

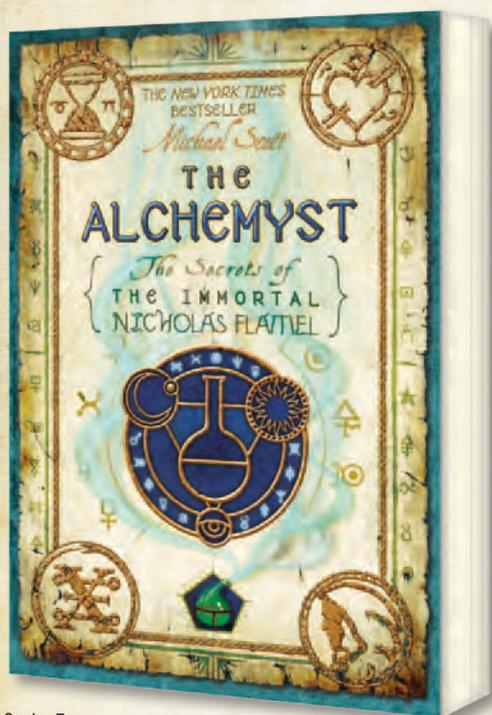


The Secrets of
THE IMMORTAL
NICHOLAS FLAMMEL

READING GROUP GUIDE



THE ALCHEMYST



Grades 7 up
PB: 978-0-385-73600-8 • HC: 978-0-385-73357-1
EL: 978-0-375-84317-4 • CD: 978-0-7393-5032-4

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Josh takes a job in a secondhand bookstore in San Francisco, he has no idea that Nick Fleming, the owner, is actually Nicholas Flamel, a 14th-century alchemist who discovered the secret to immortality.

Flamel and his powerful wife, Perenelle, are attacked by Dr. John Dee, a magician and astrologer from the court of Queen Elizabeth I. Dee has been chasing Flamel and Perenelle through the centuries and around the globe to retrieve the Book of Abraham the Mage, the Codex that holds the secret of eternal life.

Josh and his twin sister, Sophie, find themselves caught in the center of the battle. Could it be that these twins actually possess the powers that can save the world?

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- ♀ Familiar to many from the Harry Potter novels, Nicholas Flamel was a real historical figure. Have students search online and in encyclopedias for information about Nicholas Flamel, Perenelle Flamel, and Dr. John Dee. Have them make a chart of facts they find out about these individuals as well as the legends that have evolved around their names.
- ♁ Ask students to research the term *Elder Race*. What does this term mean? Have them write a paragraph exploring some of the concepts and conjectures about an Elder Race. Organize a debate between groups of students about whether such a race could exist today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ♀ How do Josh and Sophie know they can trust Flamel? How do they know that Dee's motives are evil ones? Do their feelings toward these two characters change through the course of the story?
- ⚡ Discuss the power of the Codex, the Book of Abraham the Mage. Do you think that one book could contain the secret to eternal life?
- ♀ Compare the personalities of Josh and Sophie, and Flamel and Dee. In what ways are the pairs alike and different? How does Perenelle compare to them?
- ⚡ Flamel and Dee both call on beings of the Elder Race. Discuss the idea that entities from many different mythologies could still exist in our world, and that they could interact with one another and with humans.
- ♂ Why does Perenelle use a ghost to help her communicate with Flamel? Why can't she call on beings of the Elder Race?
- ⚡ Discuss the character of Scathach. What part does she play in the story? What is her relationship to Flamel? To the twins? To Hekate and the Witch of Endor?
- ♂ Flamel says, "We are all prisoners of a sort here—prisoners of circumstance and events." (p. 197) What does he mean? Are Josh and Sophie involved in the battle between Flamel and Dee because of their destiny, or because they choose to become involved? What does the Codex mean when it says, "The two that are one, must become the one that is all. One to save the world, one to destroy it"?
- ♂ Why do Josh and Sophie agree to go through the Awakening? Why does Hekate only "awaken" Sophie's powers? How does this affect the twins' connection to each other?
- ♀ What does Hekate mean when she says, "Great change always comes down to the actions of a single person"? (p. 210) Can you identify times in the history of the world when great change happened because of the actions of a single person?
- ⚡ Why does Josh believe what Dee is telling him at the fountain in Ojai? What does Dee mean when he says, "It seems we are all victims of Nicholas Flamel"? (p. 338) Who do you believe is telling the truth?
- ♂ The ending of the book seems to lead to another beginning, at the other side of the leygate. What do you think will happen to the twins in a future story? Is Dee destroyed, or will he return? The first chapter of Book 2 is printed in the back of *The Alchemyst*. Challenge students to write an additional chapter of this story as they would like to see it unfold.

