

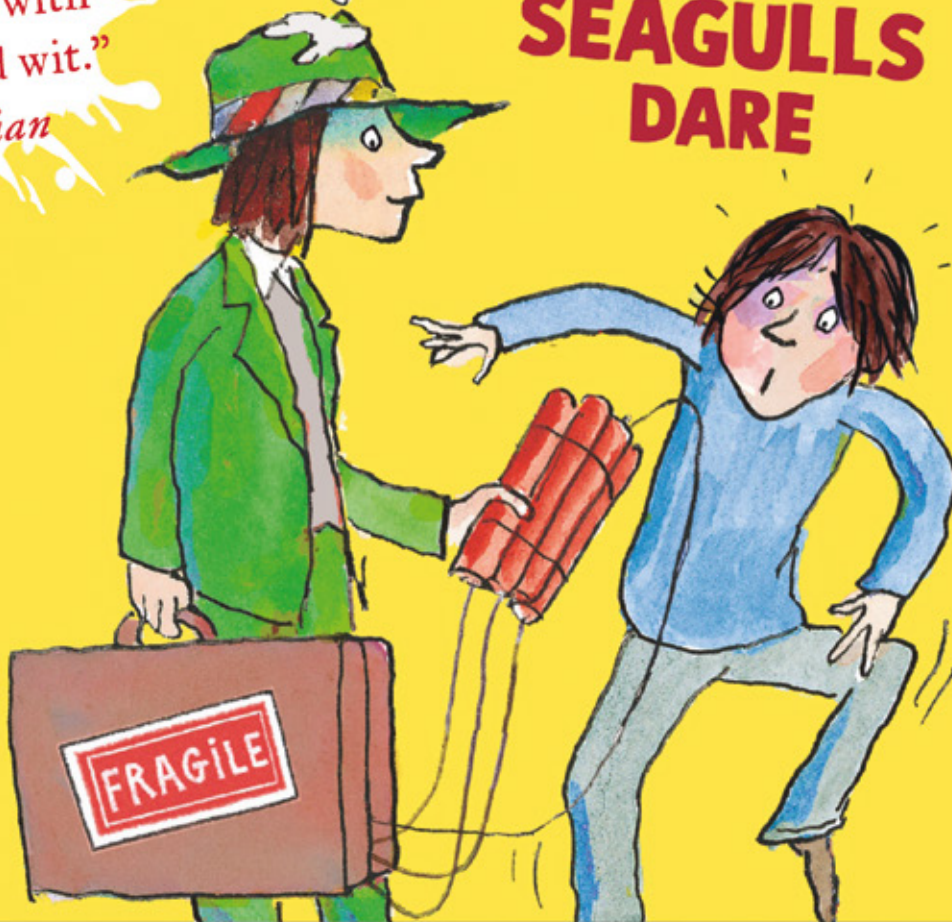
# Discussion Guide

Anthony  
Horowitz

DIAMOND BROTHERS  
DETECTIVES **FOR HIRE**

WHERE  
SEAGULLS  
DARE

“Crackles with  
hardboiled wit.”  
*Guardian*



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# Anthony Horowitz **DIAMOND BROTHERS** **DETECTIVES**

## WHERE **SEAGULLS** DARE

### ABOUT THE BOOK

*Where Seagulls Dare*, the sixth book in the Diamond Brothers Detective series, finds Nick Diamond and his useless older brother, Tim, caught up in yet another adventure. With international computer hackers being kidnapped, a far-right political madman in an island lair and would-be assassins around seemingly every corner, not to mention the police, MI6 and the beautiful but mysterious Jane Nightingale, Nick must steer his brother through their toughest case yet, trying not to get murdered somewhere along the way...

