

DISCUSSION GUIDE  
*VOYAGE OF PLUNDER*



1. What were some of the historical circumstances that caused colonial merchants such as Robert Markham, and respected government officials such as the governor of New York, to embrace piracy? When and why did the colonies strengthen the laws against piracy?
2. Why did Robert Markham find it necessary to flee the colonies to Jamaica?
3. Many men turned pirate for many reasons. Why did Timothy Allsworth turn pirate? Why did Caesar? Josiah Black?
4. At what point do you believe Daniel crossed the line between being an unwilling captive, to being a pirate?
5. Most readers will have guessed the relationship between Daniel and Josiah Black long before Daniel learns of it. Do you think there's a particular tension that results when the reader knows something that the character has not yet realized?
6. At the beginning of the novel, and especially after witnessing the brutal murder of his step-father, Daniel's view of the world is one in which right is right and wrong is wrong, and there is very little, if anything, in-between. By the end of the book, how has Daniel's worldview changed?
7. How was Faith an important part of Daniel's maturing? Do you think Faith became a sort of role model for Daniel?
8. Was Daniel's trial fair? Why or why not? When Daniel was being led to his execution, what was Faith's message to him? What was society's message? Why were these messages in conflict? Can you draw any parallels to our justice system today, and to our attitudes toward accused or condemned criminals?
9. The relationship between Daniel and Josiah is one of the driving forces of the book. How does Josiah really feel about Daniel? How does Daniel really feel about Josiah? Do Daniel's feelings toward Josiah shift once he learns Josiah is his natural father? Why does their relationship seem to fall apart once the father-son relationship is revealed?
10. A fan once wrote to the author, "The ending was so sad I cried! I had come to love Josiah just like Daniel had. Surely there was a way to end without Josiah dying?" What other ways could the book have ended? Do you think a different ending would have had the same impact? Why or why not?
11. What was your favorite part in the book, and why?