THE MAGICIAN



Grades 7 up
PB: 978-0-385-73728-9 • HC: 978-0-385-73358-8
EL: 978-0-375-84908-4 • CD: 978-0-7393-6491-8

ABOUT THE BOOK

At the end of Book I, *The Alchemist*, 15-year-old twins Sophie and Josh Newman are transported by a magical leygate from San Francisco to Paris along with the 14th-century alchemist Nicholas Flamel and the immortal warrior maiden Scathach. Sophie's magical powers have been awakened, and the siblings are heralded as the twins of legend with silver and gold auras. They are in the midst of a centuries-old battle involving legendary beings, magicians who are hundreds of years old, and the Codex, the Book of Abraham the Mage that holds the secret of eternal life. Dr. John Dee, a magician-astrologer from the court of Queen Elizabeth I, has imprisoned Flamel's wife Perenelle on Alcatraz Island. Dee calls on Niccolò Machiavelli, another historical figure who has achieved immortality, to

aid him in capturing Flamel and the twins. When the Comte de Saint-Germain and his wife, Joan of Arc, join the battle on the side of Flamel, sparks truly begin to fly. At the heart of this struggle is Josh's jealousy of his sister's powers and his impatience to have his own "awakening," a happening that will have far-reaching consequences.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

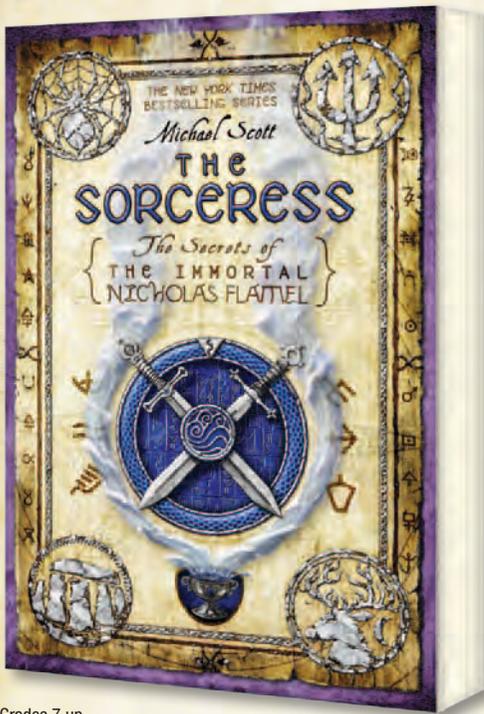
- ♀ Have students search for information about Niccolò Machiavelli, the Comte de Saint-Germain, Joan of Arc, and Juan de Ayala. Have them add their findings to the chart of facts and legends that they created before reading *The Alchemist*. Discuss world events that took place during the century each of them lived.
- ♁ Have students research the places that appear in this volume: Alcatraz, Sacré-Coeur Basilica, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, and the Catacombs of Paris. Why would the author choose each of these places to be settings in the story?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ♀ Why is Josh suspicious of Flamel and Scathach? Why does Sophie trust them more than her twin does?
- ♁ How does Machiavelli's character in this story compare to your research into the historical person of Niccolò Machiavelli?
- ♀ Why does Machiavelli feel compelled to aid John Dee when he asks for help? How do these two feel about each other, and how does that affect the plot?
- ♁ Why does Machiavelli say to Flamel, "The world moved on, Nicholas. You did not." Compare the characters of Machiavelli, Dee, and Flamel.
- ♂ Why do you think Dee leaves the Sphinx to guard Perenelle? How does Perenelle manage to elude the Sphinx, and what does this tell you about her personality and her powers?
- ♁ How is Perenelle able to contact ghosts? What does the author mean when he says that even though ghosts have no presence in the real world, they are not powerless? What power of theirs is Perenelle able to use?
- ♂ What is Saint-Germain's connection to music? Compare the character of Saint-Germain in this story to what you can learn about the historical person of that name. Why do Sophie's memories, gathered from the Witch of Endor, show a strong aversion to Saint-Germain?
- ♂ How is Juan de Ayala helpful to Perenelle in her plan to escape? Compare what you learn of de Ayala in this story to information you researched about the historical person of de Ayala.
- ♀ What is Scathach's relationship to Joan of Arc and Saint-Germain? Why does she tell Sophie about her family history and how does that affect Sophie's feelings toward her?
- ♁ Why does Dee call ordinary people "humani"—how does the use of that word affect his attitude toward people? How does it differ from Flamel's attitude and his mission? How does this difference relate to what you have learned about the historical records of Nicholas Flamel and Dr. John Dee?
- ♁ What is the meaning of the prophecy about "The two that are one, must become the one that is all"? What powers do you think Josh and Sophie will have now that both are awakened? Why does Flamel wonder—at Notre Dame—whether it was a good idea to "awaken" them?
- ♂ The ending of the book leads to another beginning, as Flamel and the twins head to London. What do you think will happen to the twins in a future story?

