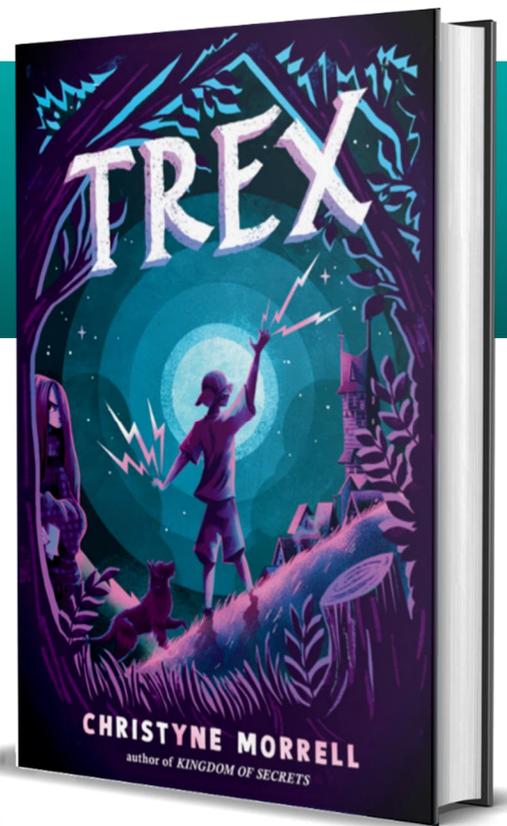


# TREX

## Discussion Guide



1. When Mellie sees Trex shoot lightning from his fingertips, she wonders if her eyes are deceiving her. Later, she reads a poster that says: “It’s not what you look at that matters, but what you see.” What do you think the saying means? How does the message in the poster relate to Mellie’s journey over the course of the book?
2. The Statue of the Unnamed Girl is a central figure in the story. How does it impact the lives of the characters? Why does each character view the statue so differently? Based on your answer, why do you think the statue is unnamed?
3. Trex has grown up isolated from other kids, taking most of his social cues from TV shows. How has this influenced his view of the world? How has Mellie’s experience been similar?
4. Mellie is an introvert, someone who draws her energy from time spent alone. She also suffers from anxiety. What do you know about these concepts? How are they related? How are they misunderstood by the characters in the story? (This question may require further research!)
5. Trex’s brain implant comes with significant side effects – the need to “recharge his batteries,” static electric shocks, etc. How does he deal with these side effects? How do they mirror Mellie’s experiences as an introvert?
6. Dr. Vogel tempts Trex with cutting-edge technology that he claims will solve all of Trex’s problems, but Trex turns him down. What would you have done in Trex’s position? Why?
7. Both Trex and Mellie have fraught relationships with their parents. How do these relationships change over the course of the book?
8. Brick discusses the difference between secrets and lies. What do you think the difference is? Which of the characters have secrets? Which tell lies? Do you think they’re justified in doing so?
9. Mellie envisions Trex as a superhero because of his charge - the very trait he considers his biggest flaw. What lesson might Mellie take from her perception of Trex? Is it easier to see others more clearly than we see ourselves? (Think back to Question #1!)
10. Do you think Trex and Mellie will remain friends? What do you think the future holds for each of them?

“Smart, thrilling, loads of fun, and perfect for *Stranger Things* fans!”

- Elizabeth C. Bunce,

Edgar Award-winning author of the Myrtle Hardcastle series

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