

# Discussion Questions

## Book Discussion Questions

1. Identify the gaps in the foster care system that ultimately led to the death of Marcus Fiesel.
2. Discuss changes to the system that might be made in order to protect more vulnerable children.
3. Do you think children are removed too quickly from their biological parents for reason of abuse or neglect or do you think too many are left too long with compromised parents?
4. Do you think the foster care system fails or succeeds more often? Why or why not?
5. What do you think can be done to improve the foster care system?
6. What role does the media play in public opinion regarding foster care and child abuse?
7. Child welfare agencies are reporting more horrendous cases of child abuse than in years past. What factors might contribute to the increased severity of child abuse?
8. Do you think the rights of parents supercede the rights of children? Why or why not?
9. Discuss ways to involve entire communities in the crises facing foster children.
10. Discuss the role of foster parents. Would you consider fostering or adopting a child? Why or why not?

## For CASAs:

1. What motivated you to become a CASA?
2. What do you find most supportive and helpful to you in your volunteer work?
3. What surprised you most about the foster care system since you began volunteering?
4. What has been the biggest challenge in your advocacy? What has been the biggest gift?
5. Discuss the positives and negatives of the foster care system. Do you think the author gives a fair portrayal of the system?
6. Name one fact or statistic from the book that surprised you.
7. Name one thing you learned from the book that will impact your assessment and advocacy of young children.
8. What are some other ways average citizens can make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children that are not already mentioned in the book?
9. Discuss your experiences advocating in court. Do you feel the law often serves the best interest of children? Why or why not?
10. What have you learned about yourself since you became a CASA?