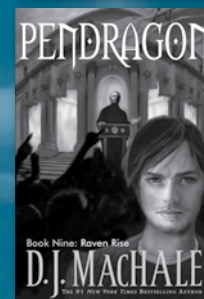
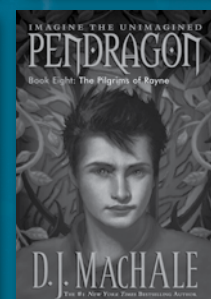
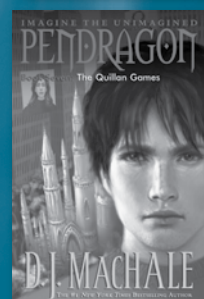
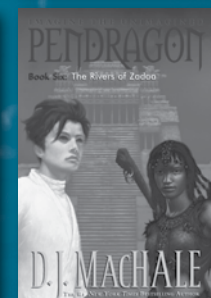
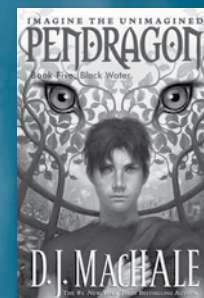
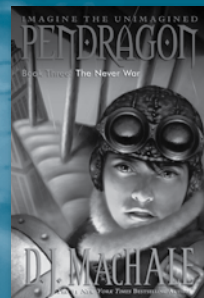
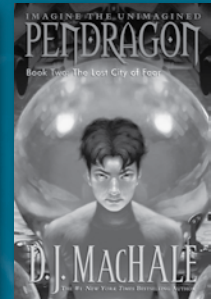


A C U R R I C U L U M G U I D E T O
THE PENDRAGON SERIES



by D.J. MACHALE

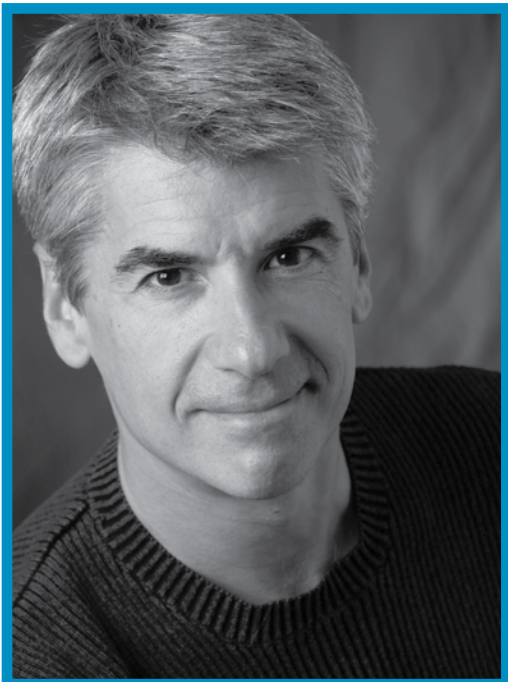
About the Books

Bobby Pendragon appears to be a normal 14-year-old boy who enjoys playing sports, his family and hanging out with his friends Mark and Courtney. He has an uncle who takes Bobby on all sorts of exciting experiences including scuba diving, sky diving, and athletic events.

Uncle Press arrives on the night of Bobby's biggest challenge of his life, the basketball championship. Uncle Press informs Bobby that he needs his help, right then and there. Trusting his uncle, Bobby sets out on an adventure that changes his life forever. Little did Bobby know his Uncle Press has been preparing him all his life to save not only our world but every place and time in the universe, also known as Halla.

D.J. MacHale sends Bobby through time and space, where Bobby encounters good and evil in its many forms. Bobby learns quickly that he has a nemesis named Saint Dane who intends to control Halla completely.

As Bobby travels to new territories he must find the traveler of that territory. Together their quest is to find what the conflict is that will sway society in one direction or another. It is Bobby's job as Lead Traveler, with the assistance of nine other Travelers, to ensure the turning point favors what's best for Halla and not Saint Dane's supremacy.



About the Author

D. J. MacHale is a writer, director, and producer of several popular television series and movies that include *Flight 29 Down*; *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*; *Encyclopedia Brown*, *Boy Detective*; *Tower of Terror*; and *Ghostwriter*. Pendragon, his first book series, is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling series. He lives in southern California with his wife, Evangeline; his daughter, Keaton; a golden retriever, Maggie; and a kitten, Kaboodle. Visit D.J.'s Web site: thependragonadventure.com

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS COVERING THE WHOLE PENDRAGON SERIES

