

Megan Whelan Turner's novel *The Thief* was a 1997 Newbery Honor Book. Her first book, *Instead of Three Wishes,* a collection of short stories, also garnered critical acclaim.

Born in Fort Sill, OK, she attended the University of Chicago and received a B.A. with honors in English language and literature.

Also by Megan Whelan Turner available from Greenwillow Books



Instead of Three Wishes Tr: 0-688-13922-1 \$15.00/\$20.50 Can.



The Thief

Tr: 0-688-14627-9 \$15.95/\$20.50 Can.

Recommended Reading List

If you enjoyed The Queen of Attolia, try these other books from HarperCollins, available at your local bookstore or library.

The Folk Keeper
By Franny Billingsley

Belle Prater's Boy By Ruth White

The Moorchild (Aladdin Fantasy) By Eloise McGraw A Girl Named Disaster
The Ear, the Eye, and
the Arm: A Novel
By Nancy Farmer

Look for *The Queen of Attolia* at your local bookstore or library. This reading group guide is available at bookstores everywhere, or call toll-free 1-800-242-7737 to order more (free of charge in packs of 10).

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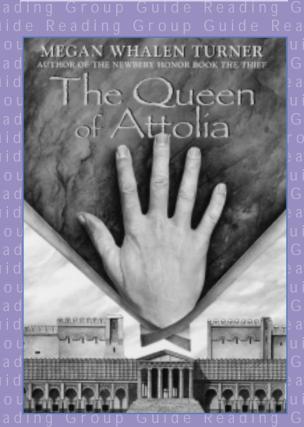
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Reading Group Guide



The Queen of Attolia

By Megan Whelan Turner

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About This Guide:

In *The Queen of Attolia,* Newbery Honor Award—winning author Megan Whelan Turner has created a brilliant page-turner that tells a story of survival and triumph. The discussion topics, suggested reading list, and author biography in this reading group guide are intended to spark discussion about the issues raised in this compelling book.

About This Book:



Eugenides, the Royal Thief of Eddis, is revered as a cunning, loyal, and "valuable tool" for the nation of Eddis. In the past, he has triumphed against the rival nations of Sounis and Attolia and ensured the

stability of his queen's empire.

Yet once he is captured by the Queen of Attolia, the future of Eddis as well as his own life are threatened. The Queen of Attolia spares the Thief's life, but cuts off his hand—a classic punishment for thievery and a strategic move to eliminate any future threats. Once he is returned to Eddis to recover, he retreats to the library in an internal exile, while his queen seeks revenge on Attolia and declares war in the name of Eugenides.

Renounced by his gods and forced to overcome his physical challenge, Eugenides must use "a thief's greatest asset" (p.53), his mind, to secure the future of Eddis. He must win back his fame, prove his loyalty to Eddis, and steal peace for his queen by stealing the heart of the Queen of Attolia.

For Discussion:

- 1. How is Eugenides a "valuable tool" for the nation of Eddis? Do his responsibility and loyalty to Eddis inhibit his true nature?
- 2. What role do the gods play throughout the novel? Discuss the significance of the repeated warning "do not offend the gods" (pp.10;17). Do the gods really have control over Eugenides' life? Do they betray him?
- 3. Explain why the Queen of Attolia decided to spare the Thief's life after she caught him in her palace? What influenced her decision to cripple him instead? In her eyes, was this the right choice in the end?
- 4. When Eugenides retreats to the library in internal exile after his injury, describe his state of mind and how he views himself in relation to the Eddisians. Why is he so embarrassed, and how do these feelings resurface when he realizes the magnitude of his decision to become king of Attolia? Explain his character's evolution.

- 5. What is Eugenides' reaction when he is informed that Eddis declared war on Attolia in his name? Does this change his relationship with Eddis? Does he like being called a "sacred relic, a hero" (p.133) in the eyes of the people of Eddis?
- 6. What is the history of the queens' rivalry? Why is Attolia jealous of the Queen of Eddis? Is this resolved in the end? Why is Attolia referred to as the "shadow" queen?
- 7. Discuss the relationship between Attolia and the ambassador from the Mede empire. How do they use each other to achieve their objectives? How does Attolia finally free herself and her empire from the control of Nahuseresh?
- 8. Why is Attolia plagued with nightmares after she cuts off Eugenides' hand? What revelation does she have when she fears that the Thief is dead at Ephrata? How does this change their relationship?
- 9. Moira, whose name means fate, is portrayed as a messenger throughout the novel. What role does fate play in the lives of the characters? Discuss the significance of her encounters with Nahuseresh, Attolia, and Eugenides.
- 10. How does the tale of Hespira and Horreon foreshadow what happens at the end of the novel to Eugenides and the Queen of Attolia?