

The Golden Age Prompts

1. "Being close made them stronger." In *The Golden Age*, adversities are tempered by camaraderie. Do you agree?
2. Despite the grim context, *The Golden Age* highlights and celebrates the potential of life. Discuss.
3. Memories of past successes and failures have significant lingering effects on characters in *The Golden Age*. Is this an accurate assessment?
4. "[I would be] a fox, following a Palomino." How do animals such as these contribute symbolically to *The Golden Age*?
5. It is largely loneliness which defines the struggles of the children in *The Golden Age*. Discuss.
6. In what ways is *The Golden Age* a novel of displacement?
7. Fear of the unknown is something which permeates *The Golden Age*. Is this true?
8. What is the role of family in Joan London's *The Golden Age*?
9. Isolation in *The Golden Age* exists in many oppressive forms. Discuss.
10. Throughout *The Golden Age*, London draws attention to beauty rather than to suffering. Discuss.
11. In spite of their youth, it is the children of *The Golden Age* who understand best what it means to be an individual in the world. Do you agree?
12. How do characters from *The Golden Age* learn, grow and mature as the novel takes its course?
13. Due to the range of different onset stories, each of the children and their families in *The Golden Age* face a different struggle with their identity. Discuss.

14. "Home. She hadn't called Hungary that for years." In spite of all their struggle, the Golds never truly feel any sense of belonging in Australia. To what extent do you agree?

15. Explore the factors which drive Joan London's characters to persevere.