



Teachers' notes

BEFORE READING:

Looking at the cover, what might you expect from this book?

Where and when do you think it is set?

What mood do the colours Dan has used on the cover evoke?

AFTER READING:

What indication do you get early on about the age and gender of the narrator?

Consider this excerpt from page 7

I ride my waves of memory back to that other night, long years past, when I lay in a chamber atop a white tower, between sheets of silk, under impossibly soft quilts: the booty of a lost world.

What images do the words chamber atop a white tower bring to mind about where the narrator may have lived and what her lifestyle may have been like? What Fairy Tales do these images bring to mind?

Looking at page 12 and 13. There are clues in the illustrations, which may place the book in a certain period of time. Can you find some of them and suggest how they give conflicting indications?

Written by Isobelle Carmody

Illustrated by Dan Reed

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On page 16, Pilar says

The King called it the Rose Tower but at Dusk, the stone drank the red light and gave off a bloody hue.

What do you think is the significance of the difference in the King's description of the tower and the actual colour?

Looking at page 20 and 21, describe the armour of the knights and the attire of the sorcerer. How does that differ from how you imaged they would look?

Why do you think the King needs to keep the woman a prisoner before he presents her to his people as his wife?

Why do you think the woman/Queen stayed?

On page 48 the Princess asks Pilar what a proper Princess is? What do you think of Pilar's response? Do you think this accurately describes the Princess of this story thus far?

On page 50, Pilar warns

I have done my best to delay the moment the King will see you as a woman grown, Do nothing to hasten that moment

Why do you think she is warning the Princess?

On pages 62 and 63 The Princess feels that Pilar is trying to tell her something. What do you think that may be?





On page 64, Rose's escape becomes apparent. Why is she being sent away?

What does the landscape she is travelling across suggest about what has happened outside the walls of Evermore?

From this part of the story onwards we begin to learn the truth about the King and how he came to be the way he was. Why do you think Isobelle has waited until this moment to begin to reveal more information?

How does this change your view of the Queen?

How does this change your view of the reasons for the King keeping people out of Evermore?

How does the role of a Princess change from this point onwards?

What questions does the second part of the book answer and what questions does it raise for you?

Characters

Describe the significance in the story of the following characters.

Things to consider:

The significance of their name

The order in which they are introduced in the story

The way in which they are portrayed graphically

Their words and their silence

Whether the author portrays them sympathetically or not

Rose

Pilar

Broken Enzo

Quiet Tom

Hilman

The King

Which character has the most depth for you as a reader?

Which character is the most real to you and why?

Final reflections

Why do you think Isobelle has used this style of writing?

How do the illustrations collide with this style and give a different aspect to the story?

How does this compare to other Fairy Tales you may have read? Similarities/differences

Why do you think Isobelle has used a post-apocalyptic setting?

What does this story say about power?

Why do you think the King has such control over people?

Why do you think the people allowed the King to hold power?

Explore how food and water can be used to hold and exploit power. What are some contemporary parallels for this?

Are there other parallels in this book to current events?

Discuss the ending. Do you think the ending has been left open to interpretation? How?

