

#TQ4T Discussion Questions

Risk

2.0 Prologue | 15

1. Would you like to be under this man's command? Why or why not?
2. What can you infer about the man in black from his actions? What is his plan?
3. Why didn't the man in black want anyone to mention his son? Why is he having the young man tested so?
4. What did he mean when he said, "Eternity is mine"?

2.1 Priceless | 23

1. Why would that book be so priceless to Captain Vedrik?
2. How would you feel if you had to act like an adult all of the sudden? Would you be as calm and collected as Oliver was?

2.2 Refuse-Cyclor | 27

1. What is your favorite drink?
2. Do you think that Oliver was right to congratulate the twins? Should he have laid down a firmer punishment? Why?
3. Why did Mason and Austin react so differently?
4. What do you think of Austin's response? Was what he said true? Was the manner in which he said it right?
5. Oliver let Austin say everything he had to say and didn't stop Austin from leaving; why?

2.3 Library | 35

1. What could be causing all the disorderly messes that Oliver keeps finding?
2. Would you trust Mr. Krank or Mr. O'Farrell? Explain your answer.
3. Do you think the Wikks should use the cloaking device from Mr. Krank? How could he have known to give it to them, and why would he have done that?

2.4 Evad | 43

1. Do you agree with Oliver that the Wikks should use the cloaking device, or do you think with Tiffany that it might be a bad idea? Why?
2. What do you think Tiffany's strange feeling about contacting Mr. O'Farrell means? Should she have called him anyway, or was she right to stop the call?
3. Why does Austin's negative attitude keep coming and going?

2.5 Upside-Down Snowman | 53

1. How did the Wikks work as a team in this chapter?
2. What difficulties did Austin's rebelliousness cause?
3. Why do you think Austin acted that way?
4. What do you think of the way Austin's siblings handled his attitude?
5. Is Oliver a good leader of his siblings? Explain your answer.

2.6 Ziggurat | 73

1. Have you ever felt like Austin did with every little thing bothering you and making you madder and madder? How did you deal with it? How should those feelings be dealt with?
2. If you had been there with Austin's siblings, how would you have reacted to Austin's cry for help when he was in the river?
3. What do you think about Austin's thoughts regarding "cheating death"?

2.7 Entry | 81

1. Oliver learned the slogan, "Caution, but not cowardice," from the Academy. Do you agree with it? Is there a fine line between caution and cowardice? Where is that boundary?
2. What is Austin's "game"? Did he get what he deserved?

2.8 Books | 89

1. When Austin didn't back up from the ziggurat door at Oliver's command, was he really displaying faith?

2. What would you most want to find in an old, abandoned room?

2.9 Blood | 97

1. Who would you most want to be with you as a protector?
2. Do you think it was a good idea for the Wikks to split up?

2.10 Truth | 103

1. Why do you think Oliver answered Mason's questions in the way he did? Why did Mason keep pressing him?
2. Why is it important to preserve history?
3. What are some ways other than books that history is recorded?
4. If you were with Tiffany and Austin, would you be more interested in the tower room that Austin discovered or the library? Why?
5. What did Tiffany and Austin find?

2.11 Highest Point | 111

1. How did encouragement play a role in this chapter?
2. Has someone ever encouraged you when you really needed it? How did it help?
3. What do you think the riddle means?
4. What might Oliver and Mason find at the top of the ziggurat?

2.12 Pentagonal | 117

1. Do you think all the maps and information Tiffany is recording will be important? How?
2. What do you think Austin will discover with the telescope?

2.13 Creepy Crawlies | 123

1. Is Oliver trying too hard to command his siblings instead of simply being their brother, or do his siblings actually need a strong leader at this time? Think about this from Oliver's perspective and from his siblings' perspectives.
2. Have you been in a situation like Oliver's where you felt as though someone on whom you depended let you down and you had to restrain your frustration with them?
3. Why might a cross represent Truth?

4. What do you think the new riddle means?

2.14 Arrival | 131

1. What does the Übel's arrival mean for the Wikks? Do you think Oliver and his siblings will find the clues before the Übel do? Is there a chance they might even rescue their parents?

2.15 Rescue | 139

1. What are the odds of the Wikks surviving all the dangerous situations they've been in, especially in this chapter? If all that happened to you, would you be able to dismiss it as simply good fortune? What do you think the Wikks' opinion about that is?
2. How has creative, out-of-the-box thinking helped the Wikks?

2.16 Tracked | 153

1. What do you admire about Oliver in this chapter?
2. What sort of useful information might the silver cylinder that Oliver retrieved hold?
3. What should Oliver do about Austin?

2.17 Nostri Lux Lucis | 171

1. What do you think is the significance of this chapter's title?
2. Can Oliver really breach the Übel's defenses on his own, or is he being overly confident?
3. Why is Austin being so troublesome?
4. How can Tiffany be both mad at and concerned for Austin?
5. Do you agree with Oliver that Austin can fend for himself?
6. Are Tiffany and Mason on the right track with their theories about the riddles, the rubies, and the pool?

