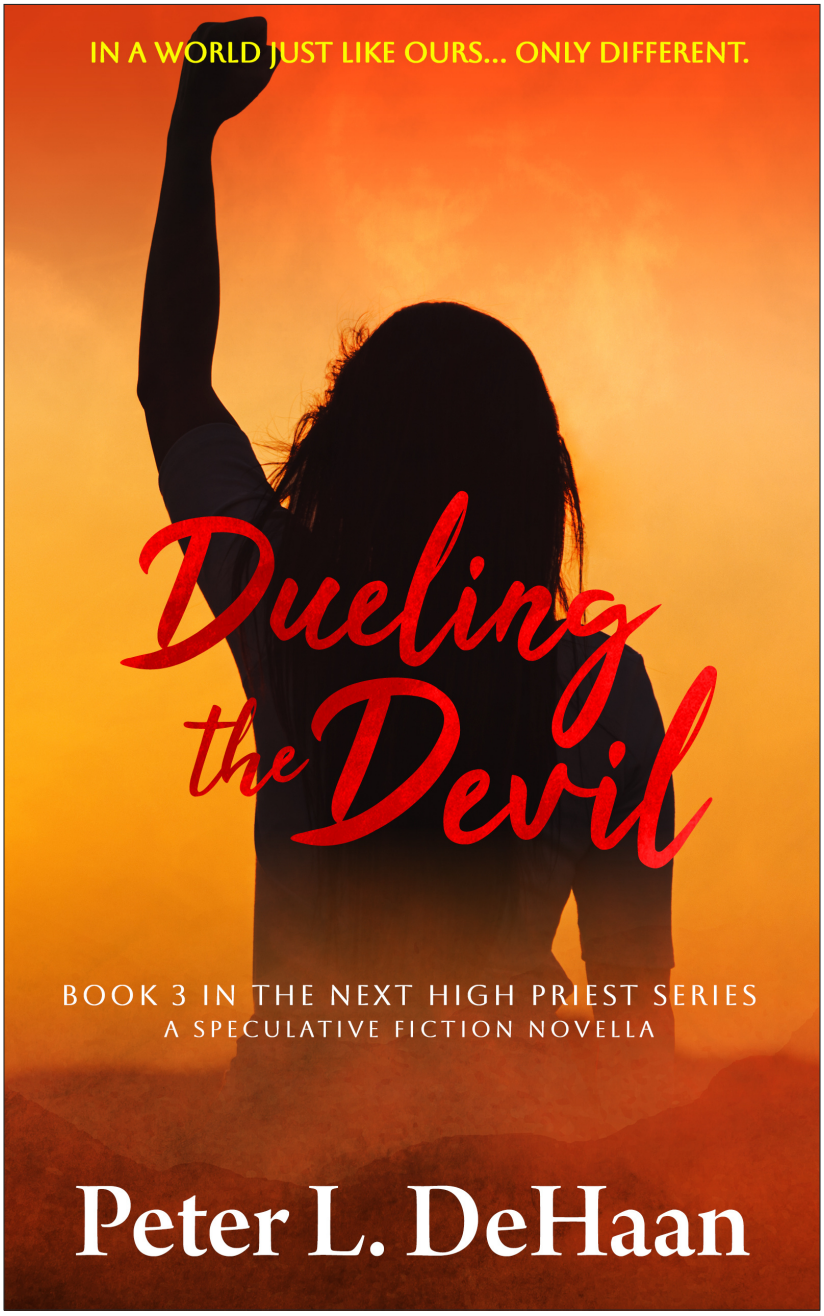


Discussion Guide for

Dueling the Devil

by Peter L. DeHaan

For middle 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: Emma Faces a Threat

Emma stands up to Pompous Jack's threats and learns from the Sovereign to start with the priests, showing her growing courage and trust.

1. What does Emma say to Pompous Jack when he tells her what to do?

2. Why does Emma look away from their staring contest?

3. What does Emma ask the Sovereign to show her after she tries to reach heaven?

4. How does Jennifer react when Pompous Jack tells her to stand against the wall?

5. What three groups does the Sovereign tell Emma to make with the priests?

Chapters 4–6: Emma Divides the Priests and Gets Locked In

Emma follows the Sovereign's directions to sort the priests, faces Pompous Jack's new rules that trap her, and gets a new food server.

1. How does Emma know which priests go in each group?

2. What does Pompous Jack tell Emma she can and cannot do after their meeting?

3. What does Emma notice about the food server who brings her breakfast?

Chapters 7–9: Emma's Hard School Day and the Protest

Emma deals with a mean tutor, sees Junior hurt, and joins the protest from her window until a guard grabs her.

1. Why does the tutor throw Emma's history test in the trash?
2. What does Pompous Jack do to Junior on the stage?
3. What does Pompous Jack say about the protesters when he takes Emma to the auditorium?
4. What does Emma shout from the window during the protest?
5. How does Emma feel when the guard grabs her from the window?
6. How does the guard treat Emma after he locks her in her room?

Chapters 10–13: Emma Gets Help from Chloe

Emma discovers poisoned food, uses the dumbwaiter, and gets a surprise visit from Chloe, who leaves past the guard.

1. What does Emma see in the spiritual realm about her breakfast?
2. How does Chloe get into Emma's quarters?
3. What does Emma do right after Chloe reminds her to ask the Sovereign to heal her cheek?
4. Why can't Chloe leave through the dumbwaiter at the end of her visit?
5. What does the guard do when Chloe walks past him?

Chapters 14–18: Pretending, Freedom, and a Trip to Heaven

Emma tricks the food server, her dad visits, and her spirit visits the Sovereign in heaven before finding its way back to her body.

1. How does Emma make the food server think she is dying?

2. What does Pompous Jack tell the food server about the poison dose?

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

4. What does Emma's dad plan to collect so the poisoning can be tested?

5. What does Emma see when her spirit leaves her body?

6. How do Emma's parents and Joshua get her body back to her room?

Chapters 19–21: Emma Wins and Pompous Jack Is Arrested

Emma returns safely, sees her friends, sends the guards away, wins her duel with Pompous Jack's spirit, and watches him get arrested.

1. What does Emma tell the guard outside her door when she fires him?

2. What weapon does Emma use first in her fight with Pompous Jack's spirit?

3. What happens to Pompous Jack's spirit at the end of the battle?

4. How does Emma feel when she wakes up after the battle?

5. What does Captain Hernandez say he found on the security videos?

6. How does Pompous Jack look when Emma sees him in his office?

7. What does Pompous Jack shout as the officers take him away?

8. What does Emma quote from the Holy Text when Pompous Jack asks for help?

Whole-Book Discussion Questions

1. How does Emma change from the first chapter to the last?

2. What is the biggest choice Emma makes that shows she trusts the Sovereign?

3. Which scene made you cheer the loudest and why?

4. How does Emma's friendship with Chloe and Joshua help her?

5. What lesson about standing up for what's right did you learn from Emma?

6. If you could add one more scene, what would happen?

7. How does the story show that the Sovereign is stronger than evil?

8. Which character surprised you the most and why?

9. What part of Emma's journey would you like to try in your own life?

10. How does the ending make you feel about facing hard things?

11. What would you tell a friend who feels trapped like Emma did?

12. Which battle in the story felt the scariest and why?

13. How does Emma's relationship with the Sovereign grow through the book?

14. What part of the story would you like to act out with friends?

15. What do you think Emma will do next as High Priestess?

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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