



The Shadow of the Wind

by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

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1:30p | Isabel Hall

Discussion Questions

1. Daniel says of **The Shadow of the Wind**, "As it unfolded, the structure of the story began to remind me of one of those Russian dolls that contain innumerable ever-smaller dolls within." Zafón's **The Shadow of the Wind** unfolds much the same way, with many characters contributing fragments of their own stories in the first person point of view. What does Zafón illustrate with this method of storytelling? What do the individual mini-autobiographies contribute to the tale?
2. What was unique about the setting of the novel? In what ways did Zafón's setting enhance the story?
3. Discuss the threatening devil-like characters in the novel—Lain Coubert, Fumero, Zacarias (the dream angel), etc.
4. Discuss the angelic depiction of female characters in the novel—Clara, Bea, Daniel's mother.
5. How did the Aldaya Mansion, the allegedly cursed Angel of the Mist, influence the book and its characters?
6. What role does the Sugus candy play in the novel? Why are Fermin and Daniel never without them?
7. Why does the author set the story in the midst of the Spanish Civil War and its aftermath?
8. Nuria Monfort's dying words, meant for Julián, are, "There are worse prisons than words." What does she mean by this? What is she referring to?
9. Julián and Daniel's lives follow very similar trajectories. Yet one ends in tragedy, the other in happiness. What similarities are there between the paths they take? What are the differences that allow Daniel to avoid tragedy?
10. What do you think the Montblanc Meisterstück fountain pen, or the "Victor Hugo" pen, as Daniel fondly calls it, symbolizes?
11. Julián never finds out why his relationship with Penelope was so taboo. To the end, everyone wanted to protect him from the real facts. If you were Julián, would you want to know?
12. What does the title of the book refer to? What is "The Shadow of the Wind?"