Questions for Reflection and Discussion

General & First Impressions

1. What were your first impressions of the book, and where did it hook you? Where did it leave you frustrated, or bump you out of the story world?
2. What were the most engaging, surprising or memorable moments in the story? What parts did you like the most/least?
3. Are there any scenes or passages from the book that still resonate with you?
4. What symbolism (e.g. the castle, art) did you recognize in the story and what did it mean to you?

Characters & Relationships

5. Which character did you connect with the most/least, and why? Could you understand the characters and their actions? How did the characters rationalize the choices they made?
6. Did the relationships in the story help to drive the plot? How important to what unfolded was communication between the characters?
7. Who were the leaders in the story? Do you think they would recognize themselves as leaders? What were the keys to the effectiveness, or lack of effectiveness, of their leadership?
8. Which views held by the characters do you agree or disagree with?
9. What were the strengths and flaws that each of the main characters needed to harness or overcome? Did they succeed?

Plot & Themes

10. What individual, inter-personal or social issues were explored in the story?
11. Have you ever had to choose between established rules and your personal moral compass? What about the good of a few versus the well-being of many?
12. Where do “myths” fit into the story? What are some of the myths in our individual lives or modern society that might be binding or restricting us?
13. Did anything in the Author’s Notes surprise you, or make you rethink what you had read?
14. What does it take to awaken a community?

The End

15. What do you think might happen to the characters and community after the end of the story?
16. If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?