2.18 Egg | 183

1. Have you ever felt the need to prove yourself to someone in the same way Austin felt he had to make Oliver proud? Why did you feel that way?
2. As much as Austin wants Oliver's approval, why does he keep being difficult and rebellious?

3. Did Austin do well at thinking through his plans, or did he not? Give some examples.

2.19 Creatures | 193

1. What would you do if you were in Austin's situation?
2. Why did Austin have to go through all that he did in this chapter?
3. Do you think Austin has learned what he needed to learn?
4. How do you think Austin's character will change because of this experience?

2.20 Aqueduct | 199

1. What sorts of jokes have you played on your siblings, or vice versa?
2. It was very hard for Tiffany to cross the top of the ziggurat. What was something difficult that you had to do, even though you didn't like it? How did it turn out?

2.21 Taken | 207

1. Who do you think the man in red is? Is he a friend or foe?

2.22 Empty | 211

1. What theories do you have about the mess and strange noises Oliver and Tiffany discovered on the *Phoenix*?
2. If Austin were your younger brother and were missing, would you feel and think more like Oliver or more like Tiffany about the situation?

2.23 Way Out | 219

1. How might the information Mason found come in handy?
2. Why do you think the door mysteriously opened for Mason?

2.24 Soldiers of Darkness | 225

1. If you had been Austin, would you have followed the man in the red cloak? Why or why not?
2. Should Austin trust the man in the red cloak? Why or why not?

2.25 Float | 227

1. How do Oliver and Tiffany both show a little pride in this chapter?
2. Would you rather float in the river like Tiffany or walk along the top of the aqueduct?

2.26 Quest | 231

1. What do you think of Brother Sam? Is he trustworthy? Do any of the details about him sound familiar?
2. Why did Brother Sam say the Wikks are on a quest?
3. What did Brother Sam mean when he called the cross necklace a key? Could there be a larger meaning behind it?
4. Brother Sam told Austin, “I will provide you a *full* set of tools in time You will need them all to truly find what it is you are looking for.” For what are the Wikks looking? Is it something more than just rescuing their parents? What kind of tools might Brother Sam provide?

2.27 Grapple | 235

1. Give examples of how Oliver’s and Tiffany’s various strengths and abilities worked together in this chapter.
2. Have you ever had to trust and follow someone without asking questions like Tiffany did in this chapter? When is it a good idea to do that and when is it not a good idea?

2.28 Veritas Nachfolger | 239

1. How would you define “Truth”? What do you make of Brother Sam's assertion that “the Truth is not a what but a *who*”? Why do you think the Übel considered Truth to be mankind’s “greatest weakness”?
2. Why would the Übel consider rewriting history to be a powerful tool for controlling people? Why would they want to wipe out what really happened? Is it possible that history is being “rewritten” even today?
3. Brother Sam said the Übel were searching for eternal life, a way to live forever. Brother Sam said, “While the Übel seek something that is very real, they will not be able to find it as they pursue it now.” Do you believe eternal life is real? Why do you believe as you do? If eternal life is real, how is it attainable? What do you make of his statement that

“in their determination to wipe out the past, they had hidden the very thing that could set them free”? How can eternal life be equated with freedom?

4. Does anything in this chapter sound familiar? Who is Brother Sam’s friend to whom he tried to tell the Truth?

2.29 Down | 243

1. How do you think Mason and Tiffany’s locations got blocked? Is there a reason for it? If someone did this, who do you think it was?
2. Have you ever played the *what if* game with yourself by wondering *what if* this or that happened? Did it help or make things worse?

2.30 Seven Turns | 247

1. Explain Brother Sam’s statements: “Sometimes that which sets us free is not visible to the naked eye, yet is there in our time of need. Faith is much that way — it is not seen, but having it leads to the Truth.”
2. Austin is at a turning point in this chapter. What changes do you see occurring in him? Why do you think that is happening?
3. The Übel had so much; why would they want more? And why would they give up so much to obtain eternal life? What does eternal life mean?

2.31 Stash | 251

1. Why do you think the Übel want to capture, but not kill, the Wikk siblings?
2. Give some reasons why Mr. O’Farrell hasn’t made contact again with the kids. Should Tiffany try contacting him? Why or why not? Do you agree that Mr. O’Farrell is necessary for rescuing their parents?

2.32 Together | 257

1. Who is Brother Sam? How and why does he know so much about the Wikks?
2. Have you ever been away from your family for a long time?

2.33 Passenger | 261

1. Consider how Oliver behaved in this chapter. What can be learned from how he treated his sister? How has Oliver changed since the beginning of the quest?
2. How did Tiffany respond to Oliver's leadership in this chapter?