THE SORCERESS

ABOUT THE BOOK



Grades 7 up
PB: 978-0-385-73530-8 • HC: 978-0-385-73529-2
GLB: 978-0-385-90515-2 • EL: 978-0-375-89271-4
CD: 978-0-7393-8055-0

magic from the ancient Gilgamesh, aided by the Saracen Knight Palamedes and William Shakespeare. But time is running out for Nicholas and Perenelle Flamel because they are aging fast. Can they bring the twins to their full awakening before they lose their immortality?

Josh and Sophie Newman have been newly awakened to magical powers through their association with Nicholas Flamel. In *The Alchemyst* and *The Magician*, the twins accompany Flamel from San Francisco to Paris, seeking ways to acquire elemental powers and to escape Dr. John Dee. Flamel's powers and immortality are fading because Dee has stolen the Codex.

In *The Sorceress*, Flamel's wife Perenelle has been imprisoned on Alcatraz Island by Dee. Through her own sorcery and cunning, Perenelle manages to stay alive until the team of Machiavelli and Billy the Kid arrives to finish her off. The reinforcements she expects—Scathach and Joan of Arc—have become lost in time, but Perenelle finds unlikely help from another source.

Josh and Sophie acquire another elemental

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES



Have students research William Shakespeare and Billy the Kid. Have them add their findings to the chart of facts and stories that they created for *The Alchemyst* and *The Magician*.



