

The Girl Who Grew Wings



AUTHOR

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SCIS: 5457511

ISBN: 9781912626540

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Secondary

SYNOPSIS

Twin sisters, Icari and Sephie, live in a world where magical gifts are bestowed on a chosen few. Sephie discovers she has two powers—a crime punishable by death. Then, winged demons steal her to the underworld. Only a pair of wings can bring Icari to save her twin . . . But can a gentle healer learn to fight—and fly?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anna lives in the north-east of England and works as a clinical psychologist. In 2015 she was shortlisted for the Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition with her novel *The Gallows Dance*, the world which provided the inspiration for her debut novel *The Fandom*.

THEMES

- Fantasy
- Romance
- Forbidden love
- Sisterhood
- Feminism
- Greek mythology
- Death, demons and the Underworld
- Magical gifts & powers

STUDY NOTES

- In the opening chapters of *The Girl Who Grew Wings*, Icari witnesses her mother being burned after she is caught attempting to trade devil wing. The impact that this has on both Icari and Sephie is, understandably, a heavy one. Pick two highlighters—one colour for Sephie and one for Icari. Re-read Chapters Two and Three, highlighting any dialogue or description that shows how the two sisters reacted to the death of their mother. What differences do you observe? What language does the author use to demonstrate the sister's feelings? Discuss your findings as a class.
 - Next, informed by your discussions, draw up character sheets for Sephie and Icari to show their differences. Include the character traits that you discovered from your close reading of Chapters Two and Three, and your observations of how their characters have changed throughout the book. At the bottom of each page, try to answer this question: what does this character want more than anything else? Feel free to write more than one answer if you think their answers would change at different stages of the book.

- The author excels at creating unique and intriguing fantastical worlds. Create a mind map depicting the universe, grouping different elements into sections, such as ‘demons and the Underworld’, ‘the three callings’, ‘family and friendship’, ‘devil wing’, ‘magic’. Once you have finished, separate into small groups and discuss what each of you have noted down—feel free to add to your own mind map as you hear about other ideas.
- Imagine that you have been dropped into the Citadel. Write a diary entry to talk about how you would have felt when you landed in this new world. What would an average day look like—are you a Healer, an Embalmer, or an Alchemist? What feelings and thoughts did you experience throughout the day? Try to draw on as many senses as you can to enhance your descriptive writing.
- As a class, discuss what you thought of the ending of *The Girl Who Grew Wings*. Did you like how the story ended, or is there anything that you wish had happened differently? Choose the following activities based on your answer.
 - If you feel that you are content with how the author chose to end the story, your task is to write about what happens next. Imagine that you are the author, Anna Waterworth, and you have decided that you want to add a bonus chapter to the end of the story. You could choose to pick up straight where the author left off or you could choose to jump two, five or even ten years into the future.
 - If there was something that you wish could have happened differently, here is your opportunity to change it. Rewrite the chapter that you most wish you could change. After you have finished writing the main change, have a think about what consequences your changed chapter would have on the plot that follows; would future chapters also need amending to fit with your rewrite? Note the follow-on changes in bullet point form.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think you would be a Healer, an Embalmer or an Alchemist? Why?
- Was there a scene in the novel that stood out to you? Why do you think this was? Was it because of the writing/ language choices or the plot itself?
- If you could ask the author one question about the fantastical world that she has created, and the characters within it, what would that question be?
- Did you find that you preferred reading from Sephie or Icari’s point of view more? Why do you think this was?
- What did you think about the portrayal of the drug devil wing—do you think there are any parallels to our real world?
- What did you think about Icari and Caszeil’s relationship? Were you rooting for them or wishing they would stay apart?
- What do you think is the importance of the role that Hades played in the book? How did his actions make you feel?
- How is feminism portrayed in *The Girl Who Grew Wings*?