- Throughout the Pendragon series, D.J. MacHale constantly shows examples of right and wrong and good versus evil. Discuss the many forms of good and evil in the series. Is good versus evil always a black and white concept and easily distinguishable?
- In each of the Pendragon books there is a major conflict or turning point. For each of the books find the major conflict and compare it to the other conflicts in the rest of the series. Is there a pattern?
- Discuss which territory is your favorite one. Explain why it is your favorite. Would you want to stay on that territory for the rest of your life? Why or why not?
- Time was always a challenge for Bobby. For example, *In Soldiers of Halla*, Mark was older than Bobby. How is that possible? (Hint: Einstein, it is all relative). Would you like the ability to travel through time? Which period in time is of interest to you and why? Would it be possible to visit a past time period and not inadvertently change some part of history?
- Many of the social conflicts in the stories seem relevant to today's society. Chose a conflict from a territory and compare it to one that is currently a topic of controversy.
- The freedom to make choices has been a central theme to the series. The war to save Solara was determined by the people making choices. How is the importance of freedom to make choices important in your life? Should anyone control your choices? Should parents, teachers or a government have control over aspects of your life?
- The concept of self identity was prominent throughout the Pendragon series. For instance, Bobby often wondered who the Travelers really were and if they were human. Bobby was designated as the Lead Traveler and yet he often wondered why he was chosen and was he the best one suited for the role. Everyone goes through phases of self examination. Has the Pendragon series helped you with your own self discovery?
- Through all Bobby's adventures, his love for his family and friends help to keep him focused to win the fight against Saint Dane. Saint Dane used hate, abuse, physical and mental control to force his vision of Halla to become reality. Discuss how Bobby tries to use love to conquer hate.
- The characters in the Pendragon series all have flaws. Choose a character and discuss what you believe are the flaws of this person. Is it possible for someone to have flaws which at other times could be seen as assets?
- Journal writing was important in the Pendragon series. Discuss why the journals were so important. Include in the discussion how it helped Bobby to understand what had happened to him, how he could have done things differently, and the importance of proving he was not an illusion and to help him remember his adventures.
- One of the most important rules Uncle Press impressed upon Bobby was the importance of not mixing the territories. Mark, Courtney and Spader arrived on Eelong bringing from Cloral an antidote for a poison Saint Dane planned to use on the gars. The antidote prevented the extermination of the gars from Saint Dane's army. Later, Saint Dane sends 70,000 exiles into the flumes. These exiles were sent by Nevva Winter to Black Water on Eelong. It is these exiles and the saved gars who form an army to fight the Ravinians. In the end, was Bobby justified in allowing the antidote to be brought into Eelong?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR EACH BOOK

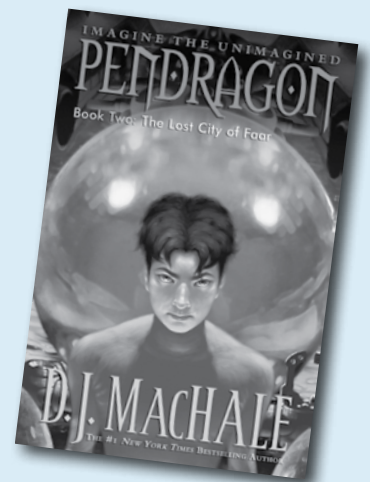
Book One: **The Merchant of Death**

- Is there any significance to the musical sounds in the flume?
- Why do you think Uncle Press and Osa did not tell Bobby and Loor they were destined to be Travelers? Is there such a thing as destiny?
- Is the swim or sink attitude toward teaching a correct approach?
- What is your opinion on the Travelers' motto, "This is the way it was meant to be"?
- Honestly, how many of you remembered Uncle Press' warning not to bring in anything from a different territory? What is meant by this warning?
- Is it true that ordinary people would not willingly put their lives at risk even if they knew it was the right thing to do?
- Is there a connection in the way the Travelers are able to understand different languages and the way immersion of language is taught?
- How does the relationship between Loor and Bobby develop, especially after Osa is killed protecting Bobby?
- What attributes describe a warrior? Does Bobby fit into any of these characteristics? Is Loor missing any attributes of a warrior?
- Compare and contrast the problem solving skills of Loor versus Bobby. Are strength and brute force the most important characteristics to have?
- How does one become evil? Is a person born evil or is it a learned trait?
- Saint Dane offers Loor and Bobby the opportunity to join forces with him. Is it a wonderful opportunity for them as promised or an empty offer?



Book Two: **The Lost City of Faar**

- Discuss the hardships of the adventurers who left to explore Cloral.
- Discuss the advanced technology of the territory of Cloral. Include in the discussion the living air globes for breathing underwater, the weapons, the forty storied skyscrapers, and the lack of telecommunication and steel.
- The agronomers caused a poison to be made by changing the cell structure of plants. Is there a possibility this could happen here on earth? Do you think the author is relating this possibility to genetic engineering?



- Does Bobby's character change as he experiences different cultures on the territories he visits?
- Saint Dane acts confident yet Bobby believes Saint Dane is afraid of him. Do you agree with Bobby and if so provide data from the story to prove your belief and if you don't agree with Bobby provide data from the story to support your theory.
- Discuss the idyllic relationships between all the communities on Cloral and why they are able to stay peaceful.
- What was the purpose of Bobby hanging out with Spader while Uncle Press was searching for the turning point on Cloral?
- How did Uncle Press prepare Bobby for being a Traveler?
- Bobby is told by Uncle Press that there can only be one Traveler to each territory and that Bobby's generation is the last of the Travelers. How does Bobby respond to this new knowledge?

