



Discussion Questions

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi

Source: Madison Public Library and Multnomah Co., OR

1. What is a "wolf's head"? Why is Crispin declared to be one?
2. What kind of person is Crispin? What kind of a person is Bear?
3. Did you guess the identity of Crispin's father before it was revealed?
4. Both Crispin's mother and Bear do not tell him about his father's identity. Why? Do you think this was a wise decision?
5. When the Widow Daventry tells Crispin about his true identity, she says, "Your connection gives no honor. No position. What someone fears is not you, but that you will be used. Can't you see it? Your noble blood is the warrant for your death. It will remain so till it flows no more." What does she mean? What does Crispin's new identity mean for him?
6. Crispin is unable to read. How does this make his life more difficult? Why do you think his mother never told him that she could read?
7. Bear tells Crispin, "A wise man – he was a jester by trade – once told me that living by answers is a form of death. It's only questions that keep you living." What does Bear mean? Do you agree with him?
8. This book is set in medieval England. Were there words or phrases you did not understand? What were they?
9. Crispin says, "Bear and Ball were talking about the very word Father Quinel had used, freedom. Something I had never had. Nor did anyone in my village, or the other villages though which we had passed. We lived in bondage." How is freedom important to you? Although many years have passed since this book takes place, can you think of modern-day places that meet Crispin's description?

10. How does Crispin's view of God change as the book progresses?

11. What do you think happens to Crispin and Bear next?