

Dauntless Discussion Questions

1. Merry's band is very much a family. Do you have people in your life who are not blood relatives but feel like family? What does family mean to you?
2. In order to rise to the occasion and lead her band, Merry denies certain sides of herself. Have you ever denied part of yourself to fit a role? What are the pros and cons of doing this?
3. Timothy is struggling to find a purpose for his life. Have you ever felt this way? What advice would you give him?
4. A fun element of this book is the inclusion of acrobatics. Have you ever tried acrobatics or gymnastics? Do you enjoy watching them? Can you relate with Merry's love of flying through the air?
5. Merry, Allen, and Timothy were all devastated by the tragedy in Ellsworth. How do they each respond to it? How does it affect their views of God? How does the villain respond to his own tragedies?
6. Merry and her band face a lot of ethical dilemmas due to being outlawed and in danger of execution. Do you think they made the right choice in pursuing a life of thievery? Why does Allen see the situation very differently than Merry? What else might they have done?
7. When faced with a ruthless monarch, the main characters react in very different ways. How do Merry, Allen, and Timothy each deal with King John? Is there a right or wrong way to respond in this situation? How would you handle it?
8. Timothy and Merry were childhood sweethearts. Did you have a special childhood sweetheart? Can that sort of relationship develop into something that lasts?
9. Merry struggles with a hard heart. What are the roots of that hard heart? Who else in the story suffers from a hard heart, and what are the consequences? Eventually Merry's heart does begin to soften. What are some of the key elements that produce this change?
10. This book includes some Christian supernatural elements. How did you feel when Wren was healed? How did you feel about the inclusion of the sunshine men? Why do you think the author chose to use these elements?
11. The title of this book is *Dauntless*, which means fearless and determined. What was the greatest fear that each of the main characters faced? Are you determined to face your fears?
12. The theme Scripture for the book is about God giving us beauty for ashes. Can you think of a time in your life when everything went wrong but God turned it into something beautiful?