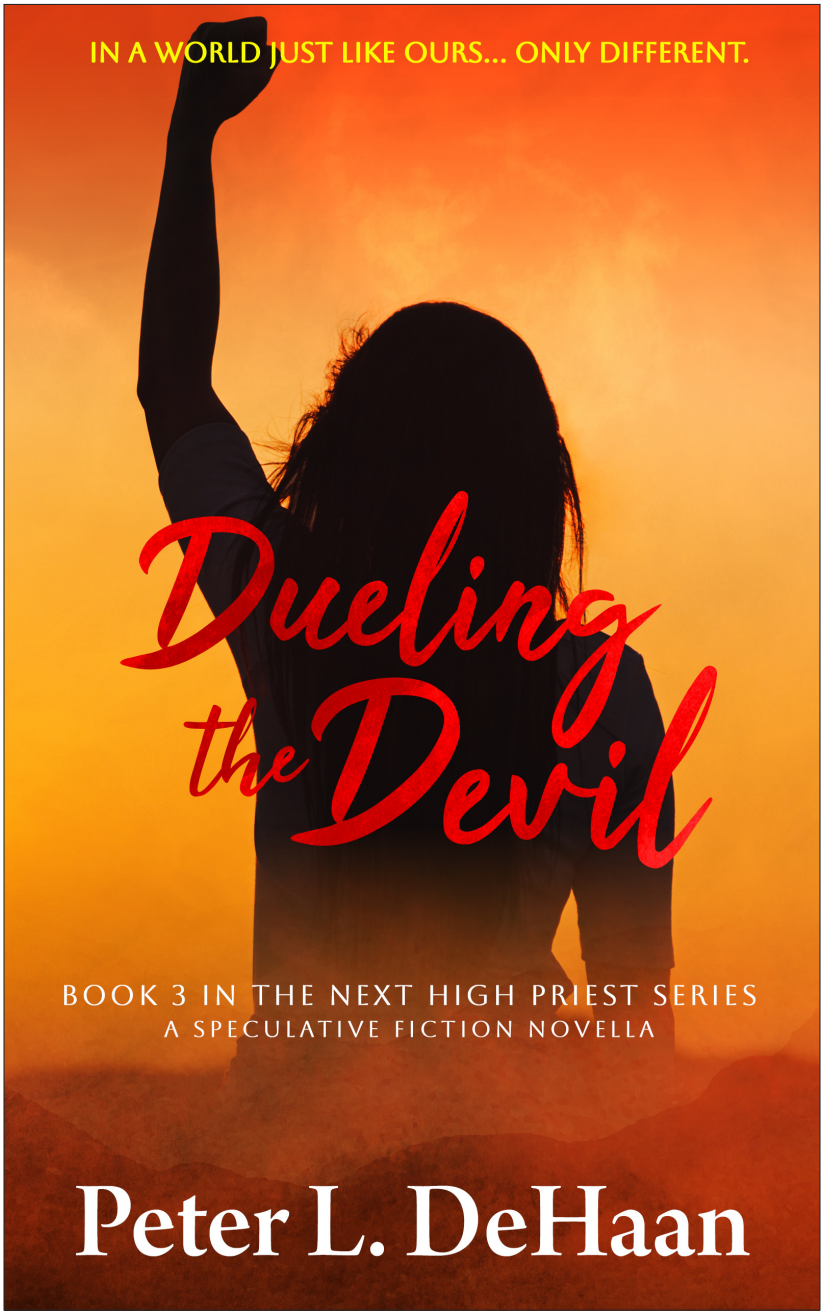


Discussion Guide for

Dueling the Devil

by Peter L. DeHaan

For high school classes

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How to Use This Guide

Please finish the book first, or finish each chapter group before discussing it. The questions mention later events in the story.

Work through the chapter sections in order, or choose the groups that fit your class period. There are no right or wrong answers—share what stood out to you. Save the whole-book questions for the end of your discussion.

Chapters 1–3: Early Challenges

Emma stands up to Pompous Jack and learns she must divide the priests into groups, but she also faces exhaustion and evil spirits blocking her way to the Sovereign.

1. Why does Emma refuse to back down when Pompous Jack threatens her?

2. What keeps Emma from focusing on her Holy Text study that night?

3. How does Emma react when she sees the dark forms flying around her?

4. What exact instruction does the Sovereign give Emma about the priests?

5. Why does Emma feel relief after hearing the Sovereign's reply?

Chapters 4–6: Priest Groups and Confinement

Emma divides the priests using what she sees in the spiritual realm, but Pompous Jack then locks her in her quarters and threatens her safety.

