

Discussion Questions Suggested by *Secrets of the Dragon Riders*

1. Is fantasy just for kids and teens?
2. Why do you think there are there so many strong opinions about Christopher Paolini?
3. Does it make a difference that *Eragon* was written by a teenager?
4. Do you think *Eldest* is better written than *Eragon*? How about *Brisingr*?
5. What do you read stories for? The plot? The ideas? The characters? The writing style?
6. Is Eragon or Roran the more interesting character?
7. Did you like the sections of *Eldest* where Eragon was with the elves? Why or why not?
8. Why do you think there are so many stories about anthropomorphic characters?
9. Would you want as close a relationship with someone else as Eragon has with Saphira?
10. How do you think Paolini defines wisdom in the Inheritance Cycle? How would you define it?
11. When you write, do you think of it as something you do mostly with your conscious brain or with your subconscious? Is it different for fiction than for nonfiction?
12. Are there any other ancient heroes, like Perceval, that Eragon (or Roran!) reminds you of? Who, and why?
13. Can people change? Do you think Christopher Paolini thinks so? How do you thinking his characters' ability to change (or their lack of ability to change) could affect the rest of the series?
14. Do you like Sobat's associative, lyrical writing style, or do you prefer a more straightforward presentation of ideas, like Fitzgerald's? What kinds of ideas do you think each might be good at presenting?
15. Is storytelling different in role-play and video games, or even in movies, than in books? Do you tell a story differently depending on whether you're telling it aloud to friends or emailing it to them?
16. How do you think text-messaging and twittering might change storytelling in the future?