

DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH TOPICS

The Red Pyramid is a great springboard for group discussions and research projects. Ancient Egypt intrigues many children, so use the book as an opportunity to get them learning more about it. Here are six topics you could raise with Chatterbooks members plus some ideas for further library-based research around them.

LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

This is one of the most fascinating civilizations in world history. Discuss what children know about Ancient Egypt, and help them to learn more from relevant books and websites (there are some suggestions on the Further Reading page). You could look at life for children in homes, schools and temples, or things like food, festivals and religion.

FAMOUS BUILDINGS.

Ancient Egypt has a rich legacy of monuments including the Pyramids, the Sphinx, obelisks, temples and palaces. Ask children to choose one of these buildings to research. What is its history and significance to Ancient Egypt? What condition is it in now, and how is it being preserved? You could also ask children to draw one of the monuments from photographs they have found.

THE ROSETTA STONE.

This large inscribed stone, discovered during Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign and now kept in the British Museum, has an important part to play in *The Red Pyramid*. It also greatly advanced our understanding of Ancient Egypt and of hieroglyphics in particular. Ask children to research its history, how it was found, and how it helped historians decode the language of Ancient Egypt.

MUMMIES.

The mummification process is one of the best known legacies of Ancient Egypt. Set children to researching the subject and producing a short presentation of what they find. What is a mummy, and where have they been found? Why were people mummified, and how is the process done? How do representations of mummies in films and books compare with the real history of them?

EGYPTIAN AND GREEK GODS.

Any children who have read Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson books will be able to compare them with the Egyptian ones in *The Red Pyramid*. How are they similar and different? Which of the two did they find most interesting? And what are the differences in the ways the Ancient Greeks and Egyptians viewed their gods?

THE RED PYRAMID.

What do children think about *The Red Pyramid*? Did they enjoy the stories and the characters? What didn't they like, and what ideas do they have for improvements? Did they become more interested in Ancient Egypt as a result of the story? What do they think might happen in the next instalment of *The Kane Chronicles*? Remember that children may be at different stages of the book, so try not to give anything away about the ending!

