

Book Group Guide for **Freaked** by J. T. Dutton
HarperTeen 2009

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Scotty Douglas Loveletter has trouble with names. Where do you see evidence of this problem in the book, and why do you think it occurs? Is it a symptom of something amiss in Scotty's world view?
- 2) On page 22, Kenny J. pulls a red ball out of his pocket. In response, Scotty says that he doesn't "buy" that drugs are a shortcut to enlightenment. What does the red ball represent? Why do you think Scotty wants to stop time and suspend his life?
- 3) What part of Scotty's story do you feel you can trust, and what parts seem shaky or unreliable? What causes readers to feel unsure of Scotty's point of view?
- 4) Just before Scotty gets into the car with Todd and Walter he considers returning to the dorm to play a game of *Risk* with a group he meets in the dining hall. How would befriending these people have changed the outcome of the story? Would Scotty have been better off?
- 5) Do you think that Scotty has grown or changed in his relationship to drugs at the end of the novel? In what way?
- 6) Each chapter of **Freaked** is named after a song by the Grateful Dead so that the shape of the book is similar to a bootlegged tape. How does the action in each sequence relate to lyrics? Does knowing about the music of the Grateful Dead contribute to how you read the book?

Recipe or Snack Suggestion:

Cherry Garcia Ice Cream Floats. Add one scoop of Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia ice cream to Root beer or Cola. Insert Straw.

Project or Craft Idea: Tie Dye underwear or t-shirts

What you will need: plain white clothing item (t-shirt), rubber bands, fabric dye.

Step 1: gather t-shirt into puckers and wrap rubber bands around segments to create design. Ex. A rubber band around a pucker in the center of the t-shirt will create a bullseye effect.

Step 2: mix dyes according to package instructions

Step 3: Immerse shirt for up to twenty-minutes (depending on dye instructions), dipping in multiple colors and adding bands for a more elaborate design

Step 4: Allow dye to set. Wash alone in cold water to eliminate bleeding.

Related Reads:

Salinger, J. D. **Catcher in the Rye**. Back Bay Books: 2001
Wolfe, Tom **The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Tests**. Picador: 2008

Resources:

Dodd, David. G. and Robert G. Weiner. **The Grateful Dead and the Deadheads, An Annotated Bibliography**. Greenwood Press: 1997
Dodd, David. **The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics**. Free Press, 2005
Shenk, David and Stephen L. Silberman. **Skeleton Key: A Dictionary for Deadheads**. Mainstreet Books: 1994

Web links:

There are a number of on-line sites devoted to the Grateful Dead. These two are the most comprehensive.

www.dead.net/ The official fan site of the Grateful Dead, contains links, lyrics, and historical information.

www.gratefuldeadbooks.com/ a complete bibliography of articles and books written about the Grateful Dead as well as links to lyrics and playlists.

Play list:

(Each chapter of **Freaked** is named after a song by the Grateful Dead which contain literary parallels).

Ripple

Looks like Rain

Box of Rain

Eyes of the World

Shakedown Street

Casey Jones

Hell in a Bucket

Dire Wolf

Fire on the Mountain

Dark Star