Special places play an important role in these books. Look up information about Mount Tam and Stonehenge and discuss their special characteristics.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ♁ Why is Nicholas Flamel afraid to enter London? Why is it so important that he bring the twins to England?
- ✂ What does Nicholas mean when he says to Josh, “The line between confidence and arrogance is very fine . . . and the line between arrogance and stupidity even finer.” (p. 19) Where does Josh display arrogance and/or stupidity?
- ♀ Dr. John Dee and Niccolò Machiavelli are called “uneasy allies.” (p. 25) What have you learned about them that explains why they detest each other and yet work together? Are they allies because of the Elders or because they share a common goal?
- ♁ How do the twins feel when they learn that Sophie could be consumed by the Witch of Endor’s memories and that there have been other sets of twins that Nicholas has tried to “awaken”? Is Nicholas sure that they are the true “twins of legend”?
- ♁ Discuss the ways in which Josh is affected by being awakened by Mars Ultor in the last book. How does he use his skill of strategy to fight the battles in this book? What does Sophie mean when she says, “Battles are won by men. Wars are won by strategists.” (p. 95)
- ♁ What does Palamedes mean when he says that Dee is “that most dangerous of foes: he is absolutely confident that what he is doing is right.” (p. 70) Is Nicholas Flamel confident that everything he does is right? Why does Josh still admire Dee?
- ♁ When Shakespeare says, “Remember, at the heart of all magic is imagination . . .” (p. 223) What does he mean? How does his magic skill differ from that of Nicholas or Dee? Why does he insist on fighting the Wild Hunt?
- ♁ Compare the characters of Machiavelli and Billy the Kid. In what ways are they similar and in what ways are they different? Do they trust one another? How is Perenelle able to trick them when they come to Alcatraz?
- ✂ What part does Gilgamesh play in the story? Why does he have the magic of water? How is water both the lifegiver and the deathbringer, as Gilgamesh says? Discuss why water may be more important than earth, air, or fire.
- ♁ Machiavelli prides himself on his cunning. He knows there are disagreements among the Dark Elders and says that it “reminded him of the good old days of the Borgias.” (p. 372) What does he mean?
- ♁ The twins, Josh and Sophie, are often referred to as “the two that are one; the one that is all.” (p. 483) What does Gilgamesh mean when he uses that phrase to refer to the swords in the final chapter?

THE NECROMANCER



Grades 7 up
PB: 978-0-385-73532-2 • HC: 978-0-385-73531-5
GLB: 978-0-385-90516-9 • EL: 978-0-375-89660-6
CD: 978-0-307-71077-2

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Flamels' powers are fading because they no longer have the Codex. Nicholas is reunited with Perenelle, and he seems to be weakening more rapidly than his wife.

Back in San Francisco, the twins visit their aunt, but soon meet sinister characters—Aoife of the Shadows and Niten, a Japanese warrior—who later prove to be friends.

The Dark Elders have declared Flamel's archenemy, John Dee, an outlaw, but Dee escapes their trap and, with the aid of the immortal Virginia Dare, begins to set his own plans in motion. Meanwhile, Billy the Kid and Machiavelli, spared by the Elders from punishment for letting Perenelle escape, are returning to Alcatraz to unleash nightmarish monsters on the world.

The Flamels' only hope is to use Sophie and Josh's newly awakened powers, and they enlist the aid of Prometheus to teach Josh Fire Magic. But Dee has other plans for Josh. . . .

