

The Prophecy Keepers Discussion Questions

1. Themes in the book include the struggle for power, trust and betrayal, friendship, family, and belief. What is the central theme that ties (or will tie) the story together? How do the other themes interlink? Do they blend naturally with the story, or is the author simply using the characters and themes to prove a point? If so, is this distracting? What point do you think the author is trying to make?
2. The struggle for power is an important theme throughout the series. What different levels does this struggle exist upon? Give a few examples. For instance, how do we see it playing out on a cosmic or supernatural level? On a political level? On societal, family, and personal levels?
3. The theme of Good vs. Evil ties in with the struggle for power. How would you define *good* and how would you define *evil*? Is it always clear who or what is good and who or what is evil. Are there degrees of good and evil, or is it always black and white? Are the evil characters purely evil? Are the good characters purely good?
4. Who do you think is the most courageous character. Must a hero have unwavering courage? What creates courage in a character, and what causes her/him to lose it. How do fear and trust influence the amount of courage a character displays. Describe some of the instances in which the central characters in *The Prophecy Keepers* show courage.
5. Look up the different meanings of trust and betrayal. How are they intrinsically linked? Is it always apparent in the book whom Lisandra can trust? Whom Arethus and Æscere can trust? How do various characters destroy the trust others have in them. Think about the following characters and how the theme of trust applies to each of them and to Lisandra: Loki, the Redcrosse Knight, Cærwyn, Archimago, Lucifæra, Arethus, Argante, and Æscere. Some examples: when Lisandra first meets Arethus, she trusts him enough to follow him to the Redcrosse Knight? Why does she trust him? Does she have a choice? In Chapter Three, Arethus no longer trusts Lisandra. Why? Does Lisandra deserve his lack of trust? What can she do to win it back?
6. Describe the relationships between Lisandra and Eladri, Lisandra and Arethus, Æscere and Arethus, and Cærwyn and Lisandra. What do these relationships say about each of the characters. Do the relationships change over the course of the book, and if so, how? What do the characters in each of the relationships like or dislike about each other? What do they admire in each other?
7. Arethus, Æscere, and Lisandra all experience separation and loss: Arethus with the Redcrosse Knight, Lisandra with her family and best friend, and Æscere with her sisters. How does each of them deal with it? How do their reactions differ, and how are they the same?
8. How important is family in the book? Are there different types of families? What is the quality that makes a group of people a family—is it always blood ties, or does something else tie a family together?
9. Many of the humans of Niwengeard are *believers*. What are some of the things they believe in? How is the belief system set up? Is it similar to any religion or other belief system on our world? How willing are the characters to stand behind their beliefs. For example, Eladri is a believer. What does her refusing to believe that the time of the Darkness and the Gifted One has come say about her beliefs?