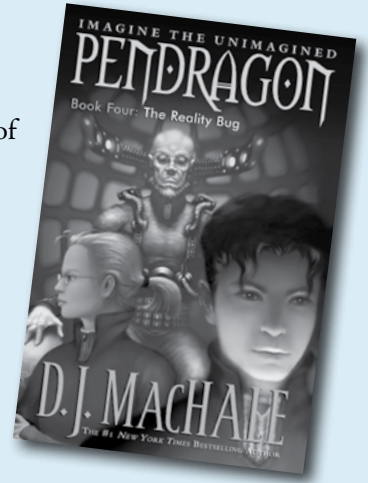
Book Three: The Never War

- Bobby believes there is a purpose to his journal writing. Discuss why this is an important activity for him.
- Every territory has quigs yet they are not always active at the gates. Discuss the purpose of the quigs.
- Bobby realizes he is missing a considerable amount of time from school by traveling to all these different territories. Discuss what education is and does it need to take place in a school?
- Discuss the importance of the Travelers' rings. Does Bobby realize how important they are?
- Jinx Olsen was frustrated by the lack of missions she was sent on because she was a woman. How did she deal with this frustration? What was the purpose of her being a poster girl for the Coast Guard if she wasn't able to perform her job? How was she able to help change the perception of women in the work force back in 1937?
- Saint Dane likes to cause conflicts. On First Earth he was involved in antagonizing rival gangs by working both sides. How does he manipulate the gangs? What techniques does he use?
- Discuss why there is a book enclosed in a glass case in the library on Third Earth. Why do you think the author chose *Green Eggs and Ham* as the sole reminder of books?
- How does Saint Dane cause conflict among the Travelers? Discuss the different points of views of Spader, Bobby and Gunny when they arrive at the scene of the Hidenburg "turning point." Who is the strongest and wisest of the Travelers?
- The Travelers from the different territories all see qualities in Bobby which make him the lead Traveler. What are they and do you agree with the Travelers? Explain your answers.
- Uncle Press insisted that nothing from a different territory could be introduced to the territory the Travelers were visiting, yet he gathered information and techniques from the different territories. Is knowledge from different cultures the same as material items when it comes to bringing in something new to a territory?



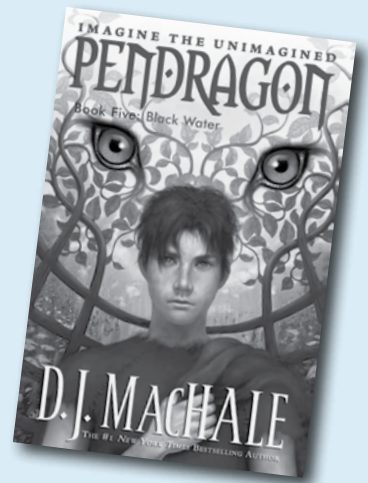
Book Four: The Reality Bug

- Bobby sends his latest journal using a device that produces a hologram of himself. The rules of the territories insist that no objects from other territories be mixed. By sending the journal does Bobby inadvertently mix territories?
- Compare and contrast Courtney Chetwynde to Aja Killian. Consider traits such as temper, confidence, and intelligence.
- Discuss how the different character traits of the Travelers complement each other.
- Discuss the change of roles between confident Courtney and meek Mark once they arrive at high school.
- Both Aja Killian and Dr. Zetlin were raised at an early age to work with technology. Aja was learning to write code for computers by the time she was able to sit up. Dr. Zetlin was described as special and had created the prototype for Lifelight by the age of eight. Neither of them was allowed to participate with society. The isolation from society had what effect on them?
- Dr. Zetlin created the Lifelight for recreational amusement. The fantasy world he created became more important than real life. He underestimated the power of escapism. Is it possible this could happen to our world with all the technological advances being made? Is this a cautionary tale of our future if we are not careful?



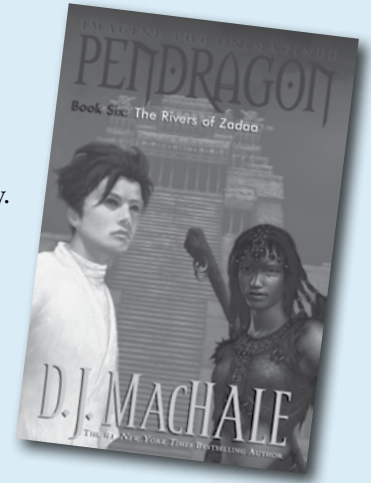
Book Five: Black Water

- Tom Dorney warns Mark and Courtney that the rules the Travelers and Saint Dane have been playing with may change. Is it fair to change the rules of a game in the middle of a game?
- Is there a significance to Saint Dane's hair catching on fire when he arrives in the flume at the Sherwood House to announce to Mark and Courtney that now there is a whole new game with a new set of rules?
- How do we know that Saint Dane is evil? What is evil? Is it possible for something which is evil to one person be good to another person? Who determines what is right and wrong?
- Courtney discovered she was not the athlete she thought she was and she began to lose her confidence not only in sports but in everything she did. How did she deal with this new change in her life? Could Courtney be considered a bully? Describe the Courtney before high school to the Courtney at high school.
- Considering the Traveler Ring has so many advanced properties, why do you think it almost always activates at an inconvenient time? The Traveler Ring combined with the flume knows when and where to take a Traveler at the time they are needed. Why can't the ring determine the best time to deliver the journals?
- Discuss the concept of time. Bobby mentions he has trouble with time on all the different territories. Has he been gone a minute, a week, a month, a year? What is time?



