



City of Bones
Discussion Questions

1. What was your first impression of Clary? Do you think she had any idea that her life was not exactly what it seemed to be before she met Jace and the Lightwoods?
2. At Pandemonium, Clary hesitates for only a second before following Isabelle and the boy into the storage room. Was this brave or stupid? Would you have followed them into that closet?
3. Early on, when Clary asks Luke what he would do if he saw something no one else could see, Luke tells her that she sees the world differently because she's an artist. Do you think he's right? Or is it just another lie designed to keep the world of the Shadowhunters secret from Clary?
4. After Jocelyn goes missing, and Clary is attacked by the Ravener Demon, Clary begins to learn the truth about herself and the world of the Shadowhunters in bits and pieces. How does this make her feel? Does she believe it all easily? If you were in Clary's shoes, would you be able to easily accept and understand this information?
5. Would you allow the Silent Brothers access to your own mind and memory for any reason? Why do you think Jocelyn decided to block Clary's memories and perceptions? Was her decision fair? Was it wise?
6. Magnus Bane tells Clary that "Every teenager in the world...feels broken or out of place, different somehow, royalty mistakenly born into a family of peasants. " (p.213) Is this true of Clary? How about Jace and the Lightwoods? Do you think this feeling of isolation is always part of growing up? Why?
7. How does Madame Dorothea fit into the Shadowhunters world? How does she help Clary and Jace on their quest? Why do you think Jocelyn chose to live near Dorothea, when she was so eager to leave that whole world behind?
8. Hodge, Valentine and even Clary's mom were part of The Circle. What was its mission? Why is it difficult for Clary to accept this information about her mother?
9. What do you think of Hodge? Is he evil? Why does he betray Jace and Clary at the Institute?
10. Discuss Clary's relationship with Simon and Jace. How does Simon surprise Clary over the course of the novel? Does Jace surprise her at all? How does Clary show her commitment to both? How do you think Clary's relationships with Jace and Simon will change?
11. How is the theme of unrequited love explored in the novel? Whose feelings are not reciprocated? What does it reveal about the characters? Do you think this is a common state for teenagers to face? Why? Why are some people so unaware of how others feel about them?
12. Do you think Clary would've been a happier person if the Shadow World and her own mundane Brooklyn had never collided? Is the power and insight she gains worth the pain and loss she must suffer to have it?

About The Author

Cassandra Clare was born to American parents in Teheran, Iran and spent much of her childhood travelling the world with her family, including one trek through the Himalayas as a toddler where she spent a month living in her father's backpack. She lived in France, England and Switzerland before she was ten years old. Since her family moved around so much she found familiarity in books and went everywhere with a book under her arm. She spent her high school years in Los Angeles where she used to write stories to amuse her classmates, including an epic novel called "The Beautiful Cassandra" based on a Jane Austen short story of the same name (and which later inspired her current pen name).

After college, Cassie lived in Los Angeles and New York where she worked at various entertainment magazines and even some rather suspect tabloids where she reported on Brad and Angelina's world travels and Britney Spears' wardrobe malfunctions. She started working on her YA novel, *City of Bones*, in 2004, inspired by the urban landscape of Manhattan, her favorite city. She turned to writing fantasy fiction full time in 2006 and hopes never to have to write about Paris Hilton again.

Cassie's first professional writing sale was a short story called "The Girl's Guide to Defeating the Dark Lord" in a Baen anthology of humor fantasy. Cassie hates working at home alone because she always gets distracted by reality TV shows and the antics of her two cats, so she usually sets out to write in local coffee shops and restaurants. She likes to work in the company of her friends, who see that she sticks to her deadlines.

City of Bones was her first novel.

