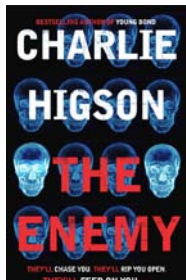


Reading Guide

The Enemy by Charlie Higson



Puffin
9780141325019
£6.99



The author:

Charlie Higson is an author, comedian, actor and former singer in the band The Higsons. In the 1990s, he became well known for his writing and performing in the hugely popular television sketch show, *The Fast Show*. In 2005, he wrote *Silverfin*, the first in a series of novels focusing on the young James Bond's schooldays at Eton. Charlie has three children who give him this advice about his books: 'Kill more people! More action, less talk!'

The book:

The grown-ups are infected. No one knows how, no one knows why. But if mum and dad are still alive, they're now more likely to rip you apart and eat you than give you your pocket money. A gang of kids are fighting to survive and to get across London to Buckingham Palace, where they've been told there's food and shelter and more kids. But the grown-ups are getting cleverer, the kids are getting more desperate and you can't trust anyone these days.

Talking points:

- 'He smiled, the last place he wanted to be was Buckingham Palace. Crammed in there with all those kids. No peace and quiet. Always someone telling you what to do.' Callum chooses not to go with the rest of the kids. Can you understand why he does this?
- What do you think will happen when the kids turn 14? Will they become infected like the grown-ups?
- In *The Enemy*, it isn't just the strong kids who survive. What do you notice about the kids who survive and the kids who don't?
- 'The royals sat in their bedroom in the dark, staring into space...Every now and then, they were herded downstairs to sit on their thrones, but otherwise nothing happened.' Does the world in which the kids live need a Royal Family? Does it need a government?
- Nick and Rachel, who haven't been infected, are perhaps more terrifying than the other grown-ups. Do you think the book has anything to say about how kids and adults relate in the real world?
- In the book, different gangs of kids spend almost as much time fighting each other as fighting the grown-ups. Why do they find it so hard to work together?

Read more:

SilverFin (Young Bond series) by Charlie Higson

Blood Fever (Young Bond series) by Charlie Higson

The Dead by Charlie Higson (sequel to *The Enemy* published in October 2010)

More about Charlie Higson:

The Enemy website: www.the-enemy.co.uk

Charlie Higson at Puffin Books: www.puffin.co.uk

The Booktrust Teenage Prize celebrates the best contemporary writing for young people

This guide provides information about some exciting online resources as well as ideas to trigger in-depth discussion during class or with a reading group. There are six guides, one for each of the 2010 shortlisted titles.