

A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR **THE LIST** WRITTEN BY PATRICIA FORDE



***Fahrenheit 451* meets *The Giver* in this gripping story about the power of words and the dangers of censorship.**

In the city of Ark, speech is constrained to five hundred sanctioned words. Speak outside the approved lexicon and face banishment. The exceptions are the Wordsmith and his apprentice, Letta, the keepers and archivists of all language in their postapocalyptic, neo-medieval world.

On the death of her master, Letta is suddenly promoted to Wordsmith, charged with collecting and saving words. But when she uncovers a sinister plan to suppress language and rob Ark's citizens of their power of speech, she realizes that it's up to her to save not only words, but culture itself.



About the Author

Patricia Forde lives in Galway, in the west of Ireland. She has published five books for children and written for television. In another life, she was a primary school teacher and the artistic director of the Galway Arts Festival.

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1. Are the arts important? Why do we need them? Do you think the money would be better spent on other things?
2. Can we still think even if we don't have words? Do we think with language or pictures?
3. In the novel, Letta tells us that the Goddess may have been the first human clone. What do you think about cloning? How could they help humans? How could they hurt humans?
4. Would it ever be right to ban a word?
5. Not everyone has a kind message. People use language to lie and cause harm too. Do you think there should be limits to freedom of speech? Why or why not?
6. Does it matter if an animal becomes extinct?
7. Of all the things you are learning, what do you think will be the most useful if we lost all technology?
8. There are lots of rules in Ark. If you could make one rule that everyone in the world had to follow, what rule would you make? Why?
9. In Ark, they don't eat animals. If animals could talk, would we still eat them?
10. Letta has many good friends. What does it mean to be a friend?
11. Do you think one person can change the world?
12. In Ark, people don't have much choice about how they live. Is it always better to have more choices? How do you think it relates to the below quote?

"A man with one watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure."

—Lee Segal



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