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**ANTHONY HOROWITZ** is the author of the number one bestselling Alex Rider books and the Power of Five series. He enjoys huge international acclaim as a writer for both children and adults. Anthony has won numerous awards, including the Bookseller Association/Nielsen Author of the Year Award, the Children's Book of the Year Award at the British Book Awards, and the Red House Children's Book Award. In 2014 Anthony was awarded an OBE for Services to Literature. Anthony was recently awarded a CBE for Services to Literature. He has also created and written many major television series, including a dramatization of his novel *Point Blanc*, bringing the adventures of Alex Rider to teenage and adult audiences.

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION:

There is plenty to discuss in *Where Seagulls Dare*, with its classic themes of adventure, mystery, espionage, all undercut with Horowitz's trademark humour and one-liners. Be aware that the book contains violence and use of weaponry, as well as various threats and attempts at murder, although, this is all dealt with in a manner perfectly suitable for the majority of children. Before beginning, it may be worth familiarizing yourself with, and checking the group's prior knowledge of, the other books in the Diamond Brothers Detective series.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Getting started:

Ask the group what they thought of the book? What did anyone like about it? Can anyone remember a scene or a passage they found particularly funny? Or exciting? Or intriguing? Who in the group has read the other books in the series? How does this one compare?

#### 1. **Where Seagulls Dare**

Why is this the title of the book? Explore the idea of a "play on words" – what is a play on words and how do they work? Does anyone know what the title is referencing? (You might like to have some information about the film and novel *Where Eagles Dare* to hand.)

## 2. Nick and Tim

Why is the book narrated from Nick's perspective? What effect does this have on the reader? Ask the group to imagine the book had been written from Tim's perspective. How would this be different? What would it be like? (This could easily become a writing exercise, as a follow-on activity.)

## 3. Genre

What sort of book is this? How would anyone in the group describe it? Check understanding of the word "genre" – is it a mystery, a thriller, a comedy, an adventure? All of these? How does the author create this effect, across the book?

## 4. Detectives

Does Nick like being a detective? Does he enjoy the work? What does he really want to do? Who think Nick would make a good spy, if he took up Mr Waverley's offer? Who in the group likes the idea of being a detective? What sort of skills and attributes does anyone think it takes to be a good detective? What about a spy?

## 5. Politics

How does Horowitz deal with the idea of politics in the novel? What does "politics" mean to the group? You might like to discuss Neville Fairfax, and his views, from page 94. Read the description of the White Crusaders together – does this remind anyone of any other politicians, or catchphrases they might have heard?

## 6. Jane Nightingale

What did readers think of the character of Jane Nightingale? How did the author throw the reader off the scent of who Jane Nightingale really was? Did anyone spot any of the clues (like the black and white clothes and earrings)? Is Jane Nightingale a villain or a hero? Why? You might like to discuss the money she deposits in the Diamond Brothers' bank account – can they keep it? Is it right to keep it? What does anyone think?

## 7. Wheels within wheels

Throughout the novel, just as Nick thinks he's worked something out, there's another twist or turn, or another mystery to solve. Who in the group had worked out any of the mysteries before they were revealed? How did they work this out? Who was surprised by any of the secrets revealed, e.g., that there were so many high-ranking officials who were also White Crusaders.

## 8. Jokes, set-ups, punchlines, slapstick

What were the funniest bits of the book, to anyone in the group? Talk about the different kinds of comedy in the novel. What is a one-liner? A pun? Situational comedy? A set-up for a punchline? Slapstick? See if anyone can think of an example from the book of each of the kinds of comedy you talk about – can anyone think of examples from anything else they remember, to explore these different types?

## 9. Suspense

How does Horowitz build suspense in the novel? What makes the reader want to keep on reading? Has anyone in the group read any other books by Horowitz? Or seen any of the television programmes or films? How do these compare? What are some of the things they have in common? Are these useful themes for suspense and adventure?

## 10. Something like this

Does anyone in the group think they could write something like this? A spy thriller? A mystery? A kidnap story? A detective story? Who was inspired to think of their ideas when reading *Where Seagulls Dare*? (Clearly, these could lead on to writing workshops, creative writing exercises and further exploration of writing, plotting, genre and storytelling.)

# MORE FROM THE DIAMOND BROTHERS

