

# CBLDF Discussion Guide



## ***Sandman: Season of Mists***

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*Given their visual nature, comics are easy targets for would-be censors. CBLDF's Discussion Guides are tools that can be used to lead conversations about challenged graphic novels and to help allay misconceptions about comics.*

### **Synopsis**

In *Season of Mists*, Dream is goaded by Desire and Death into returning to Hell to free Nada. Upon his arrival in Hell, Dream discovers that Lucifer has abdicated his throne and evicted everyone from Hell. Dream accepts the key to Hell and soon finds himself entangled with various factions who are seeking ownership of the abandoned domain.

### **Themes**

Sibling relationships, redemption, revenge, forgiveness, pride

### **Reasons Challenged**

Unsuited to age group

### **Suggested Age Range**

High school and up

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **Remembering**

1. Compare the fonts and word balloons for each of the Endless who attend Destiny's family meeting at the beginning of *Season of Mists*.
2. Why is Cain chosen to deliver word to Lucifer of Dream's return trip to Hell?
3. What preparations does Dream make before returning to Hell?

#### **Understanding**

4. The main story line in *Seasons of Mists* is "interrupted" by the standalone story of Charles Rowland. What purpose does this interlude serve?

#### **Applying**

5. In what ways do various characters try to manipulate Dream into giving them the key to Hell?

#### **Analyzing**

6. In Episode 0, six of the Endless siblings gather for a family meeting. Which siblings have close relationships? Which have antagonistic relationships? Explain your reasoning.
7. Why is Dream inclined to listen to Death but not Destiny when they point out that his treatment of Nada was unjust?
8. Does Destiny have any agency to make any decisions of his own? Explain your reasoning.

## Evaluating

9. If you were in Dream's position, to which faction would you cede Hell? Why?
10. In what ways are the various story lines in *Season of Mists* driven by change or the desire for change?
11. What is Dream's motivation for rescuing Nada? Does he truly regret what he did? Explain your reasoning.

## Creating

12. Dream's 70-year captivity seems to have led him to commit himself to freeing other people, but is he truly committed to the people he's set free -- Hector, Lyta, Jed, Rose, and even Nada? Why or why not?

## Activities

### Illustration

Research other cultures' concept of Hell. For example, examine Norse, Japanese, Indian, and ancient Greek concepts of the underworld and demons. Based on your research, illustrate what these realms and their denizens would look like, and compare your drawings to the depiction of Hell in *Seasons of Mist*.

### Writing

Imagine that Lucifer has given you the key to the empty domain of Hell. Write an advertisement for the property that emulates a real estate listing. Include the criteria that the new owners must meet in order to take possession of the property.

### Digital Presentation

The angels Remiel and Duma ultimately gain possession of Hell, but they have very different responses to the responsibility. Use images and excerpts from *Seasons of Mist* to develop a digital presentation that compares their responses. In your presentation, evaluate who has the healthier response to the responsibility and explain your reasoning.

For more about attempts to censor Sandman, visit <http://cblddf.org/banned-comic/banned-challenged-comics/case-study-sandman/>

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