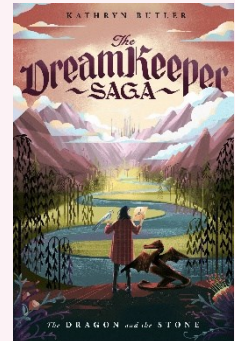




GIRL'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

THE DRAGON AND THE STONE By Katherine Butler



"Your worth was determined before you were ever born, my friend."

— Pax

GENRE

Children's Fantasy

THEMES

Good vs. Evil

Spiritual Warfare

Friendship

Bravery

Loyalty

Spiritual Warfare Spiritual warfare is the Christian concept of fighting against supernatural evil.

CHARACTERS

Lily McKinley

Lily is a young girl grieving the loss of her father when our story begins. At school she is an outcast, and at home she feels just as alone. She does not feel exceptional or useful.

Adam Sykes

Adam is the school bully and therefore Lily's enemy. Like many real-life bullies, Adam's home life is secretly painful.

Daniel McKinle

Daniel is Lily's father. To Lily's knowledge, he went missing while on an expedition and is presumed dead. Lily's father read her great stories throughout her life and always encouraged her to dream.

Cedric

Cedric is sent to visit Lily from another realm. He is a dragon, but wants nothing to do with the stereotypical dragon persona. Cedric is loyal, brave and self-sacrificing at all times.

Eymah

Eymah is the force of evil in The Realm, and also a dragon. Eymah is cunning and crafty. He uses deception to make others weak, and has no regard for love or life.

Pax

Pax is the light of The Realm. He is a unicorn, and while not often seen, he is always watching over Lily and her friends while she visits The Realm

STORYLINE

Lily McKinley is lonely and depressed. Her home life is full of sadness at the loss of her beloved father, Daniel. He has mysteriously disappeared on a journey to Madagascar and is presumed dead. At school, Lily is misunderstood by her peers and, like the rest of the school, is bullied by Adam Sykes. Lily does not think herself to be particularly special, but a surprising visit from a dragon will make her see herself in a new light, while also pointing her to a higher power beyond herself.

This book is about having faith, even when enduring very difficult circumstances. It is about believing that God has equipped each of us to do great things while reminding us that He has already overcome the world on His own.

1 QUESTION ONE

In *The Realm*, both Lily and Adam are reminded of recurring dreams, nightmares and imaginary friends from their past. Do you remember any recurring dreams from your childhood? What would it feel like to see them realized?

2 QUESTION TWO

What kind of creature is Flint? In what ways does he help Lily?

3 QUESTION THREE

Lily's father warns that a traitor lurks within The Council. Who does it turn out to be and how do we find out? Does this character remind you of anyone in The Bible?

4

QUESTION FOUR

What deceptive tactics do the shrouds (and Eymah) use to attempt to win others over to the dark side? Why are they sometimes successful?

5

QUESTION FIVE

Nyssia tells Lily that The Petrified Forest can paralyze you by sensing your greatest fears. What fears are revealed in the forest among Lily and her friends?

6

QUESTION SIX

What do we learn about about Adam's family? Does it make you sympathize with him more? How do you think this experience with Lily will change him going forward (if at all)?

7 QUESTION SEVEN

What reasons do you think Cedric has for not wanting to be associated with dragons? What does Pax have to say about Cedric? How does that reflect the way that Jesus sees us?

8 QUESTION EIGHT

Lily loses several companions throughout the story in painful ways. When Pax arrives to fight Eymah head-to-head, he can bring her friends back from the dead, heal their wounds, and restore them completely. What Biblical truths do you think the author is trying to remind us of? Can you name any specific Bible verses that say something very similar?

9 QUESTION NINE

This book is the first of a series. What predictions can you make for the main characters? Were we given any foreshadowing for how the story might continue? Discuss any clues.