- How can Bobby be so ignorant of the power of the Traveler Ring? He has heard of acolytes sending messages to other acolytes concerning Bobby's accomplishments. Why doesn't he ask an acolyte to send notes to the other territories to learn what is happening? Does Bobby think the acolytes are beneath him? What is common sense and does Bobby have any? Are the Travelers so mixed up with their duties they don't see the obvious? Is this one of the reasons each territory has an acolyte?
 - Discuss Boon's casual comment about the survival of the fittest, "That's how it works," as he and Bobby watch a tang attack a gar. Are humans just as casual about the slaughter of animals?
 - Does Bobby over react to the restraint laws of gars on Eelong? Do these laws actually protect the gars?
 - Was Courtney's decision to travel the flumes the only way to deal with the crisis of the poison crops on Eelong?
 - During the foraging for food the klees and gars are attacked by a group of tangs. As Bobby is about to be attacked by a tang a gar willingly sacrifices himself to protect Bobby. The gar looks in to Bobby's eyes, smiles and says, "Black Water." Are the gars able to recognize Bobby as a Traveler as a savior of their race?
 - Saint Dane watches Bobby and another gar fighting against each other in a bid to become free. He says to Bobby, "This is your way out... Kill him and you will be free." Bobby refuses to kill the gar and Saint Dane no longer smiles. Was Saint Dane trying to make Bobby a killer? Was this a test and if Bobby killed someone he would have failed the test? Was Saint Dane playing by the rules? Is there ever justification for killing another human?
 - Bobby asks Kasha what uses gars have. She responds, "They work to keep Leeandra operating by cleaning water pipes and replacing power crystals above the trees. The handlers train some for wippen tournaments or help blind klees who can't get around on their own. Some go into homes as servants or perform acrobatics in shows for young klees. If a gar doesn't show a particular talent but is loving, a handler can train them to be excellent pets." Bobby adds, "And some are used to kill each other to amuse the handlers or to feed tangs to protect foragers." Using this information discuss the similarities and differences between gars on Leeandra and pets on Earth.
 - Once gars were free from the control of klees, they managed to develop into an intelligent civilization located in Black Water. Kasha thought of it as a society which evolved from murders and criminals. Gunny thought it was an example of what can happen when individuals are given freedom to grow. What is your opinion? Is there a time in our world's history which resembles this phenomenon? (Examples may include slavery and the colonization of Australia).
 - Could the release of the water onto the gars when entering Black Water, be considered a form of baptism? They would start a new beginning of their lives, clean and with a fresh start.
 - Courtney does not like being considered a librarian. She wants action. Is this the way it was meant to be for the acolytes to take such an active part in the fight against Saint Dane? Are librarians important in the whole scheme of things? Consider the necessity of keeping the journals.
 - When Kasha is killed in the flume, Bobby keeps her Traveler Ring. He now has 2 rings. Is this significant? Kasha's death is the first of the last generation of Travelers. Bobby makes a promise to scatter Kasha's ashes from Seegan's perch high above Leeandra. Now that the flume to Eelong is destroyed can he do it?
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Book Six: The Rivers of Zadaa



