

Fireborne Book Club Discussion Questions

Teens & Adults

1. Who was your favorite character—Lee or Annie?
2. Who did you expect to win the Firststrider Tournament? Did your prediction ever change? Did you find the outcome (of the tournament or the book) “fair”?
3. “We’d never do the wrong thing, would we?” Annie and Lee both have to make some tough moral choices. Do you think they make the right ones?
4. Would you describe Callipolis as utopian or dystopian? Is the new regime better than the last?
5. Annie and Lee could be said to both struggle with internalized biases about what they deserve. How do they outgrow them over the course of the story?
6. *Is Lee a threat to everything Atreus is trying to build?*
7. *Tropes* are patterns stories often take—such as a deposed aristocrat avenging his family, or the unlikable romantic rival. Did you notice any tropes that were upended or inverted in this story in a way you didn’t expect?
8. The *Aurelian Cycle* is an ancient piece of art that some characters in Callipolis find beautiful but others clearly derive harmful beliefs from. Could you make the case that banning it is justified; could you make the case that banning art is ever justified?
9. Dragons of the world of *Fireborne* are not cuddly pets or wise counselors—they’re weapons of mass destruction. Compare the dragons of *Fireborne* to other dragons in stories you’ve read or watched. How do different kinds of dragons lead to different kinds of stories?
10. If you were a ruler with insufficient rations to distribute to a city, how would you divide them? Justify your policy. (Can you think of real-world examples where leaders had to decide how to prioritize human lives, or choose the lesser of two evils?)
11. If you could ride a dragon from *Fireborne*, which breed of dragon do you think would Choose you—stormscourge, skyfish, or aurelian?
12. What do you think will happen in the sequel? (Flamefall, forthcoming early 2021).