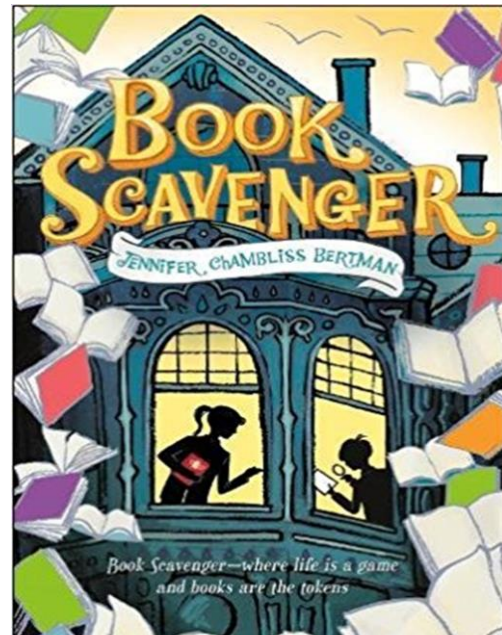


[Book Scavenger](#) by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman (Henry Holt, 2015)

*Book Scavenger* is an online game that has gone viral, but when Emily moves to San Francisco she discovers the game's creator has been attacked and the game is missing. Can she and her new friend James figure out what happened before the attackers find them?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Emily's family plans to live in "50 homes in 50 states." California is the ninth state Emily has lived in her twelve and three quarter years. What are the advantages of this kind of life style? How about the disadvantages?
2. What kind of a family and life style does James have? Why do you think Emily and James became best friends right away? What is the first code they use to communicate (a substitution cypher)?
3. Describe Garrison Griswold and what happened to him on his way to announce his new game.
4. When Emily, Matthew, and James go on a *Book Scavenger* expedition, what did they find instead of *Tom Sawyer*? On the way home, what did Emily discover at the scene of Mr. Griswold's attack? Why do they end up running from the scene?
5. What other odd thing does Emily notice in the Poe story, especially for a new book? What about this is impossible to be a coincidence? When Emily logs on to the Book Scavenger site, what does she learn from the user named Raven? What's odd about this user's communications?
6. This book has many book connections. Can you name a few? (Two bookstores featured in the book, the beat poets and their work, the villain is a rare book dealer, favorite books that Emily is reading or giving away in the Book Scavenger game, etc.?)
7. What is the difference between a cipher and a code? How do they become important in Emily's new school life as well?
8. This book has many different types of clues, codes and cyphers embedded into the story. Do you have a favorite? Which one do you think was the hardest? For example the Baconian cipher, or the scytale – a transposition cypher.
9. James is annoyed that Emily is so preoccupied with finding the solution to *The Gold Bug* that she neglects to help James with the cipher challenge. When Emily says "I didn't think you needed my help," James responds "it doesn't matter if I needed your help or not. I wanted your help." What do you think James means by this?
10. How did you feel when Maddie "Her Royal Fungus" got caught cheating by Mr. Quisling?



11. Why does Mr. Quisling believe that Emily should relinquish *The Gold-Bug*?
12. Emily's brother Matthew is totally engrossed in the music of his favorite band Flush and he is not interested in going with Emily on her book scavenger hunts. He says, "I just like other stuff now when I have a choice." Why does he decide to accompany Emily and James to the final clue?
13. How do the bad guys track Emily? What one detail does she reveal online through her profile that could bring the danger of these two men right to her door?
14. Why does Emily's family decide to stay in San Francisco?

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