- What becomes the main conflict on Zadaa?
 - Discuss Loor's division of loyalty to being a Ghee warrior and her support of the royal family.
 - In the battle with the Zhou, which team do you think won the battle? Did the rival team fight fairly? Did Loor fight fairly? Was it appropriate for Saangi to interfere with the battle? What is your opinion about the wounding of the Zhou before the fight began? Was it worth fighting possibly to the death for a well which ended up being a dry well?
 - In the Pendragon series sometimes the author adds humor to the stories. For instance, he has Bobby belonging to the Yankee tribe who are respected by all but their mortal enemies, the Red Sox. What purpose does this humor have in the story?
 - Saint Dane provokes a fight with Bobby and beats him to within an inch of his life. Saint Dane is stopped by Pelle a Zinj who instructs a doctor to care for Bobby. Instead of stopping Bobby, this vicious act has made Bobby more determined than ever to stop Saint Dane. How does he propose to prepare himself for more encounters with Saint Dane? What does this action by Saint Dane tell you about Saint Dane's character?
 - After Bobby has completed warrior training with Alder and Loor, Loor asks Bobby to remain true to himself. What does it mean to be true to oneself? Is Loor concerned that with his new training Bobby will change his attitude and way of thinking? What are the positive changes that can happen to Bobby and what are the negative changes?
 - Loor is a proud Ghee warrior. She has been branded a deserter to her tribe. If she is caught she will be hanged. What conflicting emotions does Loor have? If put in a similar position how do you feel you would respond?
 - Discuss good versus evil. Is there any truth to Saint Dane's comment, "You want to kill me don't you? And here I thought you and your friends were so righteous. You are just as capable of evil as anyone. Perhaps more so. Yet you believe your brand of evil is justified, so long as it serves your own misguided purposes."
 - Discuss the merits of royalty. Consider the ruling elite of the Rokador. There was an ancient man drooling, another elder man, 2 women and a man, a teenage boy and girl and 2 little kids. These people are in charge of a nation because they were descendants of the original Rokador who discovered the underground and not necessarily because of their ability to rule. Are they the best people to rule the nation? Who should decide who makes the life and death decisions concerning the tribe? How has Saint Dane managed to convince the royalty to commit genocide?
 - Compare and contrast Saangi to Tom Dorney. Are the acolytes taking on more responsibilities? Is this the way it is meant to be?
 - Bobby describes Loor's instinct and memory as incredible. Part of this could be due to her being a Traveler. Could her abilities be due to her not relying on computers and technology and instead relying upon her own abilities?
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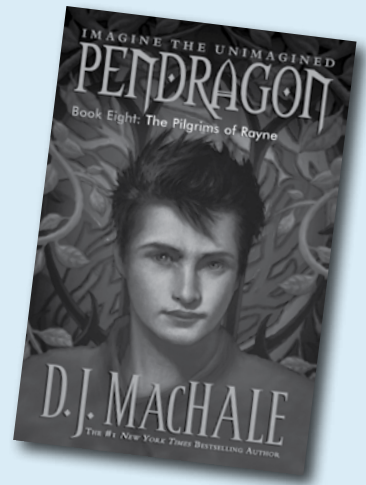
Book Seven: The Quillan Games



- Loor asks Bobby to stay true to himself. Now Bobby considers himself a warrior and in good physical condition. Is he staying true to himself or is he changing? Show examples to defend your choice. Is it possible to change and still be true to oneself?
 - Tarz makes power similar to our electricity. Unfortunately, the process of producing Tarz causes a toxic waste product which in turn causes a painful death if exposed to it. Is Tarz similar to a form of power we have here on earth? What happens to the waste product? The people who gamble and lose can end up cleaning up the Tarz byproduct as their payment for their debts. Is this an appropriate payment, the loss of their lives?
 - Imagine a member of your family was sent to the tarz. How would this affect your life and that of your family?
 - Compare Blok to a modern store which offers items at reduced prices. Are these stores thriving because of the greed of the consumers or because the economy forces people to buy from these stores to survive? Is the author making a commentary about our own economy?
 - Saint Dane tempts Bobby with the true nature of the Travelers, something Bobby desperately wants. Is Saint Dane twisting Bobby's desire into a form of greed? He asks Bobby how far he is willing to go to get the answers.
 - Is Saint Dane just another bully? Does Bobby handle Saint Dane as one does a bully by standing up to him?
 - During our Industrial movement the companies had control over everything from wages to food to boarding rooms. The owners made it so the people working there were always in debt. Compare this to the life of the people on Quillan.
 - Bobby says the things LaBerge and Veego did, taking things from one territory and bringing things that don't belong on a territory is a crime against humanity. As an observer of these events pick a side, Bobby's or LaBerge and Veego's and defend their position.
 - Saint Dane proclaims that hope is a fragile emotion. It isn't real. It exists only in the imagination. What is your opinion of this statement?
 - Nevva Winter's mother was the intended Traveler on Quillan yet she did not feel she was ready for the position. Uncle Press allowed her to keep the Traveler ring even though he also offered the position to Nevva. Elli Winter becomes a dedicated worker for the revivers. In the end she steps up to her original position as Traveler from Quillan. Discuss why it took Elli so long to realize her true destiny. Did she feel regret for the way her daughter helped change Quillan? Did working with Mr. Pop help her find the strength she needed?
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Book Eight: The Pilgrims of Rayne

- Bobby says he underestimates Saint Dane's ability. Is this a true statement? Is it possible that by being good one cannot even conceive of some people's ability to do evil things?
- How can anyone as smart as Mark be fooled by Nevva Winter to believe if he traveled to First Earth his parents would survive without thinking about the consequences of his action?
- Imagine how one would feel after witnessing centuries of preparation of a civilization to expand its colonization only to see the plan completely destroyed within only twenty minutes. How does one survive a loss of this magnitude?
- Bobby says that what LaBerge and Veego did, taking things from one territory and bringing them to a territory where they don't belong is a crime against humanity. When he is faced with the destruction of Ibara he does the same thing. He brings in maps from Veelox, a dygo from Zadaa, tak from Denduron and dado killers from Quillan. Does this mean Bobby has committed crimes against humanity, too?
- Both Alder and Siry express doubts about mixing the territories and have concerns that their actions may make matters worse on some territories. Is Bobby's judgment as clear as it was in the beginning? Is he more worried about stopping Saint Dane than what the consequences of his actions on the other territories might produce? In his effort to stop Saint Dane is Bobby helping him by ignoring the basic principles of not mixing the territories?
- Saint Dane always said the people of the territories bring on their own destruction. In the case of the people of Ibara, what had they done to cause their own downfall if anything?