1. How does Emma decide who belongs in the Gamma, Beta, and Alpha groups?

2. What does Emma say to the Alpha group that makes them angry?

3. Why does Pompous Jack tell Junior to leave the office?

4. How does Emma respond when the guard pushes her into her quarters?

5. What promise does Pompous Jack make to Emma at the end of their meeting?

Chapters 7–9: School Struggles and Protest

Emma's tutor treats her harshly, the Temple staff protests outside, and Emma joins the protest from her window, which leads to a physical attack.

1. How does the tutor react when Emma finishes her history test early?

2. What does Emma see happening outside her window during the protest?

3. Why does Emma start chanting from her window?

4. What happens right after the security guard grabs Emma?

5. How does Emma finally free herself from the handcuffs?

Chapters 10–13: Poisoning and Rescue

Emma learns her food and water are poisoned, Chloe arrives through the dumbwaiter, and the two friends ask the Sovereign to make Emma's quarters holy before Chloe slips out past the guard.

1. What does Emma discover about her food when she looks at it in the spiritual realm?

2. How does Chloe get into Emma's quarters?

3. What happens when the girls pray to make the space holy?

4. Why does the food server scream and run away after bringing lunch?

5. How does Emma feel after Chloe leaves?

Chapters 14–16: Acting, Bad News, and a New Plan

Emma pretends to be dying, her dad visits, she learns her parents lost their jobs because of her, and she decides how she will finish school.

1. How does Emma trick the food server into thinking she is near death?

2. What does Emma's dad find out about her condition?

3. Why does Emma's dad lose his job?

4. How does Emma respond when she hears her parents are unemployed?

5. What does Emma decide to do about her schooling?

Chapters 17–18: A Heavenly Trip and a Test

Emma's spirit rises to the Sovereign, who tells her what lies ahead, and then she faces a test when her spirit cannot find her body.

1. What does Emma see when her spirit tries to return to her body?
2. How do Joshua and Emma's parents get her body back to the palace?
3. What two battles does the Sovereign tell Emma she will face?
4. How does Emma feel when she finally rejoins her body?

Chapters 19–21: Climax and Resolution

Emma's friends gather, she sends Pompous Jack's guards away and defeats him in the spiritual realm, and the police arrest him after discovering his crimes.

1. How does Emma convince the first guard to leave his post?
2. How does Emma's body feel when she wakes up the morning after the spiritual battle?
3. What does Emma notice about Pompous Jack's appearance when she sees him again?
4. Why does Captain Hernandez arrest Pompous Jack?
5. What does Emma say to Pompous Jack right before he is taken away?
6. How does the story end for Emma and her friends?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How does Emma's view of herself change from the first chapter to the last?
2. What is one moral choice Emma makes that costs her something but shows courage?
3. In what ways does Emma show she is learning to trust the Sovereign more as the story goes on?
4. Which character besides Emma grows the most, and what evidence do you see?
5. What does the story suggest about standing up to someone in power?
6. How do the spiritual battles connect to the everyday struggles Emma faces?
7. What role does friendship play in helping Emma keep going?
8. Which scene best shows the cost of trusting the Sovereign under opposition?

9. How does Emma's relationship with the Sovereign affect the choices she makes?

10. What lesson about courage would you tell a friend who read this book?

11. If Emma faced a similar situation again, what do you think she would do differently?

12. Which part of the story surprised you the most and why?

13. How does the ending affect the way you think about justice?

14. What part of Emma's growth would you most like to see in your own life?

15. Who in the story reminds you of someone you know, and why?

About the Author

Peter L. DeHaan is an adult who dreams of being a teenager. When he's not contemplating grown-up thoughts, his mind retreats to the domain of invented worlds with his loyal and most real, yet still imaginary, friends.

His first published adventures come to life in The Next High Priest Series—a faith-friendly speculative fiction adventure in a world just like ours . . . only different.

Read the Rest of The Next High Priest Series

Dueling the Devil is book 3 of The Next High Priest Series. The full series:

1. Seeking the Sovereign
2. Confronting the Chaos
3. Dueling the Devil
4. **Reforming the Religion**
5. Freeing the Prisoners
6. Fighting the Fanatics
7. Perfecting the Priesthood
8. Pursuing the Politicians
9. Restoring the Repentant

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