



FEVER CRUMB by Philip Reeve

1. *'Fever was the youngest member of the Order of Engineers, and its only female.'*

How did a teenager like Fever get to be in this position? She's described as a 'foundling'. What does this mean? Why is her parentage important to the story?

2. Fever has two different coloured eyes, *'the left dark brown, the right soft lichen grey'*.

Is this unusual? Do you know anyone who has different coloured eyes?

Do you think it makes Fever distinctive or special in any way? What about her appearance? Is that in any way odd?

3. When is the novel set? How can you tell? Is the world very different from our own world? What has happened to change the world?

What is 'the Downsizing' that has taken place? Has it changed the world for the better, do you think? Or for the worse?

4. Who are the Scriven, and who was Auric Godshawk? Why is his head so important to the Order of Engineers? What is his legacy?

5. Some of the place names correspond to real places in our world, and some are slightly different. Can you tell which ones are real, and which are invented? Why has the author done this, and what kind of effect does it achieve?

6. What is Fever's reaction when she finds out she's not really an orphan? How would you react in her place?

How do you think Wavey Godshawk behaved? Was she right to abandon her child? What were her motivations in giving the child to Dr Crumb?

7. *'Imagine the things a man might do if he had eternity to do them in...'*

What do you understand by Godshawk's phrase homo superior? Is it right what he does to his own granddaughter? Is Fever nothing more than 'Godshawk's avatar'?

8. Why is Fever horrified when she discovers how Stalkers are created? Are Quercus and Wavey treating the dead 'with honour' as they claim? Or are they defiling their bodies?

9. What do you think of the concept of 'municipal Darwinism'?

Although the book is a fantasy, can you see elements of truth from our own world reflected in Reeve's writing? Is it an inevitable part of the evolutionary process?

10. At the end of the book, it seems as though Fever is about to start a new adventure. What do you think will happen next? Where she will go? What do you think will happen to her parents?

Why does the book finish with the phrase *'My name is Fever Crumb'*?

In what way does it echo a previous scene? What does it tell you about Fever's state of mind?

