

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits are available to library patrons for use by home and community discussion groups, as well as teachers in the classroom setting. Each kit contains a set of thirty identical soft-cover books accompanied by a book discussion guide. The guides feature information about the author, reviews of the book, discussion questions, suggested further readings, and other pertinent information. Each kit is packaged in a canvas tote bag and may be borrowed for six weeks.

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits may be reserved and sent to the library branch of your choice for pick up. If you would like to reserve a kit, please stop by your local library branch or call **574-1611**. The kits may also be reserved through our website www.lfpl.org. A list of all the kits may be found in the LFPL catalog or by going to: <http://www.lfpl.org/teenpages/bookkits.htm>



Children's & Young Adult Services
301 York Street
Louisville, KY 40203
502-574-1620

MARKUS ZUSAK

*"Don't start this compulsively readable book without enough time to read it straight through to the final page." —Publishers Weekly, Starred



**I AM THE
MESSENGER**



A Reader's Guide to
Young Adult
Book Discussion Kit
I am the Messenger
By Markus Zusak
#376

Xtreme Reads
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When Ed Kennedy, an underage cab driver and his friends Marvin, Audrey and Ritchie stop at the bank they are caught up in a bank job gone wrong. To make matters worse, Marv's car is in the fifteen-minute parking zone with only a few minutes left. Marv starts an argument with the bank robber who demands the keys to his car. You think this is a twist in the tale? Well it is not even close to the bizarre events that await Ed. One evening after work as Ed looks through his mail and finds an envelope with a playing card inside, the Ace of Diamonds. On it is written three addresses. Ed knows he must go to these addresses but why? Who has sent the card? Why is he the messenger?

About the Author

Markus Zukas is an Australian author who lives in Sydney, plays on a loosing soccer team (like Ed) and has two cats although he claims to be a dog person.

He got the concept for the book *I am the Messenger* when he was sitting in a park near a bank with a fifteen-minute parking zone. He thought it always takes me more than fifteen minutes to use the bank and what happens if there is a bank robbery, how could you get to the car before you received a fine? Born out of this moment is the opening scene to *I am the Messenger*. Riddled with self doubt he is glad to have written this book because he loves the "doorman" Ed's coffee addicted dog.

He has also written *Fighting Ruben Wolf*, *Getting the Girl* and most recently *The Book Thief*.

What the Critics Say...

Zusak's characters, styling, and conversations are believably unpretentious, well conceived, and appropriately raw.

- School Library Journal

I Am the Messenger is raucous, poignant and at times laugh-out-loud funny.

- Children's book page

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Ed learn about his friends and how does this change how he relates to them. Do you see a correlation in how you see your friends?
2. How do Ed's family relationships evolve?
3. Do you think the Doorman is an important element to the story? Why?
4. What is the role of the thugs? What is their message?
5. Of all of Ed's assignments which one did you enjoy most? Which one troubled you the most?
6. What do you think is in store for Ed's future?

Awards and Recognition

- 2003- CBC book of the year.
- 2005 -Publisher weekly best book of the year- children
- 2005 - Finalist L.A. Times Book Prize
- 2006 - Printz Honor Award

Suggested Titles for Further Reading

Notes from a Midnight Driver
By Jordan Sonnenblick

Looking for Alaska
By John Green

The Book Thief
By Markus Zukas