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

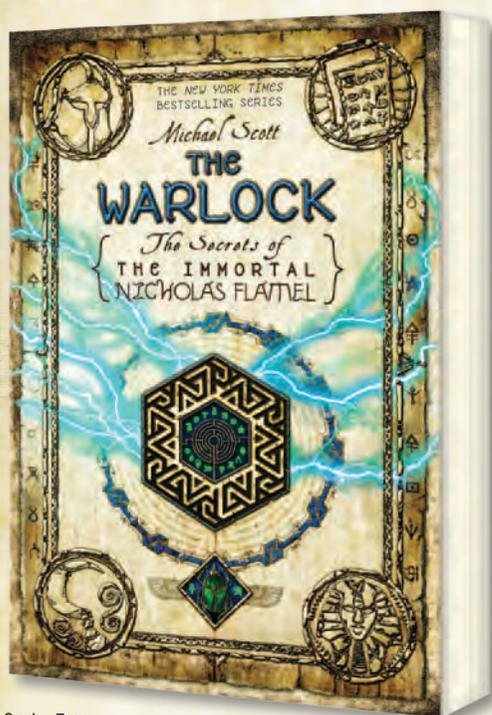
- ☞ Have students research these names and share information they learn about these people and the times they lived in: Virginia Dare, Black Hawk, and Miyamoto Musashi. Have them continue to add to their chart of facts and legends that created for the first three books in the series.
- ☞ Look up information about each of these sites and discuss what special characteristics of these places might make them “magical”: Tower of London, Sherwood Forest, Krakatoa, Coit Tower, Point Reyes, and Danu Talis (Atlantis).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ♂ Why are twins Sophie and Josh unsure of their relationship to the woman they call Aunt Agnes? Why does Niten hand her a photograph from 1914 showing Scathach at Ypres—or is it Aoife? Why is Aoife feared by so many, even the Flamels?
- ⊗ Perenelle remembers the day when Nicholas brought home the Codex, and they “entered the world of the extraordinary, where nothing was as it seemed and no one could be trusted.” Why do Sophie and Josh have difficulty trusting the Flamels? What does Nicholas mean when he says, “But the truth is a double-edged sword; it is a dangerous thing”? (p. 16)
- ♯ What does Dee mean when he calls music the “oldest of all magical sounds”? Discuss the importance of music and its effect on various characters. Who is the mysterious German that Virginia Dare says taught her to play the flute?
- ⌘ Machiavelli says to Kukulkan, “Fools lie, clever men stick to the truth.” (p. 160) Compare this statement to Aoife’s comment about her twin: “Scathach lies. . . . You wouldn’t want to believe a single word she tells you.” (p. 157) What is the importance of truth in light of what you know about these two characters? How do lies—or simply not telling the whole truth—affect others in the story?
- ♯ What is the connection between Perenelle and the Witch of Endor? What does Perry mean when she tells Sophie, “The Witch’s memories are knowledge and knowledge is power”? (p. 144) Why does Sophie worry about the Witch’s memories consuming her? Why can’t she retrieve the Witch’s memory of the years she spent with Perenelle or what she knows of Gilgamesh?
- ♀ Discuss the memory Sophie has of Zephaniah and Prometheus in the Nameless City. Why is this important to the plot? What is the connection of the Elders to the Archons? What effect does memory have on other characters in the story?
- ♯ What is the importance of the four swords—Excalibur, Clarent, Joyeuse, and Durendal? What can you learn of their history that explains the mysterious power of these weapons?
- ♂ Kukulkan tells Machiavelli, “Your master and I are related, not by blood or family, but by bonds forged in struggle and adversity.” (p. 161) Discuss other characters that are connected by experiences they have shared rather than by family ties—those who become, as Scathach says of the Flamels, an “accidental family.”
- ⊗ Discuss the theme of siblings in this volume: Sophie and Josh, Aoife and Scathach, Prometheus and Zephaniah (the Witch of Endor). How are their sibling relationships similar and how are they different?

THE WARLOCK

ABOUT THE BOOK



Grades 7 up
PB: 978-0-385-73534-6 • HC: 978-0-385-73533-9
EL: 978-0-375-89954-6 • CD: 978-0-307-91547-4

Separated from her twin brother, Sophie Newman must rely on Niten, the warrior, to help her find someone to train her in the final elemental magic—Earth Magic. That training comes from a most unexpected Elder, and Perenelle Flamel taps the auras of Sophie and the same Elder to gain one more day of life for Nicholas. Josh Newman, who has sided with Dr. John Dee and Virginia Dare in their quest for ultimate power, is having doubts about his choice. The mysterious Marethyu has spirited Scathach and her immortal allies back in time to the brink of the destruction of Danu Talis, while Machiavelli and Billy the Kid struggle with their own consciences in the present about destroying the human world. Time is running out for all the players in this epic struggle as the prophecies and plans of Abraham the Mage come together in the adventures of the twins of legend.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- ☞ The island of Danu Talis, or Atlantis as it is also known, figures prominently in this volume. Research information about Atlantis—how do we know about Atlantis and what legends have grown up around the name? Do any of the legends have a historical basis?
- ✕ Review the characters from earlier volumes, both Elders and Immortals. Look up information about new characters and creatures introduced in this volume: the anpu, Anubis, Isis, Osiris, Tsagaglulal, Chronos, Hel, and Odin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

