

Summer Reading Discussion Questions



The Princess Bride

1. William Goldman states that he is adapting *The Princess Bride* from a novel written by the great Florinese writer, S. Morgenstern. Do you believe that there really is such a person? Why or why not?
2. Does Goldman present himself as a likeable character? Think about how he describes his relationships with his wife, son, and father. How do these relationships show his virtues and faults? Do you think Goldman is portraying his actual wife, son, and father, or are they also fictionalized characters?
3. When we first meet Inigo and Fezzik, they are working with Vizzini to kidnap Buttercup. Later, they become allies of Westley in his efforts to rescue her. What causes Inigo and Fezzik to change . . . or do they really change at all over the course of the novel?
4. What do you think of Inigo's statement that, "Existence was really very simple when you did what you were told." Do you agree or disagree? Think about this idea in terms of both Inigo's character and your own experience.
5. Fezzik's greatest fear is loneliness. How does his fear of loneliness lead him to make certain choices or not to make choices? Is loneliness one of your greatest fears? Does your fear of loneliness ever keep you from thinking for yourself?

Behind Rebel Lines

1. Can you list all of Emma's disguises?
2. A *stereotype* is an over-simplified image or idea about of a group of people that is often incorrect. What stereotypes are presented in this book?
3. Do you think that these stereotypes allowed Emma's disguises to fool people more easily? How so?
4. What does it mean to be a hero?
5. Would you say that Emma Edmunds was a hero of the Civil War?