***Untraceable* Discussion Questions**

**Overall story**

This book is a survival story like Hunger Games or Hatchet. How do Katniss and Grace compare? Similarities? Differences? What about with Brian?

Discuss the plot. Can you divide the story into 3 acts? What conflict(s) pushes the story into the next act?

In the beginning, what are the stakes to Grace? How do they increase over the course of the book?

**Grace’s Character**

Come up with a list of character traits in Grace? Mark what you see as positive (P) and negative traits (N) traits. Compare your lists with others and discuss the similarities/differences?

Throughout the book – how does Grace’s character change? (analysis). What happens that changes her? How is her character different at the end of the book?

**Tommy/Native Americas**

List character traits of Tommy. Mark off (and discuss) what are stereotypes of Native Americans and what are in contrary to what you believe about Native Americans.

How does Tommy’s character reflect what you know of Native Americans? What did you expect/not expect?

How does Tommy’s journey reflect the journey of Tsali and his people during the trail of tears? Do you think a person’s heritage or history affect his/her daily decisions? Why?

Why did Tommy keep the camp a secret from Grace? What was his motivation? Was it forgivable or not?

Answer the same questions with what you know about Chief Reed?

**Other Characters**

How does Wyn’s character add to the story? Mo?

What is Carl’s motivation for supporting poaching? What do you think about his reasoning in helping a diminishing town economy?

**Survival Aspects**

Reread the section when Grace interacts with a bear. What are the basic rules when you come upon a wild animal in the woods? What do you do? What should you not do? (comprehension)

Why are survival tips important in this book? What is their purpose? What knowledge do they add at the beginning of each chapter? (knowledge)

**Setting**

Using descriptions from the book, sketch your idea of where Grace lives. (synthesis)

What are the contradicting settings of the book? (peaceful vs scary) How does the setting play a part in Grace’s moods and overall journey?

**Conservation/Hunting**

What is animal trafficking?

What are bear parts used for? Why are they so valuable?

Do you think there should be hunting laws in the United States? Why? What does it protect?

**Literature Connections**

Compare and contrast Untraceable with other survival or conservation stories:

1. Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (Strong female character)
2. Hatchett by Gary Paulsen (Survival)
3. Torched by April Henry (Conservation)
4. Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls (Survival)
5. Islands of the Dolphins by Scott O’Dell (Survival)
6. Scat by Carl Hiassen (Conservation)