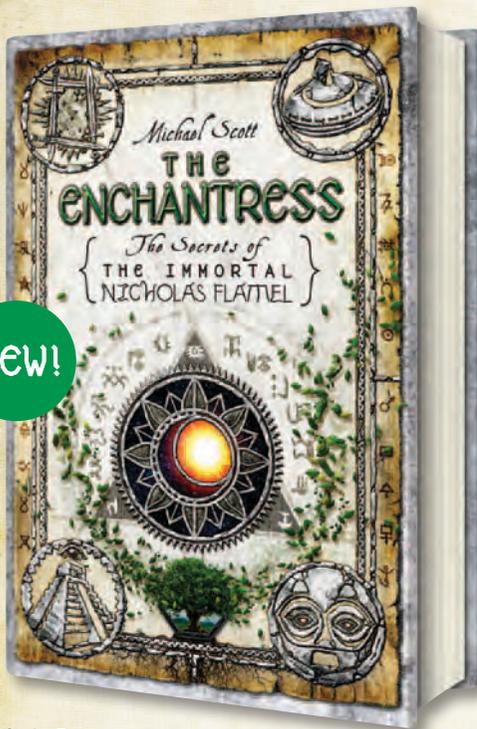
- ♀ In *The Alchemyst*, Scathach says to the twins, “[Nicholas Flamel] is many things—dangerous and devious, cunning and deadly, a good friend and an implacable enemy—but he comes from an age when a man’s word was precious.” As Nicholas nears death in this volume, what does this statement tell you about his interaction with the twins and others in the story?
- ♂ Perenelle writes in Nicholas’s Day Booke: “So it comes down to me, as I have always known it would.” Why do you think Perenelle is the pivotal character in the story?
- ☉ Who are Isis and Osiris and why do they go to find Mars Ultor? Why did Zephaniah imprison Mars so many years ago, and why does she set him free now? What does she mean when she says, “This world needs a warlock again”? (p. 19)
- ♁ Niten says, “Immortality changes the way people think . . . not only about themselves, but about the world around them.” (p. 75) What effect has immortality had on the various characters the twins have encountered?
- ♣ Why is Sophie so distrustful when she discovers the true identity of the woman she once called Aunt Agnes? Why does she distrust Perenelle? “The truth—the cold, bitter truth—was that she simply did not know. . . . She couldn’t even distinguish friends from enemies anymore.” (p. 122)
- ♧ Discuss the concepts of *destiny* and *free will* as they are presented in this story. If Abraham foretold the events 10,000 years before, what was the meaning of his prophecy about the twins—one to save the world and one to destroy it? How do you think free will might play a part in the events to come?
- ✂ Why does Scathach have such a strong desire to see her parents on Danu Talis? Who do you think Scathach and Aoife’s parents might be? Describe the other characters that you know were on Danu Talis before its fall. Why is Marethyu so determined to make sure that the island is destroyed?
- ♀ Josh felt that Machiavelli “possessed the humanity that Dee lacked.” (p. 163) What events back up that feeling? Why do Machiavelli and Billy the Kid change their minds about the plan to release the monsters?
- ♁ Why is Sophie reluctant to let Perenelle tap into her aura to revive Nicholas? What is the power and importance of the scarab beetle that Tzagaglalal uses to help Nicholas?
- ♁ Who is the warlock of the title, and is there just one? If a warlock is an “oath-breaker,” are there oaths that should be broken? Discuss the phrase from Machiavelli that Billy quotes back to him: “The promise given was a necessity of the past: the word broken is a necessity of the present.” (p. 238)

THE ENCHANTRESS

ABOUT THE BOOK

Josh and Sophie, the twins of legend, have traveled 10,000 years back in time to Danu Talis with two immortal humans, John Dee and Virginia Dare, arriving just before the fall of the fabled island. All four of them have a distinct role to play in the events that follow, while the twins' Aunt Agnes, now revealed to be the ancient Tsagagl'alal, rallies the Flamels and other immortals and Elders in San Francisco for the final battle against those who are attempting to destroy the present human race.

