

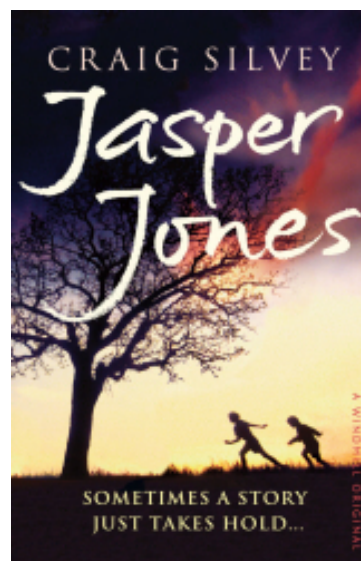
JASPER JONES – A READING GROUP GUIDE

Do you agree with what Charlie and Jasper do at the start of the novel? What would you have done in their situation?

Jasper Jones is set at the end of 1965. How important is this time period for the novel, and are the issues raised in *Jasper Jones* still relevant today?

Racism is a key theme in the novel. What were the characters' different reactions to prejudice in the town, and how do you think you would have reacted?

Jasper Jones draws on a number of different books for inspiration, including *To Kill a Mockingbird*. What other books were there, and what was the effect of this when you were reading it?



What was the effect of having Charlie, a teenager, narrate the novel? Was there anything he missed or didn't understand that an adult would have? And was there anything he saw more clearly than an adult would?

As a coming of age story, Charlie is a 'typical' teenage narrator. But how typical is he? Are any of the characters typical?

There are several times in the novel that the characters triumph in the face of adversity, only to be brought crashing down to earth again. What is the author, Craig Silvey, saying by doing this?

Charlie and his best friend Jeffrey Lu have many very funny conversations that seem to be trivial in comparison to what else is going on in the novel. Why do you think Silvey does this, and what was the effect when you were reading it?

What do you think will happen to the characters one month after where the story ends? And one year and five years later?



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Windmill Books, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA