

The House of the Scorpion By Nancy Farmer

Book Club Discussion Questions

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1. What was your initial reaction to the book?
2. When does the story take place? How far into the future would you imagine this to happen?
3. What is the current state of the world at the beginning of the book?
4. The world of the book is very different from the world we know now. What do you think had taken place in the world that took it from where we are now to where it is then?
5. There are many moral issues raised in the story, cloning, drugs, and different forms of government and slavery. What is the main one, and what conclusions does the book come to about that issue?
6. Define the role of knowledge in the story.
7. Is the story plausible, or is it too contrived?
8. How was Matt different from other clones? What made those differences?
9. Matt and El Patrón are genetically identical. In what other ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?
10. If there were to be a sequel, what would happen next? What lies in store for Matt now and the future of the country of Opium? What would you do now if you were Matt?