

1. Brystal, Barrie, and Brooks all have very different relationships with one another. How does Barrie look out for his sister? Why is Brooks so mean to his siblings? How does this affect what happens to Brystal?
2. What do the books in the secret library all have in common? What makes those particular books banned?
3. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar treat magic as a sickness to be cured. Why is this unfair? How does it hurt the women sentenced to the facility? How do the women support each other despite their oppression?
4. When Brystal casts a spell and the birds descend on The Bootstrap Correctional Facility for Troubled Young Women they tear apart the horrendous banner of rules. All that is left is, "Good girls always want more" (page 147). What does this mean? Why is this a better message?
5. Why does Mrs. Evergreen sign Brystal's permission slip? How does it reflect her relationship with her daughter?
6. Beyond teaching her students how to control their abilities, what is Madame Weatherberry's goal with her academy? Why does she feel so strongly about creating a community? What is her message to the world?
7. What does prejudice mean? What are some examples of prejudice in the story? What are some ways that characters fight prejudice?
8. What does Madame Weatherberry mean by "chosen family" (page 218)? Why is it so important?
9. How do Brystal's family and Lucy's family differ in their views of magic? In what ways are they the same? How do Brystal and Lucy end up becoming friends?
10. Madame Weatherberry encourages her students to, "get rid of any unfavorable opinions, insecurities, or self-hatred that the times have instilled within you" (page 260). She asks them what their physical appearance would look like if it matched their personality. If you were a student at Madame Weatherberry's Academy and could transform your appearance, what do you think it would look like?
11. What does Madame Weatherberry mean when she says, "My lessons have been preparing you and your classmates for the world I wanted you to live in, but I have not prepared you for the world that exists" (page 354)?
12. How does each student use their abilities to help to try and defeat the Snow Queen? How do they support each other?
13. Why does Brystal spare the Snow Queen? What is important about Brystal's decision to avoid violence? What is her hope for the future of magic and magical creatures?