

Study Questions for *The Glare*

By Anissa Stringer

Jenna and Laney choose to bury their mother instead of calling 911 when she's killed. How would this story be different if the girls had contacted the authorities?

The fear of being separated caused the girls to react as they did. Was their fear real? At 13 and 16, would a separation be devastating? Why or why not?

Given the girls' housing and financial situation, could a pair of young teens on their own really escape notice in today's world? Why or why not? What would you do differently if you were in their situation?

Look up the definition of the word *resilience*. Are Jenna and Laney resilient? Explain your answer.

Can resiliency be learned? How would you go about trying to learn it? Visit a website like www.kaleidoeye.com after you've answered the question. Does this website change your answer? In what way?

Jenna and Laney resort to lying and stealing in order to feed themselves. How "wrong" is it to steal in order to provide for yourself or your loved ones? Research Lawrence Kohlberg's theory of moral development. What would Kohlberg say about your answer?

People in some cultures eat foods that others might consider gross or inedible including certain plants, animals, and even insects. The girls resort to eating *nopales* (the pads of a certain kind of cactus), a common food in some cultures. What do you think you could eat (or drink) if your life depended on it? What would you be unable to bring yourself to ingest?

Could something like the glare (a life-altering phenomena that originates in space) really happen? Why or why not?

During the presidential press conference, a reporter asks the President if special glasses will be made available to everyone, including prisoners. If resources for survival were limited, would it be right to exclude prisoners or other populations from receiving them? Explain your answer.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) generally recommends that most Americans have three days of food, water, and supplies on hand in case of an emergency. Is this amount of preparedness adequate for most emergencies? Why or why not?

The ability to see through the glare is a very rare, recessive trait hidden in the human genome. Pretend the trait is dependent on only one gene. Search for instructions on how to create a Punnett Square and determine the likelihood that you would be immune if your parents have the following genotypes. (Hint: use B to represent the dominant blindness allele and b for the recessive ability to see.)

Dad: BB	Dad: Bb	Dad: bb	Dad: BB
Mom: bb	Mom: Bb	Mom: bb	Mom: BB

Is it safe to eat food found in a dumpster? What factors increase its safety and what factors make it less safe to eat?

Was Laney unafraid or just acting when the men stopped the girls from crossing the street? Look up the theory of cognitive dissonance and the self-perception theory. What role do these play in Laney's behavior? Can you use knowledge of these theories to help you become the person you'd like to be?

Laney starts bringing home large amounts of cash at one point in the story. What do you think she was doing to earn it? Support your answer.

How much did Brian and Mary know about Jenna's situation before the glare? Support your answer.

After Jenna's dad died, she's had mostly negative interactions with adult men. What makes her trust Brian? What makes someone trustworthy in general?

Brian admits to grooming Jenna to become a killer. Is it really possible to become immunized to killing? Discuss the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in soldiers and violence in video games to support or refute your arguments.

Research the difference between coyotes and wolves. Are the coyotes in this novel accurately portrayed? Explain the discrepancies. Now research the coywolf. Are the coyotes in *The Glare* more like coywolves than coyotes? Explain your answer.

Is Brian's description of the Rule of Threes realistic for survival in a place like Ahwatukee? If not, what numbers would be more realistic and why?

In school, Jenna learned about the process used to create mummies in ancient Egypt. Research the topic and explain why Egyptians mummified human, and sometimes animal, remains. What can scientists learn from these ancient remains?

Jenna kills another person in *The Glare*. Why is this a turning point in the development of Jenna's character? How does it change her?

Look up the definition of the word *narcissist*. Is Jenna a narcissist? How about Jonathan? In what ways are these two characters similar and different?

If Jenna hadn't been surviving on her own before the glare happened, would she have been able to survive afterwards? Why or why not?

Research the origin of the sayings, "There is no great loss without some small gain" and "There's a silver lining behind every cloud." Do they mean the same thing? Do you believe one (or both) sayings are true? Explain your answer.

Jenna always wanted a dog and her adoption of Molly coincides with her moving into Brian and Mary's house. Is there any significance to this? Support your answer.

Brian is diabetic and uses medication to help regulate his blood sugar. Despite knowing the health risks associated with diabetes, why was he unable/unwilling to lose weight until the glare happened?

What do you believe will happen to Jenna and the other characters in six months? Two years? Ten?

The author's use of foreshadowing in this book is not very subtle. Was this foreshadowing necessary to tie two parts of Jenna's story (pre-glare and post-glare) together? Why or why not?

Could Jenna survive without Brian's teachings? How different would her life be without him to guide her?

Are we, as a society, overly-reliant on technology and modern processes for our survival? Explain your answer and describe what you would need to learn to survive long-term.