

Secret Sky

Book 1 of The Gift Legacy

Discussion Questions

Spoiler alert: These questions contain spoilers that will ruin the story for those who haven't yet read the book.

1. Emelynn's relationship with her mother is markedly different from the one she had with her father. What are the clues to those differences? What impact does her father's death have on Emelynn's relationship with her mother? Are there other family traumas that could produce the same result?
2. Emelynn was twelve years old when Jolene gifted her. At that time, Emelynn promised Jolene she wouldn't tell a soul about the gift. What might cause a child to misplace their loyalties by making such a promise? Is there something parents can do to prevent a child from making this kind of error in judgment?
3. Even as an adult, Emelynn maintains the secrecy of Jolene's gift. Do you think this is a mistake? How might her life have been different if she'd divulged the secret of Jolene's gift a) immediately? and b) after she became aware that she could shed gravity?
4. Lonely versus alone; how do Emelynn's circumstances isolate her, and what are her coping mechanisms. Are they effective?
5. If you were Molly and learned that Emelynn could fly but had kept that secret from you, how would you react? What if you were her mother, Laura? Do you think Emelynn is doing the right thing in keeping her gift a secret?
6. In some regards, Emelynn is naïve, and in other regards, she is mature beyond her years. What are some examples of her naïveté/maturity?
7. The author does not treat Emelynn with kid gloves. In *Secret Sky*, Emelynn suffers a catastrophic fall, a near-drowning and an devastating betrayal. How does the severity of these events impact Emelynn's character? How do these events impact your impression of Emelynn?
8. Knowing Jackson's personal situation at the end of *Secret Sky*, what clues did Emelynn miss that might have informed her? What, if any, motherly advice would you offer her?
9. Dreaming you can fly is one of the most common dreams humans have. "In almost every culture, flying dreams represent freedom or a release from daily pressures." —Jeffrey Sumber, MA, MTS, LCPC. In the Victorian era, Sigmund Freud was of the opinion flying dreams released sexual tension in an age of sexual oppression by society morals. Do you agree with either of these opinions? Do you dream you can fly? If so, do you fly face down, or upright? Indoors or out? If you could fly, where would you fly to?
10. If you were casting Emelynn's character for the big screen, who would you choose? Who would you choose for Jackson's character?

ii. If you could ask the author one question, what would it be? Would your organization or group like to arrange an author appearance in person or online? If so, please contact the author at jpmclean@jpmcleanauthor.com.