

Reader Discussion Questions for *The Verdant Cage*



1. What rules or traditions in Noah's Valley felt normal at first but became unsettling as the story went on?
2. Rose is often told that her role is for the "greater good." How do you decide when following the rules is right and when it's time to question them?
3. What does Rose's connection to plants and healing reveal about her character?
4. Rose's journey forces her to question the morality she was raised with. How difficult is it to unlearn beliefs that once felt necessary?
5. What role does color symbolism play in the story, particularly red? How did the author use visual imagery to enhance the dystopian atmosphere?
6. Which character felt the most relatable to you, and why?
7. How does friendship—or the lack of it—affect Rose's ability to survive and resist?
8. The book asks what it means to belong somewhere. Is belonging about being obedient, being accepted, being honest—or something else?
9. If you lived in Noah's Valley, do you think you would have questioned it sooner than Rose did? Why or why not?
10. Noah's Valley functions because most people participate in the system, even if they sense something is wrong. What does the book suggest about complicity?
11. The architect of these experiments remains largely unseen, yet his influence is everywhere. What does that say about how power operates?
12. How does generational perspective shape the conflict in the book? In what ways do adults and young people experience risk differently?
13. The community of Noah's Valley is built on secrecy and selective truth. What real-world parallels did this raise for you?
14. The book suggests that good intentions can still cause immense harm. Did any character's justification feel disturbingly reasonable?
15. What was the most shocking reveal or plot twist? Looking back, can you identify foreshadowing you missed?
16. How does *The Verdant Cage* compare to other dystopian novels you've read? What makes it distinctive?
17. What do you want to happen between Rose and Gryphon?
18. What do you think they'll find beyond the Wall?
19. If you lived in Noah's Valley, which House do you think you'd belong to? How would you navigate its rules and restrictions?
20. **Bonus question:** If you could design your own House symbol and motto, what would they be?