

Incarceron

Discussion Questions

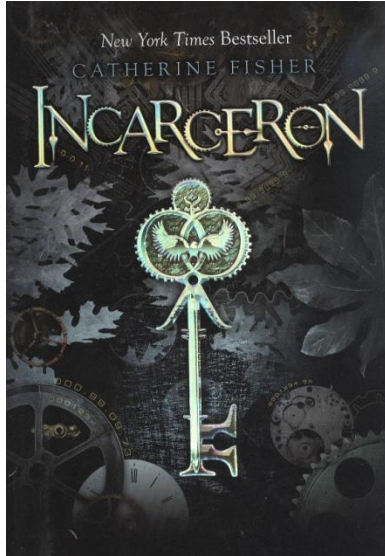
1. Why did King Endor choose to have his people live in an Era devoid of modern technology and comfort? Can you think of any advantages to living in a society that never changes or advances in time?
2. What would you miss most if you lived in a society that forced you to follow Protocol?
3. A utopian society is thought to be an ideal, perfect place or state. Incarceron is very different from Outside, yet both societies were created with utopian ideals in mind. Did their creators succeed in establishing utopian societies? Why or why not?
4. Why was Incarceron sealed off from the Outside? Was there a plan in place to deal with future generations of dissenters or “undesirables”?
5. Why did the government see fit to remove “all criminals, undesirables, political extremists, degenerates and lunatics” from society when Protocol was established? Who decides which people fit into which categories? What’s wrong with categorizing people in this manner?
6. Incarceron is over 100 years old. Once the prisoners were inside, the prison was sealed, and no one went in or out. Readers must assume that many, if not all, of the original prisoners have died, and that the current prisoners were born inside Incarceron. What do you think of keeping people imprisoned based on the crimes of their ancestors? Why didn’t the creators of Incarceron formulate a plan to either prevent births inside the prison or to bring children born inside out of Incarceron?
7. Do the prisoners living inside Incarceron have any freedoms that citizens on the Outside do not have?
8. Give some examples of instances where Protocol is broken during the story. Are there certain groups of people who are allowed to routinely break Protocol without consequences? Why or why not? Which aspects of Protocol would be most difficult for you to follow?
9. Do you believe that Sapphique really existed, or are tales of his escape from Incarceron merely a myth?
10. Describe the Warden’s relationship with the Queen. Who holds the power in their relationship?
11. Do you believe that Finn is Giles? Do you think that the citizens Outside will accept that Finn is Giles?
12. What did Attia mean when she told Claudia that she might be taking Finn out of one prison and into another? (page 415)
13. How do you think Finn/Giles will adjust to life Outside? Do you think he will be able to return and get his friends out?
14. Why did the Warden take both keys with him when he went into Incarceron? Why did he leave Incarceron with Jared?
15. What does Incarceron want?

About the Author

Catherine Fisher

Catherine Fisher was born in Newport, Wales. She graduated from the University of Wales with a degree in English and a fascination for myth and history. She has worked in education and archaeology and as a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Glamorgan. She is a Fellow of the Welsh Academy.

Catherine is an acclaimed poet and novelist, regularly lecturing and giving readings to groups of all ages. She leads sessions for teachers and librarians and is an experienced broadcaster and adjudicator. She lives in Newport, Gwent.



Catherine has won many awards and much critical acclaim for her work. Her poetry has appeared in leading periodicals and anthologies and her volume *Immrama* won the WAC Young Writers' Prize. She won the Cardiff International Poetry Competition in 1990.

Her first novel, *The Conjuror's Game*, was shortlisted for the Smarties Books prize and *The Snow-Walker's Son* for the W.H. Smith Award. Equally acclaimed is her quartet *The Book of the Crow*, a classic of fantasy fiction.

The Oracle, the first volume in the Oracle trilogy, blends Egyptian and Greek elements of magic and adventure and was shortlisted for the Whitbread Children's Books prize. The trilogy was an international bestseller and has appeared in over twenty languages. *The Candleman* won the Welsh Books Council's Tir Na n'Og Prize and Catherine was also shortlisted for the remarkable Corbenic, a modern re-inventing of the Grail legend.

Her futuristic novel *Incarceron* was published to widespread praise in 2007, winning the Mythopoeic Society of America's Children's Fiction Award and selected by *The Times* as its Children's Book of the Year. The sequel, *Sapphique*, was published in Britain in September 2008.