**The 5th Wave**

**By Rick Yancey**

**About the Book**

After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one.

Now, it's the dawn of the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Who have scattered Earth's last survivors. To stay alone is to stay alive, Cassie believes, until she meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan Walker may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother--or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose: between trust and despair, between defiance and surrender, between life and death. To give up or to get up.

**About the Author**

Rick Yancey (www.rickyancey.com) is the author of the New York Times bestseller The 5th Wave, The Infinite Sea, several adult novels, and the memoir Confessions of a Tax Collector. His first young-adult novel, The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp, was a finalist for the Carnegie Medal. In 2010, his novel, The Monstrumologist, received a Michael L. Printz Honor, and the sequel, The Curse of the Wendigo, was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. When he isn't writing or thinking about writing or traveling the country talking about writing, Rick is hanging out with his family.

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**Discussion Questions**

1. Should Cassie have killed the Crucifix Soldier? Why or why not?
2. Both Ben and Cassie have the will to survive—to keep going when everything seems lost. How are Ben and Cassie similar in other ways?
3. What does Vosch not understand about humans? What does Vosch not understand about his own race?
4. Vosch says, “We know how you think. We’ve been watching you for six thousand years.” How does Vosch’s overconfidence help Cassie and her companions to escape?
5. Why do the Others need psychological and technological warfare?
6. One of the most terrifying aspects of THE 5th WAVE is not knowing whom to trust. After losing her family, Cassie lives by herself in the woods. How does she regain her ability to trust?
7. Why does Evan fall in love with Cassie?
8. Would it be difficult for the Others to cohabitate with humans?
9. Names and identity play an important role in the story. The book begins with Cassie telling us her name and what names she is not. All of the kids in boot camp have nicknames and make a point of hiding their birth names. Explore the importance of names. What is the significance of the characters changing their names?
10. THE 5th WAVE suggests that humans need other humans. When their families are gone, the kids bond with each other. Initially, Cassie insists that the only way to survive is to be alone. Describe incidents in the novel that give evidence that humans are social creatures