

The Dark is Rising By Susan Cooper



The Dark Is Rising Sequence is a series of five contemporary fantasy novels for older children and young adults written by the British author Susan Cooper and published from 1965 to 1977. The first book in the series, Over Sea, Under Stone, was originally conceived as a stand-alone novel . The second book The Dark is Rising is more well-known and the series is often called that.

Will Stanton is the main character of the second novel, he is the seventh son of a seventh son and his 11th birthday marks the beginning of his magical awakening and rise to power as the last of the Old Ones. The story tells how he comes to power and collects

'signs' to help him fight the The Dark.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Will thinks about his special status as the last of the Old Ones?

2. Will's family are really important to him – how does this help/hinder the story?

3. This book is aimed at children aged 9-11 but as an adult I think it's a scary read. Do you think this is because we know so much more about the world and children might read it differently?
4. What are the differences/similarities between the Old Ones and the Dark?
5. Will has to collect Sign's to help him with his quest – what else would you want I you were fighting evil?
6. Some of the characters are known by their mythical names such as the Rider or the Hunter – how does this help with the scene setting in the book?