

ERAGON

Book One in the Inheritance cycle



ABOUT THIS BOOK

Eragon is the first book of *Inheritance*, a stunning epic fantasy cycle that will make imaginations soar.

Gifted only with an ancient red sword, the brilliant blue dragon Saphira, and advice from the old storyteller Brom, the young man Eragon is entangled in an intricate tapestry of magic, glory, and power. His saga carries readers through a fantastical land filled with beauty and brooding danger, while an ancient legacy and an unexpected inheritance shape his destiny.

READERS GUIDE

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Family and Home

- Eragon's family is very important to him, although he never knew his parents. Who do you think Eragon's parents were? Why is his father's identity a mystery, and why did his mother bring him to her brother to raise and then disappear? Could Eragon have prevented his uncle's death?
- What was Eragon's life like before he found the dragon's egg? How did his discovery of the egg change his life? Do you think Eragon found the egg or the egg was deliberately sent to him?
- Why was Eragon comfortable exploring the Spine when everyone else in his village was afraid of the place? What does the Spine represent to the other inhabitants of Carvahall?

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Destiny and Responsibility

- The first line of the story reads: "Wind howled through the night, carrying a scent that would change the world." What does this opening tell you about the meaning of destiny in the tale? What does the author mean by "a scent that would change the world"?
- Names are very important in this story. How does it affect Eragon to learn that his name was also the name of the first Dragon Rider? How does he choose Saphira's name?
- What does Saphira mean when she says, "It is our destiny to attempt the impossible, to accomplish great deeds regardless of fear. It is our responsibility to the future"? Is this true for everyone? What is the responsibility of each of us to the future?
- Why does Eragon's magic diminish his own strength every time he uses it?

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Trust and Fear

- Why does Brom want to travel with Eragon when he is forced to leave his home? How does Eragon know that he can trust Brom?
- Who are the Ra'zac and what do they represent to Eragon?
- When Eragon realizes that Arya is an elf, does it change his feelings about her? Why does he rescue her from the prison even though it puts his own safety in jeopardy?

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Trust and Fear *(continued)*

- How does Eragon feel when he learns about Murtagh's parentage? Does the fact that Murtagh's father was Morzan affect Eragon's trust of him? Does it affect your feelings about his character?
- When Eragon finds the stronghold of the Varden, he is confronted by the Twins. Why does Ajihad trust the Twins? Why do they treat Eragon with suspicion?

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Good and Evil

- Many fantasy novels deal with the struggle between forces of good and evil. Discuss the ways in which Eragon explores this theme and which characters represent good and evil.
- The story begins with the Shade and his ruthless ambush of the elf Arya. How did this Prologue affect your anticipation of the story to come? Why is the Prologue titled "Shade of Fear"?
- Are there characters who represent pure good and pure evil? Discuss the ways in which an author shows us a character's true nature. How does a character's life experience shape his or her actions?
- How did Galbatorix establish his rule of Alagaësia? What experiences turned him into a cruel and feared ruler? What do we learn of the Shade's past when he is killed?
- The Urgals seem to be completely ruthless, yet Eragon is hesitant to kill them with his magic in Chapter 30. Why does he only use his magic to stun them? Why is he so upset when Murtagh kills Torkenbrand, the slave trader?

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Connecting Fantasy to Real Life

- What kinds of good and evil do you hear about in the news? Discuss examples from news stories that report events representing the good and evil in our society and around the world.
- What circumstances can bring people together to become friends and what can make those friendships grow and develop? What circumstances can hurt a friendship?
- Do you feel that some people have a destiny to fulfill or a special reason for living? Name people in history who had a strong responsibility to a cause for good or evil. (Possibilities might be Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr., for good; and Adolf Hitler, Attila the Hun, and Josef Stalin for evil.)