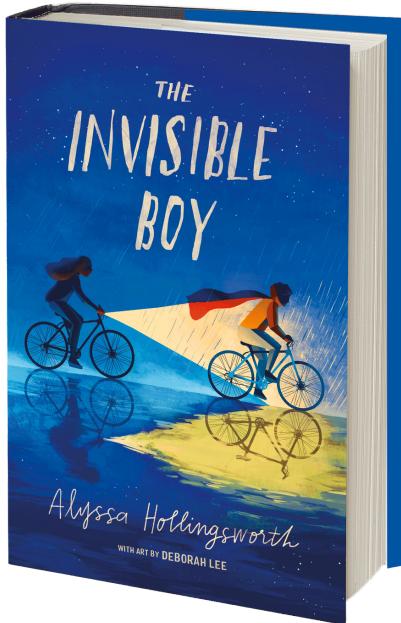


THE **INVISIBLE BOY** Discussion Guide



ABOUT THE BOOK:

If no one sees him, does he exist? This superhero-inspired adventure story explores friendship and what it means to be truly brave.

Nadia looks for adventure in the pages of her Superman comic books, until a mysterious boy saves her dog from drowning during a storm and then disappears. Now she finds herself in the role of Lois Lane, hunting down the scoop of the Invisible Boy. Suddenly she's in a real-life adventure that's far more dangerous than anything in her comic books.

The Invisible Boy is a mystery and an adventure story, as well as a story about child labor trafficking. Like Katherine Applegate, author of *Crenshaw* and *Wishtree*, Alyssa Hollingsworth takes a difficult subject matter and makes it accessible for middle-grade readers.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alyssa Hollingsworth was born in Florida and studied Writing for Young People at Bath Spa University. She is the author of *The Eleventh Trade* and lives in Hampton, Virginia.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Between each chapter is a short comic. What do these comic scenes add to the story? How do you think they are connected to what happens in the chapters?
2. In chapter 1, Nadia outlines the signs she looks for when deciding who's a supervillain and who's a superhero. Would you add to or change her lists? According to her own criteria, is Nadia a hero?
3. Nadia's imagination is a powerful tool in the story. When does her imagination act as a strength, helping her and her friends? When does her imagination act as a weakness, hurting her or her friends?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED:

4. In the first comic, Nadia says that she knew Kenny was a supervillain “as soon as [she] saw him,” but later she admits she got the scoop wrong (page 173). Explain some actions a person should take to avoid making assumptions about other people. How could Nadia have done a better job of uncovering the truth?
5. Nadia loves Superman and Lois Lane. How does her obsession with these characters help her in her journey and how does it put her at a disadvantage?
6. Nadia’s mom is a blogger and Nadia wants to be a journalist. In what ways are their motivations and desires similar? In what ways are they different?
7. Nadia says that “coming up with a superpower is easy . . . You pick a hobby or a favorite thing you already have . . . and then you add a superpower that would make it easier” (page 138). Given these rules, what would you choose for a superpower? What would you call yourself?
8. There are several storms throughout the book (in chapters 1, 12, 19, etc.). Why do you think the author chose certain types of weather for certain scenes?
9. Chapter 13 ends with Nadia crying after receiving big news on a livestream. Why do you think Nadia was so upset?
10. In chapter 15, Nadia says, “Something about the scoop doesn’t feel fun anymore. Something’s changed” (page 192). What were the signs before this that something might be wrong about Eli’s situation? What do you think made Nadia realize there’s something serious going on?
11. Later in the book, Nadia says, “All this time, he wasn’t invisible because of some superpower. He’s been invisible because I couldn’t—wouldn’t see the truth” (page 206). What are some ways we can work to see the “invisible” people around us?
12. After Nadia calls the police, Eli lies so that he can stay with Candace. Why do you think he does that? What is his motivation?
13. Why does Nadia decide to help Eli on her own instead of going to her parents? Is there some truth to Nadia’s doubt that they would do the right thing?
14. What is the significance of setting this story around Washington, DC? What would be lost if another setting was used?
15. Is “truth” a solid and unchanging fact or is it something that shifts and evolves? Explain your answer.