

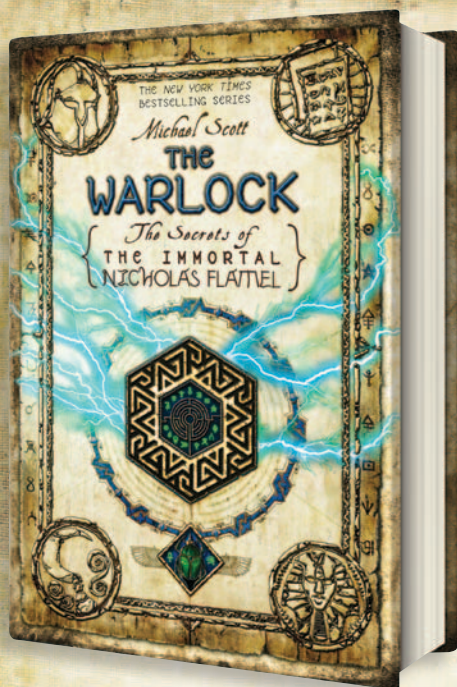
READERS GUIDE

Michael Scott

THE WARLOCK

The Secrets of
{ THE IMMORTAL
NICHOLAS FLAMMEL }





Grades 7 up

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Separated from her twin brother, Sophie Newman must rely on Niten, the warrior, to help her find someone to train her in the final elemental magic—Earth Magic. That training comes from a most unexpected Elder, and Perenelle Flamel taps the auras of Sophie and the same Elder to gain one more day of life for Nicholas. Josh Newman, who has sided with Dr. John Dee and Virginia Dare in their quest for ultimate power, is having doubts about his choice. The mysterious Marethyu has spirited Scathach and her immortal allies back in time to the brink of the destruction of Danu Talis, while Machiavelli and Billy the Kid struggle with their own consciences in the present about destroying the human world. Time is

running out for all the players in this epic struggle as the prophecies and plans of Abraham the Mage come together in the adventures of the twins of legend.

ALSO AVAILABLE:



PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

- ☞ The island of Danu Talis, or Atlantis as it is also known, figures prominently in this volume. Research information about Atlantis—how do we know about Atlantis and what legends have grown up around the name? Do any of the legends have a historical basis?
- ✕ Review the characters from earlier volumes, both Elders and Immortals. Look up information about new characters and creatures introduced in this volume: the anpu, Anubis, Isis, Osiris, Tsagaglalal, Chronos, Hel, and Odin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ♀ In *The Alchemyst*, Scathach says to the twins, “[Nicholas Flamel] is many things—dangerous and devious, cunning and deadly, a good friend and an implacable enemy—but he comes from an age when a man’s word was precious.” As Nicholas nears death in this volume, what does this statement tell you about his interaction with the twins and others in the story?
- ♂ Perenelle writes in Nicholas’s Day Booke: “So it comes down to me, as I have always known it would.” Why do you think Perenelle is the pivotal character in the story?
- ☉ Who are Isis and Osiris and why do they go to find Mars Ultor? Why did Zephaniah imprison Mars so many years ago, and why does she set him free now? What does she mean when she says, “This world needs a warlock again”? (p. 19)
- ♂ Niten says, “Immortality changes the way people think . . . not only about themselves, but about the world around them.” (p. 75) What effect has immortality had on the various characters the twins have encountered? What does Niten mean when he says, “Immortality is what you make of it . . . a curse or a blessing. . . . But if you are brave and curious, then there is no greater gift.” (p. 76)
- ♂ Why does Prometheus make a sacrifice—the destruction of his Shadowrealm and his First People—to help the Flamels? What stake does Prometheus have in the outcome of the battle between Dee and Flamel?
- ⚡ Discuss the phenomenon of auras. What does each character’s unique aura tell you about that character? Dee tells Josh that you can choose the scent of an aura, unless you are gold or silver. What aura would you choose for yourself?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT.)

