Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban Discussion Questions

Injustice is a huge theme of Prisoner of Azkaban. Do you think Lupin, Dumbledore, Snape knew that Sirius was innocent all along? What other examples of injustice do we see in this book or in the complete story?

Sirius' loyalty is completely doubted when he is thrown into prison, although it never wavered. Sirius and Lupin turn on Peter to accuse him of false loyalty once they are reunited. Often Harry and Ron, even Hermione are at odds and but their loyalty to one another is never questioned. The book nearly always shows loyalty as black and white - you're intensely loyal or you aren't at all! Is loyalty a spectrum or a dichotomy?

How is Quidditch used in this book to enrich the story? The later books barely involve Quidditch at all, but is it still integral to the storyline? How are the broomsticks a metaphor for Harry, Ron, Malfoy and the teams of Gryffindor and Slytherin?

What would you do with a Maurader's Map? How could it be used for good or evil?

Hermione undergoes some interesting changes in this book that often cause Harry, Ron and even teachers to balk or double-take (hitting Malfoy, walking out of Divination, etc). Are these permanent personality changes or circumstantial? What does this mean for her and other characters in the story? Do you like bold Hermione?

A Boggart will sense your phobias and turn into the thing you fear the most. A Patronus is a type of personal shield to protect you and even send messages to others. It takes the form of an animal that symbolizes you and your personal characteristics. What would your Boggart turn into? What would your Patronus be?