

RENEGADES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Renegades* builds a world in which mortals rely—perhaps too heavily—on superheroes. Imagining superheroes in our world, describe some scenarios in which mortals might lean on superheroes to solve problems both big and small. What are the potential pros and cons of assistance from superheroes?
2. Along with superheroes, Gatlon City is home to a population of villains. How are the villains and Anarchists able to survive among the Renegades? Is it possible for good to exist without evil? Can heroes be “bad,” and can villains be “good”?
3. The Renegades are by no means perfect. What does Nova learn about how the Renegades operate that surprises her—and possibly surprises readers as well?
4. Nova’s rage toward the Renegades stems from a horrible, traumatic event in her childhood. Are her rage and her desire for revenge warranted?
5. Adrian, too, was dealt a terrible trauma as a child. What are the repercussions of that in terms of how he lives in the present? If he had been brought up the way Nova was, how might his outlook be different?
6. The line, “Do you have what it takes to be a hero?” appears early in the book. Discuss the ways in which this question relates thematically to both Nova and Adrian’s stories.
7. Nova wants to hate Adrian, but finds herself questioning her feelings. What makes up her attraction to him? And why is Adrian attracted to Nova?
8. Marissa Meyer has said that the scene in the library was in part inspired by the fact that destruction and war “can lead to travesties beyond the already tragic loss of human life and freedom”. What is the symbolism of setting this scene in a library?
9. Who is your favorite superhero, and why? Why are superheroes such mainstays of our culture—in books, comics, movies, and television?
10. Let’s talk about superpowers! What power would you want? What power would you turn down?