



Junior Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Ali Cross by James Patterson

1. When Ali doesn't hear from his friend Gabe, why does he immediately think that Gabe has disappeared?
2. Why does Nana Mama scold Ali after he talks to the reporters? Do you think he handled the situation with the reporters well? Why or why not?
3. How does Ali react to his house being broken into? What advice does he seek from the crime scene tech, and how did he use this advice throughout the book?
4. Ali believes he was the last one to see Gabe before he disappeared. What would you do if one of your friends disappeared? Would you investigate on your own, like Ali, or let the police handle the investigation?
5. Discuss why Ali builds a team to help him work on his investigation. Why do you think he chooses these friends?
6. What does Ali mean when he says "Just because I knew Gabe Qualls better than anyone else at school didn't mean I *really* knew him. Maybe nobody did." Do you think that you can really know everything about another person? Why or why not?
7. After Ali finally talks to Gabe, do you think he is relieved or more determined to find his friend? Why doesn't Ali get help from the police?
8. What qualities does Ali have that will make him a good detective one day? What qualities does Ali have that makes his dad nervous?
9. How realistic did you think it was that the police worked with Ali and his friends to solve the case? Do you think the case would have been solved without their help?

The above questions were created by Clarington Library, Museums & Archives staff to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

James Patterson is a bestselling American author whose books have sold more than 425 million copies. Patterson writes for both adults, young adults, and children. His most notable series are *Alex Cross*, *Women's Murder Club*, *Maximum Ride*, and *Middle School*. He has collaborated with Bill Clinton and Dolly Parton, among others. Patterson was awarded the 2019 National Humanities Medal for his prodigious imagination and championship of literacy in America. He lives in Florida with his family.

<https://www.jamespatterson.com/>

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