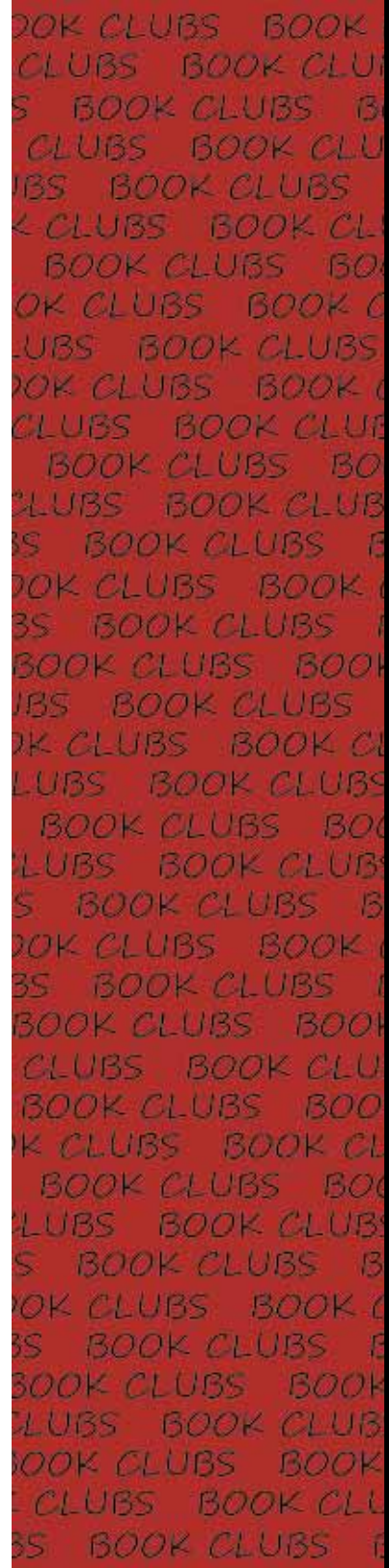


9. If you could have one word of power, what would it be? What would it do? What would you use your word for?
10. In Book 2, the question of free will is raised. What do you think about free will? How important do you think it is? Do you think free will exists or is everything decided by fate?

BOOK CLUB ACTIVITIES

1. Using art-supply modeling clay and toothpicks, have each member of the club create their own Sacred Books emblem. String them on leather ties to make necklaces.
2. Using inexpensive notebooks, have each member make their own Book of Nonsense. The members can use the books to write stories, poems, or even keep track of the book club's reading.
3. Play a trivia game based on Judeo/Christian mythology. Have each member of the club write a separate trivia question on three different cards. Some of the questions should be based on the book and others can be based on general mythology.



THE SACRED BOOKS SERIES



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE SERIES

The book is ancient, ravaged and full of utter nonsense. But the moment it enters Daphna and Dexter's lives, bizarre things begin to happen. Why is their father, who found the book, suddenly so distant? Is the old man who took it from him some kind of hypnotist? Why is a giant, red-eyed boy menacing them? And what does their thirteenth birthday have to do with all this?

Daphna and Dexter can't stand each other, but they'll have to learn to work together—before their lives unravel completely.



what bigger ideas are there than the ones these myths tackle? These are the stories that shaped our culture, so it was a natural choice. I'm interested in all religions and how they explain the unexplainable.

Daphna and Dexter have some strange adventures over the course of the series. How did you think of them all?

Hmmm. Can't really say, other than they emerge as I work through each story. Each episode or adventure seems to fit a particular need in the story when they take place.

Do you have any other mythology-based books planned?

Haven't really thought about doing that. I'm just finishing up the fifth book and hope to finish with six. After that, I'll see what looks promising!

ABOUT DAVID MICHAEL SLATER



David Michael Slater was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on May 8th, 1970. He teaches high school Writing in Portland, Oregon, where he lives with his wife and son. David writes for children, teens and adults.

AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID

How did you start writing?

I didn't dream of being a writer growing up, but that all changed the moment I finished a short story I read in graduate school, *The Circular Ruins*, by Jorge Luis Borges. I didn't pick up a pen right away,

but I knew somehow I had to try to write stories like that. And that's how I began, writing stories like that for adults. If you read the Sacred Books series, you'll find a quote from Borges at the start of each one.

What made you interested in Judeo/Christian mythology?

The topics emerged from my desire to tackle big ideas in my books—and

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There are several novels right now grounded in various mythologies. How does this series embrace that tradition? Move away from it?
2. This series has been compared to Phillip Pullman's *His Dark Materials Series*. If you've read both series, what do you think the two have in common? How are they dissimilar?
3. Dexter's reading disability normally is a disadvantage. How does Dexter turn it into a positive? Have you ever felt that you were at a disadvantage to others? Were you able to turn that into a positive? If so, how?
4. Daphna and Dexter are thrust into many situations that they feel are too much for them. Have you ever been in a similar situation? How did you get through it?
5. Daphna originally aspires to be a part of the popular girls' group. Why does this change? Have you ever wanted to join a particular group? What did you do to try to get in it?
6. The third and fourth books are based on the legend of Lilith. Who was Lilith? Do you think she and other vampires are real? How does *The Book of Maps* compare to other vampire books?
7. Each of the twins have strengths and weaknesses. What are they? How do the two work together to overcome their obstacles? If you have a sibling, how do you work together to solve problems?
8. Daphna and Dexter have to decide what to do with the *Book of Nonsense* and Rash's ledger. Do you think they made the right decision? What would you have chosen?