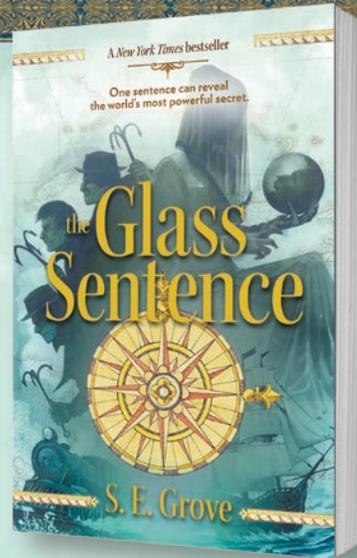


# the Glass Sentence

by S. E. Grove



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. One of the most prevalent themes in the book is the acceptance or rejection of what is viewed as “different.” What would a nation look like if it chose to reject everyone from within? Use New Occident’s decision as a starting point to discuss how these choices are made in the world today.
2. Along with normal paper maps, maps of different materials can hold certain kinds of memories. Clay maps contain memories of topography, metal maps hold memories of man-made structures, cloth maps represent memories of weather, and so on. Stacked on top of one another, they create a complete memory of a time and place. How might the “truth” of a memory be affected by focusing on different maps—or aspects—of reality?
3. List all of the kinds of maps Sophia encounters. What others could you invent?
4. Discuss the benefits and disadvantages of using memory as a record-keeping device. How might history be affected by who writes it down?
5. What part does memory play in our identities?
6. Discuss the important settings and their corresponding eras. Explain why you believe each is important to the story, and why each time period was selected for that setting.
7. Moving between the Ages presents not only a cultural but generational difference among characters. In what ways does each Era affect Sophia’s mission and the characters she encounters?
8. Discuss how magic and science are perceived in Sophia’s world, as well as why science might be considered “magic” to someone from an earlier Age.
9. Have you ever visited a place that seems ages apart from your own life?
10. Nihilism insists that the post-Disruption world is a false one and that the “true world” can be restored. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
11. In this world, creatures of myth exist alongside people that are partly made of fauna or even silver. What other elements of Sophia’s world differ from our reality?
12. In what ways is New Occident similar to nineteenth-century America? How is it different?
13. S.E. Grove has said the following about Sophia: “I know plenty of people who have no internal compass. I know fewer people who have no sense of time the way Sophia does. What I liked about this notion for her is that she sees it as a disability. But sometimes things we don’t like about ourselves end up being strengths.” In what ways did the characters in this story use their perceived “weaknesses” to their advantage? In what ways might your own weaknesses be used as strengths?
14. How did this story change your thinking? Or, can you show how it validated or affirmed your thinking?

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