Science Fiction

"The first Mit. Think this in her head and she needs to send Jane to alternate dimensions. To0 a0 it in order to prove to Jane that there are alternate dimensions. The previous is send Jane to one of the more circular dimensions, where the house and its inhabitants correspond closely enough that she'll be able to communicate, but not so closely that she doesn't feel like she's left." —Jane, Unlimited (2016)

Sci-Fi genre checklist:
✓ Setting in the future, or imagined alternate world
✓ Frequently (if not necessarily) partially set in outer space
✓ Engagement with obscure or invented scientific principles in the service of philosophical or social analysis

Discussion questions:
1. Many times in science fiction narratives, the most outlandish plot elements are in - 
2. In scene after scene, Jane finds herself ordered around or otherwise pressured by
3. Kristin Kranz, and Jane are both targeted after exploiting the enormities of their alternate selves. Jane in particular is shaken when she sees the "Janes" in each of the "Janes"... 
4. How do you think it is important for Jane to bring her umbrellas with her into the
5. How might the scenario of alternate universes be an effective way of exploring the

Fantasy

"Fans of true storytelling will extol the wonders of this new novel."

LIBRARIAN PRAISE for Jane, Unlimited

"Utterly odd and wonderful." —Randee J. Bybee, public librarian

"This novel is something entirely different that the more I think about it the more I enjoy it."

—Cheryl Fox Strausberg, high school librarian

—Katie Richert, public librarian

KRISTIN CASHORE, New York Times bestselling epic fantasy novelist set in the Graceling Realm—Graceling, Fire, and Bitterblue— has won many awards and much high praise, including picks as ALA Best Books for Young Adults, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, Goodreads Editors' Choice, and Publishers Weekly Best Books of the Year. In addition, Graceling was shortlisted for the William C. Morris Debut Award and Fire was an Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award Winner.

ADDITIONAL READING:
Zodiac by Romina Russell

Falling Kingdoms by Morgan Rhodes

The Young Elites by Marie Lu

Zorusted by Rick Yancey

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Jane, Unlimited

FROM NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF GRACELING

One novel, five genres. A kaleidoscopic tale about grief, adventure, storytelling, and finding yourself in a world of seemingly infinite choices.
Mystery

I’ve long thought and continue to think that mysteries are just the hardest thing to write, because all the clues are planted, and the way you need to figure out how much or how little to say when and where, etc.

—Kristin Cashore

Mystery genre checklist:
✓ Postmodern discourse on the nature of truth
✓ Characters interpreted throughout the novel lead to a single conclusion
✓ An element of wrongdoing, often against nature, that must be stopped

Discussion questions:
1. Throughout much of the novel, we see Jane asking the other characters a great number of questions, usually concerning ongoing or upcoming events. How does her dialogue help you conceptualize the true Jane? How can this be a tip-off to some of the mystery elements in the novel?
2. Jane is described as a “dropout” uncertain of how she will continue her education, or even what she wants to pursue as a career. How does her defined identity and lack of direction help or hinder her ability to solve the mystery of the missing girl?
3. Finding overhearred by her suspicions and the possible culprits of the theft, Jane turns to her notebook to organize her ideas. How does this writing, or any of the other texts Jane reads, help advance the plot or build on our sense of characters or ideas in this novel?
4. Often detectives do more than simply solve the mystery of a crime: they reveal the truth about the society they are a part of. How does Jane’s investigation of Tu Reviens help reveal the truth about the society she is a part of, or the societal issues that surround the theft of the missing girl?
5. The members of Espions Sans Frontières all hide aspects of their identities from Tu Reviens, such as the fight between Phoebe Okada and the cleaner. Why do you think Jane is so intent on finding out about Aunt Magnolia?

Spy Thriller

“An enemy agent is on the loose, and the only person who can stop him is Jane. But can she solve the mystery of her past before it’s too late?”

—Kristin Cashore

Spy Thriller genre checklist:
✓ An element of danger, theft, murder, surveillance, deduction
✓ Hidden identities
✓ A larger organization with a secret, often hostile, agenda

Discussion questions:
1. The members of Espions Sans Frontières all hide aspects of their identities from Tu Reviens, such as when Jane finds out that Aunt Magnolia was a secret American agent, she reacts by saying, “This is preposterous!” (pg. 198). Why does Jane react in such a negative way?
2. Patrick tells Jane, “We’re called Espions Sans Frontières, Spies Without Borders.” (pg. 435) What is the significance of this statement, and the events of the novel, what is Charlotte observing about the nature of the world?
3. Charlie’s presence seems to exert influence on the minds of its occupants by destabilizing their relationships. Why? Can we compare this with the effects of reading? Can we make a connection between the novel’s setting and the reading experience?
4. Mr. Vanders tells Jane, “the more we embrace our lack of cohesion, the better off we are” (pg. 425). What is the significance of this statement, and the events of the novel, what is Charlotte observing about the nature of the world?

Horror

“Wind pushes at the glass and the house makes a rumbling sound around them, some pressing back of the wind. Then another noise, a sort of laughter.”

—Jane, Unlimited (2017)

Horror genre checklist:
✓ Spooky setting and atmosphere
✓ Mysterious element: an unexpected disappearance or death
✓ Frequently ghosts offer reflection/commentary on the living

Discussion questions:
1. Referring to the rural origins of the house’s nomy maids. Mr. Vanders says, “This house was a person, if it was a reasonable candidate for an identity crisis.” (pg. 275) What do you think the separate, splintered nature of this novel’s genre and story implies about the novel’s main character?
2. Charlie tells Jane, “I’ve long thought and continue to think that mysteries are just the hardest thing to write, because of all the clue planting, and the way you need to figure out how much or how little to say when and where, etc.” (pg. 573) How do you think Cashore’s approach to mystery writing is different from her approach to spy writing in the novel?
3. When Jane finds out that Aunt Magnolia was a secret American agent, she reacts by saying, “This is preposterous!” (pg. 198). Why does Jane react in such a negative way?
4. Mr. Vanders tells Jane, “the more we embrace our lack of cohesion, the better off we are” (pg. 425). What do you think the phrase “spies without borders” implies about the novel’s characters, and the nature of their organization?
5. Jane realizes that her characteristic is what attracted Charlotte to her as a potential victim. “An orphaned part, looking for where she belonged. Jane’s wounds were opening” (pg. 222). How do you think Jane’s vulnerability has a bearing on her interactions with the other characters in the novel?