This final volume wraps up every plot thread from the previous books and builds toward a thrilling climax that pits the evil forces of greed and power against those of honor and compassion as the twins use both their human emotions and their extraordinary powers to fulfill an ancient prophecy.



NEW!

Grades 7 up
HC: 978-0-385-73535-3 • GLB: 978-0-385-90518-3
EL: 978-0-375-98590-4 • CD: 978-0-307-99095-2

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

♀ Each of the historical characters in this series plays a pivotal role in this final volume of the series. Before reading, review information you can verify about the life of each of them: Nicholas Flamel, Perenelle Flamel, John Dee, Niccolò Machiavelli, Miyamoto Musashi (Niten), Virginia Dare, Billy the Kid, Black Hawk, Count de Saint-Germain, Joan of Arc, and William Shakespeare. What talents and skills does each of these contribute to the story? Which personality traits in each of these characters make them true to their historical counterparts?

♁ Review the information about these mythological characters: Palamedes, Scathach, Prometheus, Mars, Odin, Hel, Quetzalcoatl, Xolotl, Hekate, Huitzilopochtli, the Morrigan, Karkinos, Bastet, Anubis, Aten, Isis, Osiris, Aerop-Enap. Research the names of the four “swords of power”—Clarent, Excalibur, Durendal, and Joyeuse—and identify the context of each one in history and legend.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ♀ Why do Josh and Sophie feel “terribly wrong” about seeing their parents again? What clues do they have that Isis and Osiris are not the parents they thought they knew? Identify moments of rebellion in Josh and Sophie that foreshadow their ultimate break with Isis and Osiris.
- ♁ What does Osiris mean when he says the John Dee is “always the opportunist . . . and ever the fool”? (p. 14) How do the twins feel about his treatment of Dee? Discuss Dee’s comment to Josh: “What an apprentice you would have made.” (p. 19)
- ♀ How does the fighting strategy of Prometheus and Niten against the Spartoi compare to Machiavelli and Billy the Kid against the monsters on Alcatraz? What skills does each of these characters bring to their battles? What does Niten mean when he says, “A warrior with a cause is the most dangerous soldier of all”? (p. 301)
- ♁ Shakespeare said, “Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.” Discuss this quote as it applies to the various alliances that form in the course of this story. Look up the original context for the quote in Shakespeare’s play *The Tempest*.
- ♂ Why does the “Change” affect each Elder differently? Discuss what the various changes indicate about each Elder’s personality. Why does the change appear not to affect Isis and Osiris? Discuss Sophie’s comment that “not all changes are external.” (p. 296)
- ♁ Why is Virginia Dare so scornful of civilization? What does she mean when she quotes Machiavelli’s statement that “it is better to be feared than loved”? (p. 83) Why can the Elders not touch Virginia Dare’s flute? What is the meaning of the word CROATOAN for Dare?
- ♂ After centuries of pursuing the Book of Abraham, why does Dee tell Abraham that he never believed he was real? Discuss Abraham’s comment to Dee: “You know that at the heart of every legend is a grain of truth.” (p. 164)
- ♂ Why does Marethyu risk being in the crowd when the twins arrive at the Pyramid of the Sun?
- ♀ Why does Scathach go off by herself on Danu Talis? What is she seeking to learn about her family’s past? What is the significance of the children, Cermait and Brigid, who Scathach meets? How does she know that they will survive the Fall?
- ♁ Why does the Crow Goddess sacrifice herself to save the life of Perenelle? Which of the Elders are willing to sacrifice themselves to ensure that the human race will continue? Why do they feel it is the right thing to do? Discuss this statement made by Mars: “This is what I have always loved about you humans. You are essentially good.” (p. 472)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT.)