Book Nine: Raven Rise

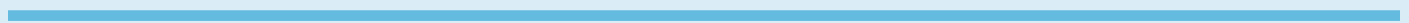
- The Travelers knew that mixing the territories was not the way it was meant to be yet they still did it, are they any better than Saint Dane?
- Why has Saint Dane chosen the shape of a raven to transform into? Consider symbolism. Is there a connection to the title of the book?
- Saint Dane and Nevva Winter feel they have proven the point that when given a choice humans always take the easiest, selfish route. Is this true? Defend your answer.
- Why would Nevva Winter give Bobby his ring back? Did Nevva believe he had quit? Had the Convergence started? Had he failed the final exam?
- Bobby is rescued by Bedoowan Knights who informed Bobby it was he who changed the future of Denduron by unearthing tak. He realizes he is The Merchant of Death. At the end of Book One who did you think was the Merchant of Death? Has your opinion changed?
- Isn't it ironic that Naymeer's philosophy is that the strong, the elite are rewarded and the weak are considered a burden to society? As an orphan, he was near death being cared and treated by a society that promotes the well being of all people. Discuss how Alexander's life has been influenced by Saint Dane so that he is unable to see this irony.



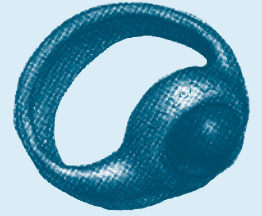
- Discuss the possibilities of why Naymeer has never traveled to other territories but to convince his followers of the wonders of belonging to the Ravinians he allows them to travel.
- Nevva Winter pleads with Bobby not to kill Naymeer. She insists that Bobby doesn't want to kill while at the same time Saint Dane encourages Bobby. Whose side is Nevva Winter on, Saint Dane's or Bobby's?

Book Ten: *The Soldiers of Halla*

- Gunny states, "Saint Dane is killing the chance for people to be happy, taking away a basic right. The right to happiness." Discuss what Gunny means by this statement.
- Why have so many people chosen to follow Saint Dane? Discuss Saint Dane's technique of leading his people. Saint Dane is really a dictator. Compare the traits of famous dictators to Saint Dane. How are they alike? What is their basic technique for controlling their followers? (Fear, abuse, no freedom of choice, etc.)
- Discuss the importance of Elli Winter. Is she a weak character? Does she possess the characteristics necessary to be a Traveler?
- When Saint Dane confronted Bobby on Quillan he said that hope was a fragile emotion and exists only in the imagination. As Saint Dane begins to realize he is losing the battle for Solara, he begins to hope. Has his point of view changed due to his new circumstances?
- At the beginning of *The Soldiers of Halla*, Saint Dane is a strong figure, complete with long dark hair and new suit. As Solara is strengthened and Saint Dane loses control of the Dark Solara he is described as being transparent. Why did these changes occur? Did Saint Dane's character change throughout the Pendragon books?
- After Bobby and Saint Dane fight in the Taj Mahal and step outside, they are greeted by thousands of Ravinians. Saint Dane smiles and says, "Now we'll see which spirit is in control of Halla." Bobby replies, "The spirit doesn't control Halla, the people of Halla control the spirit." Saint Dane becomes upset and frantically addresses the crowd. Does Saint Dane realize the difference between those two statements? What is the difference between the two statements?
- When Elli Winter meets up with Nevva Winter she slaps her across the face. Saint Dane taunts Elli and says "Did it take away the pain of knowing the daughter you abandoned grew up to be one of the bad guys?" Does Saint Dane believe he is a bad guy and that his way is not the way it was meant to be? Is he admitting he knows what he is doing is wrong?
- Saint Dane makes the comment, "The union between a creature of Halla and a spirit from Solara is just . . . unnatural." He is saying that Nevva Winter is unnatural, as a freak of nature. Some people shun others they believe are not natural. This would include people of mixed marriages, couples of different religions or races and their children. Is the author making a comparison?



ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THE PENDRAGON BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM AND LIBRARIES



