



The Age of Miracles **Pre-Reading Webquest**

Follow the directions below to complete the webquest. Write your answers with COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. Go to: <http://www.theageofmiraclesbook.com/> and click on "About." Read the summary of the book, then answer these questions:
 - Who is the main character of the book and what do we know about her based on the summary?
 - What is the primary setting of the book?
 - What external conflict does the summary explain?
 - What internal conflicts does the summary mention?
2. Then, watch the book trailer video and answer these questions:
 - What do you expect from the book based on the book trailer? What makes you say so? Explain with details from the video.

3. Click on “The Slowing.” Hover your mouse over each of the icons and read the description of each stage of “The Slowing.”

- Is the idea of “The Slowing” realistic to you? Why or why not? Use your knowledge of science and the environment to explain your answer.

4. Go to: <http://www.npr.org/2012/06/25/155712055/as-the-earth-slows-this-miracle-becomes-calamity> and read (or listen to) the article. Then, answer these questions:

- What “startling fact” inspired Karen Thompson Walker to write The Age of Miracles?
- What are “clock timers” and “real timers?” Why is there tension between the two groups?
- How did growing up in California have an impact on Walker’s perception of the environment?

5. Go to: <http://sf-fantasy.suvudu.com/2012/09/on-the-appeal-of-the-apocalypse-a-qa-with-karen-thompson-walker.html> and read the first interview question and Walker’s response. Then, answer:

- Why does Karen Thompson Walker believe people are intrigued by apocalyptic literature? Summarize her response in your own words. (You may need to go to dictionary.com to define “apocalyptic” if you’re not sure what it means.)

6. Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcCMYiNpJVE> and listen to an audio excerpt of the first chapter of the novel. Then, answer these questions:

- What can we learn about Julia from this passage? What is she like as a person? What are her traits or qualities? How would you describe her life?
- One of the themes of the novel is the contrast between ordinary events and extraordinary events. In the audio clip, Julia describes the events in her home immediately prior to the news announcing “The Slowing.” What is “ordinary” about what she describes?