



The Phantom of the Opera



*Retold from the Gaston Leroux original
by Diane Namm*

Illustrated by Troy Howell



STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
New York



What Do You Think? Questions for Discussion

H_ave you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. Meg tells Joseph Buquet not to speak of the opera ghost or else he will have bad luck. Is she right? Do you believe in bad luck?

2. Why does Christine tell Raoul that she doesn't remember him? Have you ever lied to someone? Why did you do it?

3. Why do the new managers think the opera ghost is a joke? Do you believe in ghosts?

AFTERWORD

4. What happens when the seats are sold in Box Five? Do you think the opera ghost is right to be angry that his seat was sold? Has anyone ever taken something that you thought was yours?
5. Why does Christine so blindly follow the Angel of Music? Do you think the gifts he gives her are worth the sacrifices she must make?
6. Christine's note to Raoul tells him to have courage enough to never see her again. What is the most courageous thing you've ever done?
7. Which option does Christine choose: the grasshopper or the scorpion? Do you think she makes the right decision? What is the most difficult choice you have ever had to make?
8. The Foreign stranger asks Raoul how he could do anything but pity Erik. Do you think Erik deserves Raoul's pity?
9. How does the opera ghost manage his "hauntings"? How did you feel to learn that it was all a trick?

10. Erik says of Christine, “I tore off my mask. She did not run away. . . . At that moment, I felt all the happiness in the world.” Why do you suppose this makes him so happy?