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## Family Reading Guide for "Dungeons and Drama"

*Conversation starters for parents and teens*

### Getting Started

#### What This Book Is About

"Dungeons and Drama" follows Riley, a theater-loving teen who gets grounded and banned from anything theater-related after sneaking out to see a musical. Forced to work at her dad's Dungeons & Dragons game store, Riley schemes to save her school's Spring Musical by convincing her cute co-worker Nathan to fake date her — only to find herself falling for both Nathan and the tabletop gaming world she never expected to enjoy.

#### Key Themes Your Child Will Encounter:

- **Passion and consequences:** Riley's love of theater drives her choices, for better and worse
- **Stepping outside your comfort zone:** Riley discovers unexpected joy in a world she initially dismisses
- **Fake dating, real feelings:** The novel explores how a practical scheme can turn into something genuine
- **Honesty in relationships:** Riley has to reckon with what she owes Nathan as their fake relationship becomes real

**Note for Parents:** This is a lighthearted romantic comedy with mild themes around sneaking out and a fake-dating scenario. It's a good opportunity to talk about honesty in relationships and trying new things.

### Discussion Questions

#### About Riley

- Why do you think Riley was willing to risk getting caught to see the musical?
- How does Riley's view of the game store and D&D change over the story?
- What does Riley risk by mixing her scheme with real feelings for Nathan?

#### About Riley and Nathan's Relationship

- Why does Riley decide to fake date Nathan?
- How do their feelings change from convenience to something real?
- What does the story suggest about honesty in relationships?

### Conversation Starters

- Have you ever discovered you liked something you expected to dislike?
- What's something you love enough to risk getting in trouble for?
- Do you think fake-dating schemes in books and movies are realistic? Why or why not?
- What's the difference between a harmless white lie and a scheme that could hurt someone?

### Discussion Activities

#### Exploring New Worlds

- Try a simple tabletop or board game together as a family
- Talk about a hobby your teen initially dismissed but grew to enjoy



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- Discuss what theater and tabletop role-playing might have in common as forms of storytelling

#### **Talking About Honesty in Relationships**

- Discuss: "What makes a relationship built on a lie risky, even if it starts with good intentions?"
- Talk about the importance of being upfront with people we care about

#### **Conversation Tips for Parents**

##### **Talking About Romance and Honesty**

- Use Riley and Nathan's story to talk about healthy communication in relationships
- Discuss the difference between a fun rom-com trope and real-life honesty
- Ask your teen what they think makes a relationship trustworthy

#### **Questions by Reading Level**

##### **Accessible Entry Points (for any reader)**

- Why does Riley get grounded and banned from theater?
- Why does Riley need Nathan to cover her shifts?
- How does Riley's opinion of the game store change?

##### **Deeper Analytical Questions**

- How does Boyce use the fake-dating trope to build Riley and Nathan's relationship?
- What does the novel suggest about pursuing your passions even when circumstances get in the way?
- How does Riley's arc reflect a broader theme of stepping outside your comfort zone?

#### **Activity Ideas**

##### **Creative Projects**

- Design a Dungeons & Dragons character inspired by a character from the book
- Write an alternate ending where Riley's scheme is discovered earlier
- Create a playbill for Riley's Spring Musical

"Dungeons and Drama" is a fun, heartfelt rom-com about finding unexpected joy — and unexpected feelings — in the last place you'd look. Use it to talk with your teen about honesty in relationships and the value of staying open to new experiences.