1. Reread the quotes in the prologue from Edgar Allan Poe and Oscar Wilde. Do they mean something different to you now that you’ve read The Raven Boys? What character or characters does each quote remind you of? Why?

2. The characters’ clothes were referred to on many different occasions throughout the story. Adam’s Aglionby uniform isn’t as pristine as Ronan’s or Gansey’s, and Blue often creates new outfits from bits of older ones. What does each character’s clothes say about him or her? Do each character’s outfits truly reflect the image that he or she is trying to portray?

3. Blue is the only person in her family who is not a psychic. How do you think she really feels about this? How does this shape her personality? Is there something that members of your family excel at that you cannot do? How does this make you feel?

4. Blue spends every St. Mark’s Eve on the ley line, helping her mother record the names of the people who will die the following year. How do you think this affects Blue? What would you do if you were Blue and knew which people in your town would die in the next twelve months?

5. A ley line “is a perfectly straight, supernatural energy path that connected spiritual places.” After knowing how powerful ley lines are, do you think that this is an accurate description? Why or why not? Do you think that something like ley lines exist in real life? If yes, explain what they are and where you believe you can find them.

6. List three pros and three cons of having psychics in your family.

7. Adam has trouble disconnecting from his upbringing and breaking free from his father’s constant abuse. Even though he obviously doesn’t want to live with his parents under the circumstances, he struggles with the decision to leave. Why is it so hard for Adam to leave? Do you think he should have left home and moved into Monmouth Manufacturing before he finally did? Why or why not?

8. Ronan and Declan can’t stand each other, but every Sunday they put their feud aside to attend mass together—no matter what. Do you think you could put aside your unfavorable feelings for someone to keep up appearances and traditions?
9. Which character from The Raven Boys do you identify with the most? Why?

10. It seems like nothing is good enough for Gansey, and he’s always striving for more. Why is he so hard on himself? Have you ever felt like you put too much pressure on yourself to succeed at something? If so, how did you feel? What, if anything, made you feel better?

11. Adam, Blue, and Gansey had very different experiences inside the hollowed out tree in Cabeswater. What did each one see? Do you think they saw their futures, nightmares, or dreams? Why do you think this?

12. Legend says that the person who wakes Glendower is granted a wish. Explain what you think the following characters would wish for if they woke Glendower: Blue, Gansey, Adam, Ronan, Noah, Whelk, Neeve, and Maura.

13. Adam mused that: “Glendower was more than a historical figure to Gansey. He was everything Gansey wished he could be: wise and brave, sure of his path, touched by the supernatural, respected by all, survived by his legacy.” Do you think that Adam’s assessment is true? Why or why not?

14. Why would Gansey—someone who has the means to buy anything he could ever want or need—need a wish from Glendower?

15. Whelk’s motivation to wake the ley line was ignited by the loss of his fortune and reputation. Do you think that he has any redeeming qualities, or is he completely consumed by greed?

16. Why was Czerny important to Whelk when he was both alive and dead? Why did Whelk think that Czerny made the perfect sacrifice? Was he right? Why or why not?

17. On more than one occasion, Noah’s friends describe him as “the smudgy one.” Do you think this is an accurate description? Why or why not? How does this make it more plausible that Noah’s friends never suspected that he was a spirit?

18. Gansey stated many times that he doesn’t believe in coincidences. Do you believe in coincidences? Why or why not? Tell about an event in your own life when something that could be described as a coincidence happened to you.

19. There are many similarities and differences between Whelk and Adam. Citing examples from the book, list three of each.

20. Why do you think that Gansey feels the need to take care of Ronan? What, if anything, does Gansey get out of this seemingly one-sided relationship?
21. Every character in The Raven Boys is on a quest for something. Explain what each of them is looking to find.

22. Blue cannot speak to the dead, but just by being near a psychic, she “makes things louder.” How is this energy a “gift?” How is this energy a nuisance for Blue? Do you think that Blue was drawn to Gansey, Ronan, Adam, and Noah because of this energy, or do you think that they all would have met anyway? Why?

23. Neeve used her psychic powers for fame and money. Do you think that she has a right to use her gift for this? Why or why not? It obviously did not work out very well for her by the end of The Raven Boys. Do you think that she deserved what happened to her? Why or why not?

24. The theme of “home” is prevalent throughout The Raven Boys. List one word that you think the following characters best associate with the word “home.” What does the word “home” mean to you?

25. Compare and contrast Gansey’s quest for Glendower to the legend of Sir Arthur and his search for the Holy Grail.

26. Would you like to have psychic abilities to communicate with the spirit world? Why or why not?

27. What do you think happened to Blue’s father? Do you think that the time Blue spent in Cabeswater made her want to meet him more? Why or why not?

28. Do you think that Henrietta became a magical place because a ley line is located there, or do you think that the ley line was placed there because Henrietta already possessed magic? Why? Cite specific examples from the book to support your answer.

29. For as long as she can remember, Blue has known that if she were to “kiss her true love, he would die.” Do you think it was fair of Blue’s family to tell her this prophecy? Why or why not? Would you want to know a prophecy about yourself that would drastically change your life? Why or why not?

30. Ravens—both physically and symbolically—are featured throughout The Raven Boys. List five examples of their presence. Why do you think the author chose this type of bird for both the title of the book and the incidences that you listed?