**Whole Book Discussion/Essay Questions**

The title of the book is *CANARY*. Analyze and explain the meaning of this title. Why is it important in the story? Cite specific textual evidence to support your analysis.

What other potential titles can you come up with for the book? Explain your choices in detail.

Examine the book cover. Explain in detail the symbolism of the artwork and how it relates to the novel.

Who do you think is the antagonist in the book? Discuss your choice in detail.

Who do you think is the protagonist in the book? Discuss your choice in detail.

Setting is very important to the novel. Examine Beacon. What role does the school play play? Explain using specific examples from the book.

Are you optimistic about Kate’s future? Explain why or why not using specific examples from the text.

Examine how Kate, Kate’s Dad, Julia, and Kate’s friends each handled Brett’s enlistment. Whose response seemed the most realistic? Why? What is your view on enlisting in the military?

Who are the secondary characters in the novel? Explain in detail how each of these secondary characters are important and what they contribute to the novel.

*Canary* is a book about speaking up for yourself. Track Kate’s journey to making the final decision to finally speak up. How did her views change from right after the assault until she found the courage to make sure everyone heard the truth?

One of the major themes in the book is speaking up no matter what the cost. Where do we see examples of this? How does this theme develop throughout the book and how does it affect the outcome. Cite specific textual examples to support your responses.

Additional Question: Can you think of any other stories, poems, movies, or songs that have this same theme? Describe them.

Identify another theme or central idea in the book. Where do we see examples of it? How does this theme develop throughout the book and how does it affect the outcome? Cite specific textual examples to support your responses.

*Canary* can be looked at as a coming of age novel. In what ways? Analyze who Kate was in the beginning and how her view on the world changes by the end.

How did the blog posts work to add to Kate’s story? Could the story have been told without them? Why or why not?

What blog post made the biggest impact on you? Explain why in detail.

How do Brett, Kate, and her Dad change throughout the course of the novel? Select one specific character and examine who they are at the start/middle/end. What led each of them to change?

Brett tells Kate that she’s becoming like her Dad. Do you think this is true? Find specific examples to prove Brett right and specific example to dispute him.

Rachele Alpine examines the thought that even when people are gone/out of your lives, they can still be present. Where do we see examples of this?

Discuss the role social media has in this book. In what ways is it depicted as a negative thing? A positive? What is your view on social media? Do you feel that it is more of a negative or positive thing? Explain your view in detail.

Beacon builds a culture where athletics is regarded above academics. Discuss how this is shown in the novel and how it affects specific characters.

What statement is the author, Rachele Alpine, making about family? Explain using specific examples from the text.

How has Kate’s relationships with other characters changed because of what has happened during the course of the book? Examine specific relationships and discuss how they have changed.

Predict the future for Kate, Brett and her dad. Do you believe all of their problems are resolved? Why or why not? Support your view with specific examples from the text.

We read books for enjoyment, but sometimes we discover that books can teach us things. What has *Canary* taught you? Describe in detail.

Explain how Kate overcomes specific obstacles in the novel. Cite specific textual evidence to support your analysis.

Select one of the following characters:

\*Brett

\*Kate’s father

\*Ali

\*Jack

Create a list of truths for them. What would their truths be? Explain in detail why you gave each of them these truths.

Examine the theme of privilege in this novel. Who has it? Who does? How does it affect each of these groups? Provide specific examples from the book to support your response.

Select one of the following topics that play an important role in the story. Discuss or write a personal essay about your views on your selected topic:

* How teens pressure people to do things (drinking, sex) with little concern about the actual person
* Sexual Assault
* Bullying (both in person and cyber-bullying)
* Sexting
* Slut Shaming
* Rape Culture
* Entitled sports culture