

Discussion Guide for
How Wendy Redbird Dancing Survived the Dark Ages of Nought

1. What is Wendy's attitude when the story begins? Why does she see the world this way?
2. What does Sunny Revere believe about herself as a parent? What does Wendy believe about her?
3. How would you describe Wendy's relationship with her grandmother?
4. What do you think of how Wendy deals with Deanna Faire? What does it show about Wendy's personality?
5. Why is Wendy obsessed with the 1980s?
6. Why does Wendy and Tanay's friendship develop? What do they give to one another?
7. How do various characters see race—or refuse to see race—in this world set in North Carolina, in 2009? What are the consequences?
8. How does Wendy view America? Why? In what ways is she very American?
9. Why is Wendy drawn to Shaye?
10. Why does Wendy blame herself for what happens?
11. What beliefs does Wendy hold that are harmful?
12. Where does Wendy find her power and agency?
13. What does Wendy believe about Michael Jackson? Why?
14. How does Wendy's faith evolve? Why do you think it takes this particular direction?
15. By the end of the story, what has happened to that faith? What is the basis of her faith now?
16. Why does Wendy number everything and see the world in numerals? When does she not?
17. Sunny and Wendy both obsess over a famous artist; Deanna and Wendy love the same person. What other instances of doubling do you find?
18. Does Wendy end up in the right place?
19. Is justice served?
20. What do you think will happen next?
21. Why does the Camus quotation preface this story?
22. When celebrities are exposed for causing great harm, what should a fan do with the legacy of their art?