

Questions for Roundtable Discussions

1. How do you know the genre of a book? What are the defining features of each genre?
2. How have writing styles and author's craft changed from the kinds of books you're reading as a [tenth] grader versus those you read in middle school?
3. What do authors do to create effective lead characters?
4. Do lead characters need to be admirable? Why or why not?
5. Who is the antagonist in your book? How does the author use this character to challenge the main character? What impact does the antagonist have in creating change in the main character?
6. How does an author draw you into a book? What types of leads are there? What does an author do to write an effective lead? What are the types of leads for the various genres?
7. What was the moment of truth in your book? What happened? What types of moments of truth are there, and how does the genre affect it?
8. How does an author build up to the moment of truth?
9. What is the problem of your book? What makes a problem compelling?
10. Why does an author use a particular narrative point of view?

11. How do authors write effective endings? What makes an ending of a book satisfying?
12. How does genre affect a problem? How are problems created by authors? How are problems resolved?
13. How does an author balance dialogue, description, and reflection in the book?
14. How have you changed as a reader?
15. How does the author move the story along? What was the shape of your books' plots?
16. How do you know a book is good before you read it? How do you choose books to read?
17. Which is most effective: first-person narrators or third-person narrators? Why?
18. How has a book affected you emotionally? What books, characters, or plots do you have a hard time forgetting? Why?

Source: Glenn Powers, personal communication, September 11, 2016.

