

BASED ON THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER

STRONG INSIDE

YOUNG READERS EDITION



Discussion Guide

Andrew Maraniss
www.andrewmaraniss.com
Twitter: @trublu24
Facebook:
/andrewmaranissauthor
Email:
andrewmaraniss@gmail.com
Bumpers.fm: [andrewmaraniss](http://andrewmaraniss.com)

For Discussion and Analysis

Consider the cover of *Strong Inside*. In what ways is the cover imagery symbolic for the events that transpire throughout the course of the book?

Explain the significance of the title *Strong Inside*. What does it mean to you?

Using examples from the book, what are some specific episodes where Perry Wallace displayed inner strength and courage?

Perry Wallace exhibits many acts of bravery throughout his life. What do you consider to be his most courageous act, and why?

What was significant about Perry Wallace's family life as he grew up? How did his upbringing prepare him for what was to follow?

Why was Pearl High School considered such an important part of the community in North Nashville?

What kind of environment did Perry Wallace encounter when he entered Vanderbilt University?

What challenges did he face and how did he overcome them?

Perry Wallace says that people can be treated by others in one of three ways: treated well, treated poorly, or not treated at all (e.g., ignored, isolated). Give examples of how he experienced all three types of treatment in his life.

At the end of Ch. 17, Perry Wallace says "this is when I became a real pioneer." What did he mean by that?

On page 160, the photo of Wallace lifting up an opposing player could be considered incredibly symbolic. Why?

Why does Perry Wallace say the people who threatened him were not living up to their ideals? (pg 167/168)

Why was the Raven episode so controversial? How do you explain how people viewed it so differently?

The day after his final game at Vanderbilt, Wallace gives an interview to *The Tennessean*. Why was this a courageous decision?

Another key character in this book is Godfrey Dillard. Explain how his experience differed from Wallace's.

The "author's note" chapter discusses what happened to Wallace after college. Did his life turn out the way you expected? What surprised you?