

## Book Club Discussion Guide



*The Backstagers by Andy Mientus, Page 1 (December 2021)*

# The Backstagers and the Ghost Light

By Andy Mientus; illustrated by Rian Sygh

## About the authors:

Andy Mientus is an actor, singer, and songwriter who is known for his roles in *Spring Awakening*, *Wicked*, *Les Misérables*, *Smash*, and *The Flash*. He lives in New York. Rian Sygh is a comic artist and cocreator, along with James Tynion IV, of the award-winning *Backstagers* comics. He lives in Glendale, California.

Source: Publisher's website: (<https://www.abramsbooks.com>)

## About this book:

The stage crew at St. Genesis Prep—or Backstagers, as they like to call themselves—are ready for whatever the theater world can throw their way: the madness of tech week, inevitable prop malfunctions, and all the paranormal activity that goes on behind the scenes. But lately, someone—or something—seems set on ruining their production of *Phantasm*. It all started when an actor brought a Spirit Board to the cast party, and the ghost light blew out. Every good theater kid knows that a ghost light needs to be left on to ward off ghosts. So when it went out, could something evil have snuck into the theater? To figure out what's haunting the theater

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and save the show, the Backstagers will have to use their smarts, their bravery, and a little bit of magic!

Source: Publisher's website: (<https://www.abramsbooks.com>)

### Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think about the cover for this book?
2. Why do you think this book has this title?
3. What is the setting of this book?
4. If you wanted to convince someone to read this book without giving away the ending, what would you say?
5. What is one thing you learned from reading this book?
6. How did you feel about the main character?
7. How did the main character solve his/her problem?
8. If you could be friends with any character from this book, who would you choose, and why?
9. How did you picture the main character?
10. Which of the characters in this book is most like you? Explain.
11. Which of the characters in this book is least like you? Explain.

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12. Did the kids in this book seem realistic to you? Why or why not?
13. What was the most exciting part of the story?
14. What was the most surprising thing about this book?
15. What do you think the author is trying to tell the reader in this story?
16. What is one question you would want to ask the author?
17. Did this book remind you of any others you have read? Which ones? Why?
18. How did this book make you feel?
19. What is one thing you really liked about this book?
20. What is one thing you really disliked about this book?
21. What did you think of the way this book ended?
22. If you had written this story, what would you have done differently?
23. If you had to recommend this book to someone you know, who would you choose, and why?
24. What are some interesting words you saw in this book?
25. Was there anything in this book you would like to learn more about? Why?

Source: Library Adventure website: (<https://www.libraryadventure.com/25-questions-to-spark-book-discussions-with-young-readers/>)