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The Last Thirteen: 13
By James Phelan

- Sam, the hero of the first book in *The Last Thirteen*, considers himself to be an average teen, but learns he is actually one of 13 Dreamers whose destiny is to save the world. Sam finds himself kidnapped along with other teens, Eva and Alex. In what ways are their reactions to these events and to the things they learn at the Academy about themselves and their parents, the same and how are they different? How do you think you would react in their position?
- Were you surprised to learn that neither Sam's teacher, Mr. Cole, nor his parents turned out to be who Sam thought they were? Explain.
- Do you believe that there are such things as prophetic dreams? Have you ever had one?
- The helicopter crash is all over the news. How do you think the media might explain this event? Who do you think is really behind the attack on the helicopter?
- Tobias gives each of the teens a dream catcher, the uniform emblem of the Academy, to wear. What do you know about dream catchers?
- Tobias had developed several courses in dream control. Had you ever heard of Noetics? What do you know about it?
- In chapter 22, Sam senses friction between Seb and Tobias. What do you think might be the cause of such friction?
- What do Sam and his friends learn about the Enterprise? Lora says the Academy isn't sure what they want now. What do you think is the Enterprise's real agenda?
- In chapter 29, Sam is described as having "butterflies in his stomach" upon entering the Professor's office. Have you ever had a similar experience? What kinds of events prompted it?
- When discussing the actions Sam might take in New York City, Lora says, "Changing the parameters here and there puts you on a slightly different path." Is this ever also true in real life? How might that be?
- The Professor says, "No one is ordinary." Is he referring simply to those at the Academy, the Dreamers, or even everyone? How do you feel about this statement?



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- Who do you think is responsible for the chaos and destruction in Egypt described in the newspaper article the Professor gives Sam to read?
 - Both the Academy and the Enterprise boast a number of technological innovations. What do you think is the most important of these? If you could experience just one, which would you choose?
 - When Eva asks why Dreamers don't use their premonitions to take action to save lives, she's told the Academy believes, "Humanity has to follow its own course." Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - Do you think the Academy is right to trust Shiva? Explain your reasoning.
 - What is déjà vu? Have you ever experienced it? What were the circumstances and how do you explain it?
 - Is it a coincidence that Sam's psychiatrist, Dr. Dark, turns out to be behind the expedition to recover the Star of Egypt and the Dream Stele? How else might he be involved?
 - What do you imagine is the significance of the Star of Egypt? How might it figure in the race?
 - Discuss the nature of Solaris. Lora says he's "not a magician" nor is he "a weapon of mass destruction." What kind of person/creature do you think he might be? Supernatural? Human?
 - How do you think Sam will escape the murderous clutches of Solaris as the book ends?
 - In what ways is *The Last Thirteen:13* like other fantasy novels you may have read? In what ways does it differ?