- Journal writing is extremely important to Bobby. As an exercise in writing a journal, take the perspective of Mark or Courtney and write about their feelings and observations at Bobby's house when Bobby realizes that his family, home and life will never be the same again. Include their reaction to Uncle Press and Loor. Have the students revise and rewrite their paper.
- Compare and contrast Saint Dane to another evil character from fiction, such as Darth Vader in Star Wars or the Borg from Star Trek. Use a chart to keep a record of the characteristics. What characteristics make a person evil? Are some of these characteristics also found in good people? How can the same characteristics be found in such opposite people?
- In the aftermath of the war between the Milagos and the Bedoowans, Uncle Press asks Bobby, "How do you feel?" Discuss the many emotions Bobby feels and list them to help the students remember all the different emotions. Have the students think of a time in their life when they experienced several different emotions at once. Write about the experience. Compare their feelings with Bobby's.
- Draw a scene from one of the Pendragon books to help understand exactly what is happening. For example draw Uncle Press fighting a quiq, Bobby saving Loor while swimming down the river in Denduron, the scene where a Milago is weighed to match the amount of glaze taken from the mine, a dado is attacking Bobby, Kasha is piloting a gig, etc. Reread the book where the scene is described to make sure the drawing is accurate.
- Choose a favorite scene from the book. Read aloud the scene. Have the students write a script for the scene and then have the students enact the scene. Once the students have rehearsed the scene, allow the students to perform the play in front of an audience. If possible, video the play and have the play available to be viewed through the school's TV cable channel.
- Illustrate the physical Reality Bug using the description in the book. It had a head of a bird, long sharp beak, the body looked human with a wide strong chest, the legs were bird like and it had huge bat wings. Show the illustration to the class and compare and contrast the likenesses and differences of the illustrations. Are there any differences and if so why?
- The tangs hunt in packs. They seem to have plans on how to attack their prey. Research other pack animals to see if they also have hunting skills. Compare and contrast the tangs with the pack animals.
- Have the students go to the library to research the effects of the lack of water on different living species here on earth. Research water conservation and how they can help save water in their homes and community.
- Have the students begin writing journals every day. The practice of writing every day is important to develop writing skills. The journal may be hand written or written on a computer. Inform the students that the journals will be read as part of their school work. Encourage the students to keep a personal journal at home.
- Uncle Press was Bobby's mentor. He knows all the things Bobby did. Write a paper from the perspective of Uncle Press on Bobby's accomplishments and failures. Have the students correct their work, revise the paper and rewrite it. Allow the students to present their papers to their classmates. After all the students have had an opportunity to hear the comments of their classmates, open up the class for discussion of the different perspectives the students shared.
- Uncle Press did not provide all the information to the Travelers in their fight against Saint Dane. Often the Travelers were at a loss when deciding what to do next. To help understand this feeling, form a small group then present the group with a game no one in the group knows how to play. Provide only a few of the rules. Have the students attempt to play the game. Gradually add more of the rules. What are the reactions to this style of learning? Is anyone able to figure out the rules? Write a journal entry describing the reactions of the players to the lack of information.

- Research the legend of Troy. Compare the gift of the Trojan Horse to the gift of tak given by the Milago people to the Bedoowans.
- One of the traits of a Traveler is the ability to calm and influence others. This trait has been compared to being hypnotized. Research in the library for information on hypnotism. Compare the results to the descriptions of the Travelers' talent to influence people. Are they the same?
- On Denduron the Milago people mine glaze and give it to the Bedoowan tribe as payment for protection from invading tribes. They measure the amount of glaze to be mined by the weight of a Milago citizen. A life size scale is used. On one side a person sits and on the other side of the scale the glaze is placed in a container. Using scales, see how closely one can balance them using two different types of objects. This will help to understand how difficult it is to determine how much glaze the miners needed to mine each day. This is especially true when Saint Dane changes the rules.
- Bobby is told by Uncle Press he is not allowed to bring anything from one territory to another. Are there restrictions in our world concerning travel from one country to another and what may be brought in and taken out of a country? Research restrictions on imports and exports from and into the United States. If there are restrictions what reasons were given for the restrictions?
- Explore the statement, "No good deed goes unpunished." Try as Bobby does, it seems every time he attempts to help, the situation turns out wrong. For example, when Alder suddenly appears behind Bobby dressed in Bedoowan gear with his spear and rope, Bobby thinks he needs to escape and attempts to protect Loor by pushing her into the rapids. He soon discovers that Loor cannot swim. Using his junior lifeguard experience he saves them both. After getting to shore safely he learns Alder is another Traveler whom Loor had arranged to meet. Think of a time when you thought you were doing a good deed only to learn later it wasn't considered a good deed. Write about your experience.
- The Milago miners often died from the effects of breathing in toxic fumes while mining for glaze. Coal miners also suffered permanent lung damage from the mining process. To help understand the dire circumstances of the Milago miners, research in books in the library or on the internet "black lung disease." Discuss how the working conditions have made the Milago people want to improve their lives. This will help to explain the conflict between the Milago and Bedoowan tribes.
- Most heroes describe themselves as ordinary people. Uncle Press says the Travelers willingly put their lives at risk because it was the right thing to do and that ordinary people wouldn't do that. Which statement do you feel is correct? Who has been a hero in your life? Write about someone you believe to be a hero. Share your writing with your classmates. Compare the many heroes and look for similar characteristics, if any.
- A new material, tak, was discovered on Denduron. The Milago tribe plan to use this material as a weapon to free themselves from the powerful Bedoowan tribe. This material has properties similar to dynamite on earth. Was the original intent of dynamite to be used as a weapon? Could the Milago people use tak in a non-threatening and positive way?
- Read the description of the stadium the Travelers were taken to on Denduron so they could battle the Bedoowan animals. Using the description have the students illustrate to the best of their ability the stadium. Share the illustrations with the class. How are the illustrations similar and how are they different?
- Bobby mentions one of the worst parts of his life as a Traveler was the fear of the unknown. Have the students think of a time when they were placed in a situation they were unfamiliar. Have the students write an essay using as many descriptive words as possible to convey the emotions the students were experiencing at the time.
- One of the conflicts on Cloral was the possibility of a food shortage caused by genetic manipulation of a fertilizer used to increase food production. Research genetic engineering as it applies to today's food production. Who controls what can and cannot be done to alter our food production? How does one know if genetically altered food is safe for consumption?

