

## **The Night Ride by J. Anderson Coats**

### **Discussion Questions**

What kinds of things does Sonnia value? How does she want to spend her time? What does this tell you about her character?

Why do you think Sonnia is so determined to buy Ricochet? She is allowed to ride him more or less whenever she wants. Why does owning him make a difference to her?

How do Sonnia's feelings about Deirdre change over the course of the story? Why does it take her so long to realize that Deirdre is not the same person she remembers?

When in the story did you realize that some things were not quite right at the racetrack? What hints does the author give the reader?

Why do you think Sonnia looked up to Deirdre when she was a child? Why does Sonnia admire Deirdre when she encounters her again at the racetrack? What can you infer about Sonnia based on her feelings about Deirdre?

Why does Sonnia finally join the Night Ride? Reflect on how she has several reasons, and describe how these reasons interrelate.

What are some unintended consequences of Sonnia's competing in that first Night Ride? What realization does she come to, and how do her goals change as a result?

The Night Ride seems to operate successfully in complete secrecy. What are some reasons for this?

Why doesn't Sonnia ever seriously consider quitting the junior racing cadre, especially when she learns about the Night Ride?

How would you describe Sonnia's family? How does her relationship with her brother and sister impact her decisions?

How do people make choices? What factors go into them? When is a choice not really a choice?

Sonnia makes a lot of excuses throughout the story to justify her decisions. What is different about her decision to tell the king what's been going on at the racetrack?

What did you think about how this book ended? What do you think happens next for Sonnia?