



## **R IS FOR REBEL by J. Anderson Coats**

### **Discussion Questions**

Based on Day 1, what do you think Malley plans to do once she gets to the national school? What would you do?

Why do you think the emperor has implemented the Education Act that requires all Milean children to attend national schools?

What happens to Malley after she arrives at school? What is asked of her? Why does she object? Why do you think the schools structured the way they are?

What is the Roll of Honor? What purpose does it have in Milean society? How does this relate to the Wealdans' list of "prohibited names"?

What do you think about Sister Chlotilde's assertion that the play the girls are to put on is "historically accurate"? What makes something historically accurate?

Why does Malley take the blame for the seditious primer? Do you agree with her decision? Do you think Sister Chlotilde would believe her if she said she didn't ruin the book?

Discuss the purpose of the songs in Milean society. When Malley says she wants to be songworthy, what does she mean? What does it tell us about identity? About history?

Why is Malley's time in the laundry important? What does she learn there?

Describe what happens over the course of the rehearsals leading up to the production. How are the girls different? What has changed? Why do they finally decide to take action?

What is Free Milea? What do the girls do there? What can we infer about Milean culture from these things? What can we infer about how well the school is conditioning the girls into accepting Wealdan ways of doing things?

At the beginning of the story, Malley had a specific understanding of leadership. How and why have her views changed by the end?

How do you think Wealdan history books will describe what happened at the school? Do you think it will be included in a Wealdan history book at all?

The author has presented Milean society as racially diverse. Why do you think she chose to do this? In other words, what is the effect of presenting an imperial relationship that is not based on race or ethnicity?

Do any aspects of this invented world remind you of our own?