



BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Themes

1. Lil Potkin is passionate about the principle of real news. What principle matters most to you and what would your world be like with or without it?
2. If you could change something in your world, to make it better for everyone, what would it be and why?
3. *Potkin and Stubbs* pivots on acts of kindness and bravery. Can you identify them and discuss how they change the course of the story?
4. What do you think of the book cover? What does it tell you about the type of story that might be inside?
5. McNair's famous quote was: 'All it takes for injustice to prevail is for good people to look the other way.' What does this mean to you?
6. What did Karl James Mountford's illustrations add to your reading of the book?

Characters

7. What does Chapter 1 tell us about Lil Potkin?
8. If you could tell this story from someone else's perspective, who would you choose and why?
9. Compare Lil and Nedly. How are they different? What are the similarities between them?



10. *Potkin and Stubbs* is about what and who you believe in. Look at Lil, Neddy and Abe in turn; what or who do they believe in and why?
11. What does A.J. McNair mean to Lil?
12. What would it really feel like to be invisible?
13. Why do you think Abe agrees to re-open the Stubbs case?
14. Which character would you most like to solve a mystery with and why?

Setting

15. What does Chapter 1 tell us about Peligan City?
16. *Potkin and Stubbs* is set in a time and place without the internet and mobile phones. What are the ways that Lil and Neddy gather information about the case? How effective are they for research purposes?
17. The library in *Potkin and Stubbs* has been closed for more than a decade but is being run in secret by the librarian Logan McKay – how does it compare to a library you know?

Plot and Story

18. In the first few chapters of the book, what are the clues that Neddy Stubbs might not be all that he seems?
19. What is your favourite scene in the book and why?
20. It turned out that Ramon Le Teef was hiding in plain sight, under Abe's nose all this time. What were the clues that Mayor Dean had a big secret?
21. Does this story remind you of anything else you've read? In what way?
22. What sort of reader would you recommend this book to?
23. What questions about the story do you have at the end of this book? What do you think the answers might be?