

Fantasy: 9th-12th Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Fantasy, Magic, Fiction

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with fantasy books at the 9th-12th Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what is this book about? What sorts of magical or fantastical things will happen in this book? Have you read any other books by this author or any books that seem similar?

Prior Knowledge: Define the genre of fantasy. Have you read any other fantasy books? Name some common characteristics of a fantasy book.

Vocabulary: Identify 15-20 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to be able to identify a character's motivations—in other words, what they want. As we read, try to identify what major characters want and how those desires influence their actions.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- Provide an objective summary of the text, including key details and avoiding personal thoughts or opinions.
- Does the author draw on any earlier texts as the source of the story? Examples might include religious texts, earlier works of literature, myths, and classic folktales. If so, analyze how the author draws on and changes that material.
- How does the author create mystery, tension, or suspense? This might include such things as parallel plots, pacing, and flashbacks.
- What are the major themes of the story? How do these themes develop over the course of the story?

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: What does each major character want? How do those desires influence their actions, and in turn, the plot of the book?

Extending Our Thinking: Just like real people, characters usually want more than one thing. Sometimes achieving all of their goals is impossible because their desires are in conflict, a literary element known as conflicting motivations. Have students journal about a time they experienced conflicting motivations and compare the resolutions offered in the book to those they experienced in real life.