- ♁ Discuss the meaning of the term *Armageddon*. Why does Saint-Germain say that will be the title of his new musical work? What is the importance of Saint-Germain continuing to write music and Shakespeare thinking about story ideas in the midst of a fight for their lives?
- ♀ Discuss the change of heart experienced by Machiavelli, Billy the Kid, and John Dee. Why does each of them decide to help the human cause? Why does Dee refuse to allow Aten to revive him? Compare the experience of the men to that of Virginia Dare. What were the influences on Dare that make her different from the others?
- ♁ Why did Isis and Osiris not train the twins themselves in the elemental magic? Why do they need the powers of the twins to take over Danu Talis, and why did they expect the twins to side with them? What does Josh mean when he says, “I think we’re another of the variables they’ve forgotten to account for”? (p.185) Why do Josh and Sophie fight against them?
- ♂ Several of the immortal characters throughout the story refer to the “gift” of immortality as a “curse.” Discuss the pros and cons of being able to live beyond your own time, of traveling back and forth in time and space. In what ways would it be a curse and how would it be a gift?
- ♁ Who is Abraham the Mage? Does his character have an historical basis? What is his connection to Chronos and to Marethyu? How did they work together to guide events through time?
- ♁ Why is Josh the one to destroy the world and Sophie the one to lead the survivors off Danu Talis? What leads Josh to his final decision?



POST-READING ACTIVITIES FOR THE SERIES

- ♀ Research the factual historical impact of each of the immortals in this series. Why do you think Michael Scott chose these particular figures to play a role in his epic tale? What role did each of them play in the historical period in which they were born and why are they still remembered today? Which historical characters would you choose to be part of a story you might write? Discuss the concept of immortality and what it means to be remembered long after you have lived.
- 🏠 On a map of the world, identify the places that are associated with each of the historical characters and each of the mythological figures and legends that are mentioned throughout the series. Include places that are only mentioned briefly, such as Nan Madol, Chaco Canyon, Angkor Wat, Wakah-Chan, and Pohnpei. Include places associated with some of the monsters—nereids, Drakon Kholkikos, Hus Krommyon, monokerata, Karkinos, Berserkers—as well as mythological figures that are only mentioned in passing, such as Ruaumoko, Janus, Inanna, and fir dearg.
- ♀ Many cultures throughout the history of our world have created mythologies with similar characters and similar stories. Compare the characters of the Elders in this series and list their similarities and differences. What conclusions can you reach about the nature of ancient folklore and the legends of these various cultures based on the similarities and differences in their stories?
- 🏠 Discuss the author's final note on Danu Talis—Atlantis in *The Enchantress*. What information can you learn about the legend of Atlantis and the legendary people of Ireland, the Tuatha De Danann? Discuss the author's statement, which is echoed by Nicholas Flamel in the story, “at the heart of just about every legend is a grain of truth.” What truths can you identify in the legends that appear in this series?
- ♀ Michael Scott has said that “Every story starts with an idea, but it is the characters that move that idea forward.” Identify for yourself the most important ideas or themes in this story and discuss how the characters move that idea forward.



Photo Credit: © Perry Hoagopian

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MICHAEL SCOTT is one of Ireland's most successful authors. He writes for both adults and young adults. A master of fantasy, science fiction, horror, mythology, and folklore, he was hailed by the *Irish Times* as “the King of Fantasy in these isles.” He lives and writes in Dublin, Ireland. Learn more about Michael Scott at DillonScott.com



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watch trailers, play games,
and more at
SecretsofNicholasFlamel.com



Prepared by Connie Rockman, youth literature consultant, adjunct professor of children's and young adult literature, and editor of the H. W. Wilson Junior Book of Authors and Illustrators series.

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