

*Seer of Shadows* by Avi

Discussion Questions:

1. At the beginning of the book, Horace shared interesting sources of names in his family. Would you be willing to share how your parents chose your first and middle names?
2. Congratulations! This question is for a philosopher. It is very hard! Do you have an answer to either of the questions on page 5: “What is the truth?” or “What is more useful in the modern age, logic or faith?”
3. Do you agree or disagree with Horace’s father’s statement on page 6: “paintings may be beautiful, but they are only artists’ notions. Photography reveals facts.”?
4. Was the author able to catch your interest in the first few chapters? If so, how did he do it? If not, how would you improve his writing?
5. Did anything in the story make you angry?
6. Please re-read Horace’s struggle over whether or not to help his boss trick Mrs. Von Macht on pages 34-35. If Horace shared his thoughts with you, how would you help him decide what to do?
7. Did you disagree with something a character said?
8. Is there a character that you admire? If so, what is it you admire about him/her?
9. When you saw the title, what did you think the book would be about? Is the title OK with you or would you suggest something different?
10. On page 74 Horace’s father states his opinion about emotional harm not truly harming the customer in the case of the photography trick that Mr. Middleditch is planning. What do you think about his reasoning?
11. On pages 103-104 Horace notices that he is viewing familiar sights differently: through the eye of a photographer. I’m wondering if any of us has noticed that we view things in a particular way on certain days. Have we ever viewed the world as a hopeful person, an optimist, a pessimist, a musician, an artist, or as a physically challenged person?
12. Do you like the ending? If so, why? If not, how should it be improved?
13. Horace has a very different relationship with Pegg than the Von Machts or Mr. Middleditch do. Why do people think differently about the same person?
14. Here is another super hard question. Consider the idea of revenge. What do you think about what happened to the Von Machts at the end of the story? Was it just? Was this part of the story too horrifying for 10-12 year old girls?
15. I thought that the author used foreshadowing: hints of what was to come. Did you notice this? If so, how did the author give you these hints?