stereotypical listener for each kind of music? Can you name someone who listens to a genre of music you would never think they would? Glance at Sherrilyn's photo and try to guess what her favorite music is, then visit her website [sherrilynkenyon.com](http://sherrilynkenyon.com) to see if you guessed correctly (the songs that she listens to while writing are listed on each book page).

## Resources



Remember, be a buddy, not a bully because there's always someone bigger, stronger and meaner.

[StopBullying.gov](http://StopBullying.gov)

[Bullies2buddies.com](http://Bullies2buddies.com)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)  
1-800-273-TALK

SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education): [Save.org](http://Save.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Principles of Heredity



I D M S V G G F S P O N E N D B O V S C  
G O Q O W Y S P H P O X C S D L K I W O  
S M D H N Z T E M I W H N T Y J S U P M  
C I O Y Y O N D T A E P A F T U W I I G  
I N D W T O H A A T M M N W D B J W Q G  
T A V I T I G Y E T E V I S S E C E R V  
E N V Y M E L R B P H O M O Z Y G O U S  
N C P K R E O I Y R N U O I Y X P Z W Y  
E E Y G L Z N T B D I D D O Y I E O P J  
G Z E H Y C O D B A I D O V I U X T R P  
E S J G X N F Z E A B R C P U N N E T T  
T A O W E T I A R L D O B F G B U E T P  
E U L G Z U L Z X H F Z R Y G F U Q I E  
S R X E R L I A M X K J D P H H U Z H Y  
T Q B Q E T A M H Y B G A W G I V Z E Z  
V Q O L A O L G G K J W C V G L D U T A  
T N E D N E P E D N I X Q X O J W I E I  
C S Y J D F U V A I Q C F B Q P G M A W

1. Gregor \_\_\_\_\_, the "father of genetics"
2. The first \_\_\_\_\_ generation is the offspring of a cross between parents that are pure for a given trait.
3. The principle of \_\_\_\_\_ and recessiveness.
4. The outward expression or appearance: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Cross that involves parents that differ in TWO traits. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The study of heredity: \_\_\_\_\_
7. An alternate form of a gene: \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_ Assortment
9. Having non identical alleles (not pure; ex. Aa): \_\_\_\_\_
10. Having identical alleles (pure, ex. AA): \_\_\_\_\_
11. Square used to determine probability and results of cross: \_\_\_\_\_
12. The allele that is masked or covered up by the dominant allele: \_\_\_\_\_
13. The genetic make-up or an organism (Tt): \_\_\_\_\_
14. A cross that involves ONE pair of contrasting traits: \_\_\_\_\_
15. The plants Mendel did his studies on: \_\_\_\_\_
16. The likelihood that an event will happen: \_\_\_\_\_
17. When neither allele is dominant (they are both expressed) \_\_\_\_\_
18. Principle of \_\_\_\_\_ states that alleles separate when gametes are formed.



# HEREDITY SIMULATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. The image shows a male and female *hornimonster*, each with different genetic traits. The allele for one horns is dominant over the allele for two horns.

MALE



FEMALE

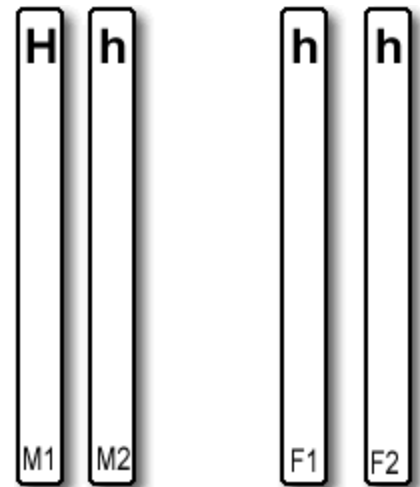


Which hornimonster has the dominant allele? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Obtain four popsicle sticks that will represent the chromosomes of your parents. Arrange them so that the male's set (Hh) is on one side and the female's set (hh) is on the other side. The M1, M2, F1, F2 labels will help you if you get them confused.

3. Flip the sticks over so that you can't see their labels. Choose one chromosome from the mother pile and another from the father pile. This represents the chromosomes each parent is "donating" to the next generation.

4. Data (Repeat the exchange 8 times to produce 8 offspring)



	Genotype (letters)	Phenotype
Offspring 1		
Offspring 2		
Offspring 3		
Offspring 4		
Offspring 5		
Offspring 6		
Offspring 7		
Offspring 8		

5. Math: Determine the PERCENTAGE of offspring from your data table. Show your work.

That have two horns \_\_\_\_\_

That have one horn \_\_\_\_\_

6. Show the cross using a Punnet square. Hh x hh

7. From the cross above, how many have ONE HORN \_\_\_\_\_ out of 8  
How many have TWO HORNS \_\_\_\_\_ out of 8

8. Compare this number to your simulation (where you flipped the sticks). Does the punnett square predictions match the results of your crosses?

A. They are exactly the same

B. They are close to he same

C. They are very different

D. I have no idea

9. What if the female had the genotype Hh.

Show the cross between the new parents Hh x Hh

What percentage has one horn? \_\_\_\_\_

What percentage has two horns? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Show the cross if the parents are HH x Hh

What percentage has one horn? \_\_\_\_\_

What percentage has two horns? \_\_\_\_\_