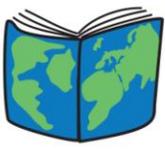




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The Last Thirteen: 6
By James Phelan

- Sam refers to déjà vu during his nightmare and again upon waking to find the girl he recognizes as Nika from his dream. What is déjà vu? Have you ever experienced this?
- Arianna calls herself and other dreamers like her, the Nyx, and those who steal their dreams are the Hypnos. Where do these names come from? Do you think they are appropriate names for these groups?
- Who do you think the leader of the Hypnos might be?
- Imagine being able to see every thought, every secret in people's dreams. Shiva tells Alex, "You see into everyone's mind, you open doors that are hard to close." What does he mean? It is possible to tap into phone conversations, monitor email, steal letters, etc. Is it ever OK for anyone to do this? Who might that be and what might justify such actions? What does Shiva mean when he calls such acts a "slippery slope"?
- The Kremlin is described as a "city within a city." What can you learn about Russia's seat of power? What buildings are located there and why has it become a tourist attraction?
- Sam is sometimes referred to as "American" by other characters in the series although he's from Canada. Do you think he finds this annoying or amusing? How would you feel if others mistook you for Canadian or some other nationality?
- Hans calls Arianna "our little Russian feyyerverk." What does he mean? Why do you suppose he calls her that?
- How do you think Cody felt when Eva introduced him to the other Dreamers once he and his parents arrived at the Academy? Do you think he and his parents can be trusted?
- In Chapter 20 Sam suspects Hans is reporting to a boss when he's on the phone. Do you agree? Do you have any ideas as to who that might be?
- Arianna and Sam escape from Moscow on a train. Have you ever traveled by train in a sleeper car? If not, is this something you might like to try? Why or why not? If you have done this, share your experience with the discussion group.
- As a competitive gymnast in Russia, Arianna has been "on the road" for years. Since beginning the search for the 13 Dreamers Sam finds himself in a similar situation. Can you imagine leading this sort of life yourself? What would you consider the advantages and disadvantages?



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- What can you learn about the constellation Ophiuchus and the zodiac? What is the difference between astrology and astronomy?
 - When Dr. Kadar appears on Dr. Dark's jet Eva pulls the dart gun Lora has given her and refuses to accompany them to New York, insisting that Ahmad is a traitor. Do you think she is right? Why or why not?
 - The Web is full of sites linking Nikola Tesla to the Tunguska explosion. What evidence can you find to debunk this theory?
 - What can you learn about Tesla Motors and their cars?
 - As *The Last Thirteen: 6* ends, the concrete room Sam is trapped in is rocked by explosions and surrounded by fire. What do you think has happened and what might follow next?