

PERCIVAL GYNT AND THE CONSPIRACY OF DAYS

A DISCUSSION GUIDE

1 | MODERN REFERENCES

Despite being set nearly 18,000 years in the future, the novel features tons of references to 21st century companies, products, individuals, and even pop culture.

- Why do you think the author includes these elements?
- In what ways do you think that this strengthens or undermines the setting?
- What are the odds that there will still be Walmarts in the year 20018?

2 | GENRE

The novel blends science-fiction and fantasy elements, along with elements of horror and comedy/satire.

- Why do you think the author does this?
- Did you find this jarring?
- What genre would you place this novel in?
- What other works of fiction would you compare it to?

3 | TITLE

- Why do you think the author chose the title "Percival Gynt and the Conspiracy of Days"?
- What might the "the Conspiracy of Days" mean, beyond the confines of the novel?

4 | FATE

Multiple characters within the novel refer to Fate (with a capital F!) as a real and powerful thing.

- But what do they mean by Fate?
- Is Fate real in the context of this novel?
- In the real world?
- And how does this relate to the concept of free will?

5 | FAITH

Religion is central to the lives of multiple characters within the novel.

- What does the novel have to say about the nature of faith?
- Is the novel ultimately anti-religion, pro-religion, or neutral on the topic?

6 | A GOOD PERSON*

- Is Percival Gynt ultimately a good person?
- How do the revelations about Percival Gynt's childhood effect how we judge his actions as an adult?
- What makes someone a good or bad person?

7 | LOVE*

- Does Percival Gynt love his mother?
- Does Tarot genuinely love Percival?
- What is love anyway?

8 | FULFILLMENT*

- Did Mouse ultimately get what he wanted?
- What he deserved?

9 | SELF-IMPROVEMENT*

- Does Percival make Um a better person or worse?

10 | CONTRASTS*

- In what ways are Percival and Esme similar?
- In what ways are they different?

11 | IRRELEVANCE*

- Is there even a point to Nevin?

12 | EVIL*

- Is Vargoth Gor really a villain?
- How do we know?

13 | NAZIS**

- Are the Nth Reich ultimately just Nazis?
- Is it even OK to still be using Nazis as villains in fiction in the 21st century?
- Why or why not?

14 | FRIDGING**

"Fridging" in fiction is the practice of killing off a female character to further a male character's story arc or emotional journey.

- Given this definition, would you say that Tarot was "fridged"?
- Why or why not?

15 | SENTIENCE**

- Are Void Faeries sentient?
- What would constitute ethical treatment of creatures like these?

16 | ACCEPTANCE**

A major villain in the novel is eventually revealed to be trans.

- How does this character play into or defy stereotypes?
- Is this ultimately a positive or negative portrayal?

17 | HOPE**

- Does this novel ultimately present an optimistic or a pessimistic view of the future?

* Questions may contain light spoilers.

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