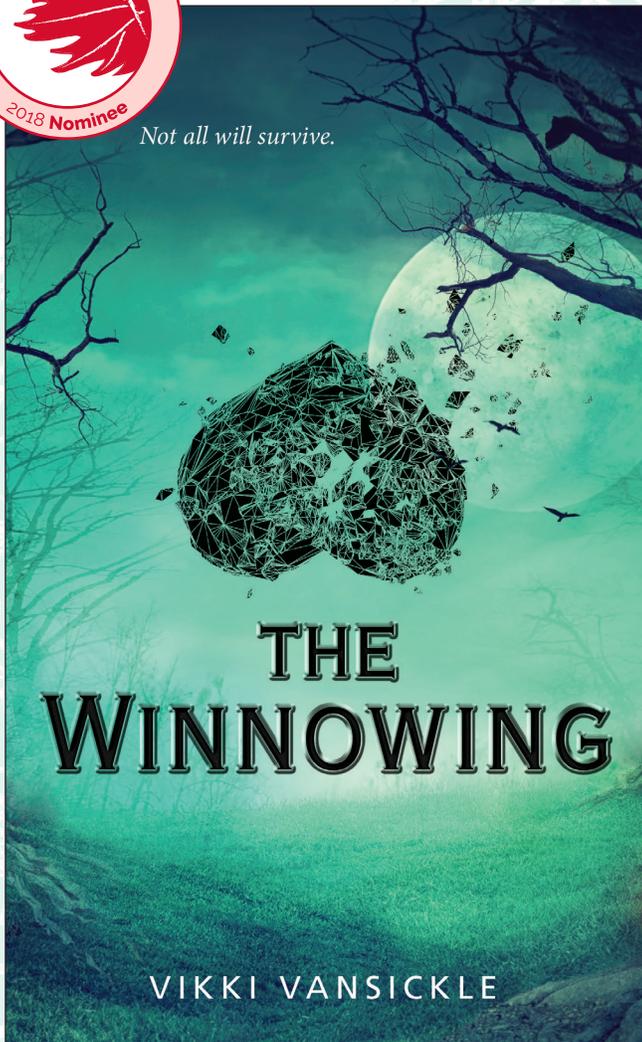


# THE WINNOWING

by VIKKI VANSICKLE



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312 Pages | Ages 12 & Up

## Discussion Questions

1. The kids in Darby suffer from violent nightmares called ACES. Describe the most vivid dream or nightmare you have ever had.
2. The Barton Guide lists a range of Adolescent Physical Impairments (imps). Which of the following imps would you prefer and why?
  - Changes in sight
  - Changes in hearing
  - Temperature numbness
  - Increased speed
  - Increased physical strength
3. In Chapter 22, Roya tells Marivic that "Sometimes you have to do horrible things for the sake of the bigger picture. If the end result is right and just, then you have to do whatever it takes to get there." Do you agree with Roya? Why or why not?
4. In Chapter 25, we discover that Abbot is a Natural, meaning he was born without the aid of SuperGen. Why is Abbot upset about being called a Natural?

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## *Discussion Questions—continued*

5. In her telepathic training, Marivic is told to choose a neutral space to help pull her back to reality. Ren describes his neutral space as “a place that is special only to me.” What would your neutral space be and why?
6. Part of the winnowing process removes the memory of what happens at the Barton Center for Adolescent Health. Do you think it is a good idea to get rid of bad memories? Why or why not?
7. Of all the characters in the book, who would you most want to be friends with and why?
8. When Marivic discovers her connection to the Kesla, she asks Ren, “Am I still people? Now that I’m part . . . something else?” How would you answer her question?

## *Creative Projects*

1. Write and design an orientation brochure for new Intakes at the Barton Center for Adolescent Health.
2. You are the first reporter on the scene at the Barton Center for Adolescent Health following Marivic and Dr. Abrams’s discovery of the Kesla’s last message. Write an article about the incident, including personal observations and quotes from characters who were present at the time.
3. Dr. Lowry identifies four categories of ACES: the Melting Road, the Crash, the Net and the Abandoned City. Choose one category and write a scene as if you are going ACES and experiencing it first hand.