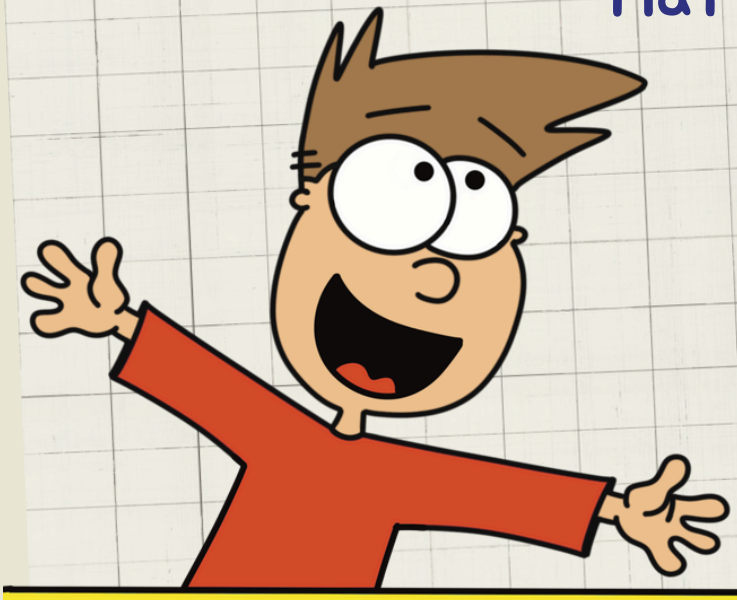


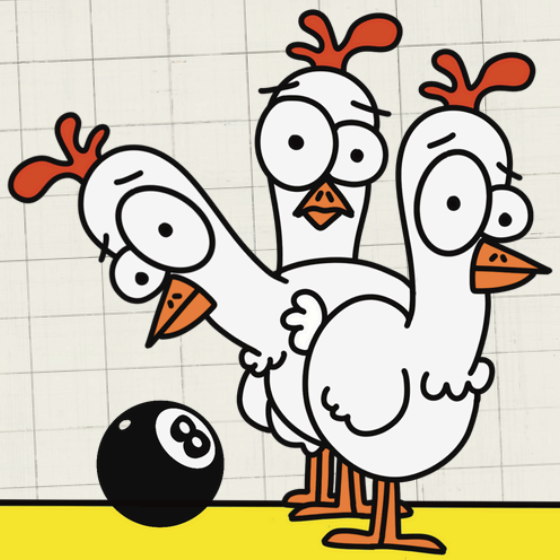


HIDDEN NARRATIVES

DISCUSSION CHARTS

From New York Times Bestselling author
Matt Eicheldinger





HIDDEN NARRATIVES

THE STORY WITHIN THE STORY

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Who isn't being heard, and why?
Who is quiet, silenced, or absent from the conversation? What might they say if they could?

2. What's not being said?
Are there tensions, truths, or emotions left unspoken?

3. Who benefits from the way this story is told?
Does the narrative serve someone's interests more than others?

4. What does each character stand to lose?
How does fear, risk, or vulnerability influence their actions?

5. What power dynamics are at play?
Who holds control in the situation—and who doesn't?

6. What are the stakes beneath the surface?
Beyond what's visible, what emotional, social, or cultural risks exist?

7. How would the story change if told from another perspective?
Whose version of the truth would look different?

8. What does the setting reveal that the dialogue doesn't?
What can you gather from the surroundings, background details, or tone?

9. What past experiences might be shaping current choices?
What trauma, loyalty, or memory might be influencing behavior?

10. What assumptions are being made—and by whom?
Are characters or viewers assuming things that aren't confirmed?

11. What role does silence play?
Is silence a form of protection, protest, shame, or something else?

12. What details are repeated—and what might that repetition mean?
What patterns are emerging, and why might they matter?

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

13. How does emotion shape perception?
Are emotions clouding or clarifying what's really happening?
14. What's hiding in plain sight?
Is something important being overlooked because it seems ordinary?
15. What metaphors or symbols are present?
Are objects or actions standing in for something deeper?
16. Who is adapting—and who is resisting?
What might that say about comfort, fear, or identity?
17. What cultural, social, or historical forces are influencing this?
How does context add weight or shape expectations?
18. What might be misunderstood by outsiders?
Are there coded messages or community norms at play?
19. Is anyone performing a role?
Who is trying to appear stronger, smarter, weaker, etc., than they are?
20. What emotional truth is the story orbiting?
Even if the facts are unclear, what truth is trying to emerge?
21. What small moment carries the most weight?
Sometimes a look, a pause, or a single word shifts everything.
22. What's changed by the end—but not spoken aloud?
What unspoken evolution has occurred?
23. What questions are you left with?
Are you supposed to fill in the gaps—and what does that ask of you?
24. What is the story protecting?
What truth, reputation, or worldview is being defended?

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