- Spader works hard at his job as an aquaneer yet he believes in having fun along the way. This positive outlook on life has helped Spader with his life experiences. Think of an embarrassing moment. Rather than dwell on the negative aspect of the incident try to put a positive spin on the situation. Write a story where a positive attitude toward a problem helps to solve the problem.
- Research the legend of the Lost City of Atlantis. How does the city of Atlantis compare to Faar?
- Jinx Olsen was not happy with the way the Coast Guard was using her as a poster girl instead of sending her on flying missions. Write an essay from the point of view of Jinx on why she should be allowed to fly more missions.
- Gunny got his nickname in World War I as a joke because he was unable to fire a gun. He was unable to kill another person. When it came to the climatic event of the Hidenburg disaster it was Gunny who prevented Bobby from saving the people from their death. Discuss the conflicting emotions Gunny had as he prevented Bobby from saving those lives. Discuss the philosophy of sacrificing one for the lives of many.
- Discuss gang wars in 1937. Research the techniques gangs used to control people. There are still gangs today. Do they use the same methods to control people? How are they different?
- Throughout the Pendragon series Bobby needs time to regenerate himself before going back into battle against Saint Dane. Research the importance of rest and relaxation to reduce stress. How do trained soldiers incorporate rest and relaxation into their lives?
- Have the students choose a Traveler and write a character analysis of that Traveler. Make sure all the Travelers are included. As a class chart the varied ways the characters have or have not changed throughout the series. Discuss which character has changed the most. Are all the changes positive?
- Friendship plays an important part in the Pendragon series. Consider the friendships between Bobby and Mark, Mark and Courtney, Loor and Bobby, Uncle Press and Saint Dane, Bobby and Courtney, Mark and Andy Mitchell, Courtney and Whitney Wilcox, Bobby and all the Travelers. Examine the various friendships. What makes a friendship valuable? What characteristics make a good friendship? Have the students choose a character they would like to have as a friend and write a story about an adventure they had with their new friend. Which character in the Pendragon series would they prefer not to have as a friend? Discuss why.
- As part of the Ravinian's plan for civilization, the elite had it all and the rest of the population was marginalized or placed into compounds. Naymeer's rise to power is reminiscent of Hitler's rise to power during the Holocaust. Examine how leaders manage to rise in power to become dictators. What methods do they use to gain their power?
- Bobby said the main conflict he had with Saint Dane was his belief that people should have freedom of choice in their lives while Saint Dane insisted that people's destiny should be planned by him. Have the students debate the differences of these two philosophies. Divide the class into two groups. One group will represent Bobby's belief the people should have the freedom to chose their destiny and the other group will represent Saint Dane's position that he should plan the people's destiny.
- The weight of the world rested heavily upon the shoulders of Bobby. At the end of his life Bobby's physical health seemed much older than Courtney's. Review photographs of world leaders before and after they have taken office. Does the responsibilities of high official jobs cause these changes?

THE PENDRAGON SERIES



Book One:
The Merchant of Death



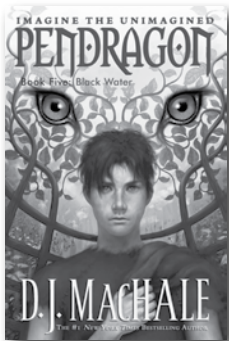
Book Two:
The Lost City of Faar



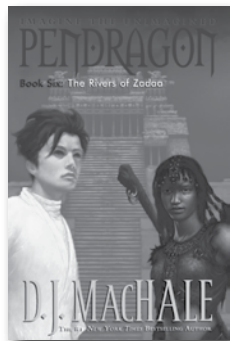
Book Three:
The Never War



Book Four:
The Reality Bug



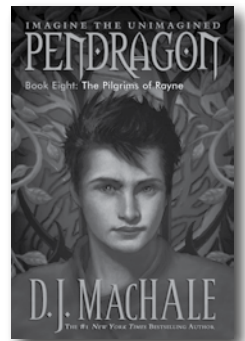
Book Five: Black Water



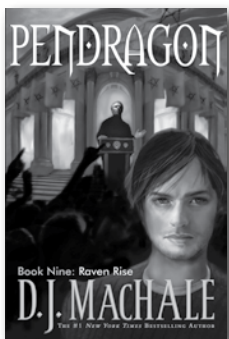
Book Six:
The Rivers of Zadaa



Book Seven:
The Quillan Games



Book Eight:
The Pilgrims of Rayne



Book Nine: Raven Rise



Book Ten:
The Soldiers of Halla

"Look for
Morpheus Road, a new
series by D.J. MacHale in
Spring 2010!"



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All suggestions for using the Pendragon series in schools and libraries fall within the guidelines of the IRA/NCTE National Standards.

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