

# THE CHRYSALIDS: A PROPHECY FOR OUR TIME

## SBSN SHOW NOTES

1. INTRODUCTION: Is *The Chrysalids* science fiction about backwards religious societies? Telepathy really symbolizes the power to communicate well, not like the Waknukians, who communicate from the top down, never engage in dialogue and do not think together. As for the religious culture of Waknuk, it is a culture of power, fear and discrimination, and even the most non-religious societies can manifest these qualities.
2. Can young people stuck in CoronaWorld identify with David Storm and his fellow telepathic children? How is Waknuk similar to the world today? Discuss
  - a) Freedom
  - b) Play
  - c) Humor
  - d) Torture
3. If we ignore the obvious difference between the telepathic children and the pious adults, what are some more important and subtle differences? Discuss
  - a) Religion vs atheism
  - b) Hierarchy vs anarchy
  - c) Commanding vs communicating
  - d) A culture of fear that destroys nature vs a culture that celebrates and works with nature.
4. Are differences irreconcilable in *The Chrysalids*? Alan had to be killed? Can people who believe the CoronaDrama *religion* ever realize their mistake?
5. How should we interpret the massacre at the end of the novel? If the Sealand Woman had not acted, what would have happened?
6. Short discussion on two of the good adults in this novel: John Wender and Uncle Axel.