

ROARING BROOK

Discussion Guide

Revolver

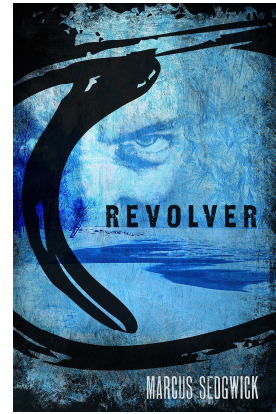
by Marcus Sedgwick

Grade Level:

7 up

Introduction:

Fourteen-year-old Sig is alone with his father's corpse in an isolated cabin. Out of the Arctic darkness comes a menacing stranger claiming that Sig's father owes him a share of a horde of stolen gold. Sig knows nothing about the gold, but he does know that there's a loaded Colt revolver hidden in the cabin's storeroom--a gun that his father had said would protect him and taught him to use, but which his mother had abhorred, telling him to have faith in God's protection instead. Will Sig use the revolver? And to what end?



Discussion Questions

1. The book shifts between Giron, 1910, and Nome, 1899. The author opens each section with a quote or two about revolvers. If you just read the quotes, what conclusion do you draw about revolvers?
2. Compare how Einar and Maria view guns.
3. The author vividly describes the living conditions for homesteaders in Alaska in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Identify some of the reasons Europeans and Americans were driven to go to Alaska despite the hardship.
4. Look at the first line of Chapter 5. How does it foreshadow what is to come? Discuss greed. Why didn't Einar learn his lesson then?
5. How does greed affect Einar's actions? Wolff's? In the end, what did they gain from their greed? Were their actions worth the cost?
6. Do you think Sig has faith? Why or why not?
7. What does Sig mean when he says there is always a third choice in life? Are there other moments in the book when a third option presents itself? Can you think of any moments in your life when you felt caught between two choices and another option came to you?
8. What is it about his encounter with Wolff, with Wolff's revolver pointed right at him, that makes Sig identify the thing he's been looking for: Home.

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9. What would you have done in Sig's place?
10. Do the dead tell stories?

About the Author

Marcus Sedgwick is the author of ten previous novels for young readers. His first, *Floodland*, won the 1994 Branford-Boase Award for Best First Children's Novel of the Year; he has since been shortlisted for numerous children's book awards, including the Carnegie Medal, the Guardian Prize, and the Edgar Allan Poe Award.

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