2.34 Raft | 265

1. Explain how Mason and Austin worked together in this chapter.
2. What theories do you have about the significance of the red jewels and the cross?
3. Mason realized the pattern of jewels and crosses was not a coincidence but part of a plan. Do you believe in coincidences? Why or why not?
4. What's going to happen now that Mason and Austin are in the hands of the Übel?

2.35 Protector | 275

1. Do you agree with Tiffany's accusations against Oliver? Why was she seemingly suddenly so mad at him? Was the reason more than the twins' capture?
2. Do you think Oliver's defense of his actions was reasonable? Why?
3. Tiffany has many emotions and thoughts raging through her in this chapter. Is all that really part of Tiffany? What are the dangers of making choices based on emotions or when you're tired and distraught? What might have been the outcome of the quest if Tiffany had acted on hers? Did she make a good choice when she finally decided not to challenge Oliver but to wait until they could properly discuss their problems?
4. What is your opinion of Oliver's actions in this chapter? Was he being thoughtless and unheeding of his sister? Or was he actually trying to protect her and his entire family by rushing to get the next clues and staying on the lookout for the Übel? Give reasons for your opinion.
5. What might be the flash of crimson that Tiffany saw?
6. Who do you think captured the soldiers in the net?

2.36 Eagle | 283

1. If you had been in Austin's place, would you have tried to escape? Why or why not?
2. What is your theory about Obbin's arrival?

2.37 Note | 289

1. Consider the debate between Oliver and Tiffany on whether or not they should release the soldiers from the net. What would you have said if you were present?

2. What does the note mean? Who left it? Why didn't the person bother the Wikks' supplies?

2.38 Obbin | 293

1. Identify the times in this chapter where Mason acted to keep the peace between Austin and Obbin. What lessons can you learn from how Mason accomplished that?
2. Why would Brother Sam say to not communicate over the mTalks, and why would he block the locations application? Who tampered with Oliver's mTalk and why?
3. Where do you think the twins and Obbin ended up?

2.39 Water | 299

1. Why is it important to tell your siblings and other family members things like "I love you"?
2. Do you agree with Oliver's instructions for Tiffany to call Mr. O'Farrell or Archeos if something happened to Oliver? Why?

2.40 Swim | 303

1. Do you see anything in this chapter that shows Austin is slowly maturing? Of what is this a result, in your opinion?
2. Why do you think Obbin is so willing to help the twins when they haven't done all that much for him?

2.41 Dive | 309

1. Why would the inhabitants of Evad treasure the pool so highly?
2. Where do you think the silver door will lead?

2.42 Underwater | 313

1. How do you think the Übel soldier discovered the chamber?
2. What might the riddle mean?

2.43 Planks | 317

1. Oliver had a tricky puzzle to solve until he found the clues. Do you like solving puzzles? Have you experienced something you couldn't solve at first, but then you figured out a way?
2. Do you recognize the symbols on the planks and rings?
3. Which way do you think Oliver should go?

2.44 Coming | 321

1. What do you do to help yourself stay calm, like Tiffany did when she worked on the journal?
2. What impresses you about Tiffany in this chapter?
3. How would you feel or react if you were in Tiffany's situation?
4. What do you think is going to happen next?

2.45 Unnamed | 325

1. What do you think of Oliver's decision to use the mTalks even though Obbin told him they were compromised? Did Obbin respond well?
2. What do you think is behind the door?

2.46 Game | 337

1. Oliver said that seemingly everything they've done sets something else into motion and that the clues they've been following are part of an intricately mapped out path. Can you give some examples of this? How did it all happen?
2. Mason tells Obbin that he and Austin had let their competitiveness get out of hand and that they had ended up fighting. Have you ever been too competitive when you were playing a game with a friend or family member? What happened?
3. What do you think the inscription means?
4. What do you think happened to Drex?

2.47 Parents | 343

1. What do you think the appearance of the man with a red cloak in the chess room means?
2. How can Tiffany's mom be so calm and polite to Captain Vedrik?
3. Who is Zebra Xavier? How does he know what's going on?

2.48 Hide | 349

1. What is your greatest fear? Have you had to face it like Mason did?
2. What happened to Drex?

2.49 Clue | 359

1. What do you think the amulet and the something embroidered on the cloak mean?
2. Do you think Mr. Wikk wrote down the correct coordinates? Or did he write the wrong ones down on purpose? Why?
3. Can you explain the cloaked man's words? Is he on the good side or the bad one?

2.50 Boom | 365

1. What makes Oliver a good leader?
2. Can you see anything in this chapter that shows Austin is maturing?
3. Where did the man in the red cloak send Oliver?

2.51 Alone | 373

1. If you were in Tiffany's position, how would you respond to the death of your brothers? Would you lash out in anger? Would you want to give up? Do you think Tiffany responded appropriately? What options does she have?
2. Why was Midnight acting so weirdly? Who do you think is coming?

2.52 Time | 377

1. Who does Oliver want to pay a visit to?
2. What is your favorite part in this book?
3. Now that they are all safe for the moment, what will happen next?