

Dark Before Dawn Reader's Guide

For more information on the book, visit <http://stacyjuba.com/blog/dark-before-dawn/>

1. In one of Dawn's classrooms there is a poster that says "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." Why do you think the author selected that particular quote?
2. Dawn's English class is reading *The Crucible*, about the Salem Witch Trials. Why do you think Dawn dislikes this play?
3. Dawn's teacher explains that one of the themes of *The Crucible* is that when we make mistakes, we can purify ourselves by making what's wrong right. In what ways does Dawn attempt to do this at the end of the book?
4. Candace tells Dawn that Serina can make her feel like a swan rather than an ugly duckling. Why do you think Dawn's psychic abilities make her feel like an ugly duckling? Would you like to have her abilities? Why or why not?
5. How did you feel about Dawn's mother? Did you like her or dislike her, and why?
6. Dawn's mother wants her daughter to hide her psychic abilities, for reasons that she shares in the second half of the book. Even though her mother had good intentions, what effect do you think these actions had on Dawn's self esteem?
7. Why do you think Dawn, Jamie, and Candace allowed Serina to become such a powerful influence on them? What did you think of Serina?
8. Serina tells Dawn that she can do good in the world by mastering mind control. What do you think about the ethics of mind control? Are there any situations in which you would find mind control ethical, and if so, what kinds of situations?
9. Vicky and Candace come from the same family, but are complete opposites. If the sisters hadn't drifted apart, do you think Candace would have turned out differently? Did you find Vicky a supportive or unsupportive sister? Why?

10. Serina talks about clearing your mind to tune into your own higher self or inner voice of wisdom. Do you feel that you have an inner voice of wisdom? If so, when do you feel that you are most able to tap into it?

11. How do you think Dawn changed by the end of the book? How did you feel about Jamie and Renee at the end of the book?