- ▼ Why is Sophie so distrustful when she discovers the true identity of the woman she once called Aunt Agnes? Why does she distrust Perenelle? “The truth—the cold, bitter truth—was that she simply did not know . . . She couldn’t even distinguish friends from enemies anymore.” (p. 122)
- 8 What does Perenelle tell Sophie that separates the humani from the Elders or Next Generation? Discuss the concept that all choices are made out of love or hate. What are the choices that Sophie and Josh have made that are guided by love or hate?
- ♂ Discuss the concepts of *destiny* and *free will* as they are presented in this story. If Abraham foretold the events 10,000 years before, what was the meaning of his prophecy about the twins—one to save the world and one to destroy it? How do you think free will might play a part in the events to come?
- ✂ Why does Scathach have such a strong desire to see her parents on Danu Talis? Who do you think Scathach and Aoife’s parents might be? Describe the other characters that you know were on Danu Talis before its fall. Why is Marethyu so determined to make sure that the island is destroyed?
- ♂ How does Josh develop a strategy to outwit the Nereids on the boat trip to Alcatraz? What does Virginia Dare mean when she says Josh’s maneuver was “too subtle” for Dee? (p. 158) Later she says that her flute is a “more subtle” instrument than the English doctor’s swords. Compare the methods used by Dee, Dare, and Josh to fight their way out of the destruction of Dee’s headquarters and on to Alcatraz Island.
- ♂ Josh felt that Machiavelli “possessed the humanity that Dee lacked.” (p. 163) What events back up that feeling? Why do Machiavelli and Billy the Kid change their minds about the plan to release the monsters?
- ✂ Discuss the differences between Aten and Anubis. How do these siblings compare to others—Zephaniah and Prometheus, Scathach and Aoife, Tsagaglalal and Gilgamesh, Sophie and Josh? What is the significance of the “change” that affects the Elders living in the past on Danu Talis?
- ♂ Why is Sophie reluctant to let Perenelle tap into her aura to revive Nicholas? What is the power and importance of the scarab beetle that Tsagaglalal uses to help Nicholas?
- ♂ Discuss Machiavelli’s assertion that “it was really only mankind—and their close relatives, the Elders and the Next Generation—that always had the capacity to terrify me.” (p. 188) Why does he consider humans more dangerous than the horrible monsters imprisoned on Alcatraz? What does he mean when he says, “The price of my immortality was my service, but not my soul”? (p. 189)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT.)

- ♂ How has Dr. John Dee changed the original plans of the Elders to take over the earth again? What is Dee's ultimate plan, and how does he expect to carry it out? Why does Virginia Dare stay with him?
- ☽ Discuss the character of Marethyu—what, or who, do you think he is? Why does he ask Aten to betray the city of Danu Talis? Why must Danu Talis be destroyed? What does Scathach feel for him when she sees him weeping after the battle with the anpu?
- ⚡ Who is the warlock of the title, and is there just one? If a warlock is an “oath-breaker,” are there oaths that should be broken? Discuss the phrase from Machiavelli that Billy quotes to him: “The promise given was a necessity of the past: the word broken is a necessity of the present.” (p. 238)
- ♂ Why does Josh decide to stay with Dee and Dare? What is the effect of the sword Clarent on Josh's personality? Would he make different decisions without the sword? What do you think is in Josh's message from Abraham?
- ⚡ Discuss the concept of alternate time lines of history. What does Tsagaglalal mean when she tells Sophie that Abraham and Chronos saw many lines of history and that each one was created by individual decisions. How could individual decisions in this story affect history as we know it? What does Tsagaglalal mean when she tells Sophie to follow her heart?



POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- ▼ What is the mystery surrounding the Newman family? How did Sophie and Josh's parents, Richard and Sara, come in contact with the woman they call Aunt Agnes, and who is the mysterious Aunt Christine that Sophie remembers visiting at Christmas? (p. 195) What are your predictions for the ending of this saga now that more is being revealed about the twins' background? Do you think any of the other characters knew who Josh and Sophie's parents really are?
- ♀ Bastet tells her son Anubis that "Isis and Osiris's loyalty has never been in question," but also that Isis and Osiris have no children of their own. (p. 222) Based on what you learn on the last page of *The Warlock*, what can you predict is going to happen in the last volume? Will Danu Talis fall? Will the Flamels die? What role will Sophie and Josh play in the prophecy: "The two that are one must become the one that is all. One to save the world, one to destroy it? What role do you think each of them will play?"
- ⚡ Virginia Dare quotes her friend Albert Einstein who said that imagination is more important than knowledge. (p. 320) Tsagaglatal tells Sophie that magic is nothing more than imagination and that she must believe to survive. (p. 338) Discuss these concepts in relation to Michael Scott's use of an imaginative story to enhance our understanding of the knowledge and beliefs that have come down to us from many cultures around the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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MICHAEL SCOTT is one of Ireland's most successful authors. He writes for both adults and young adults. A master of fantasy, science fiction, horror, mythology, and folklore, he was hailed by the *Irish Times* as "the King of Fantasy in these isles." He lives and writes in Dublin, Ireland. Learn more about Michael Scott at DillonScott.com

INTERNET RESOURCES

Research the myths—or possible truths—of Atlantis:
www.pantheon.org/articles/a/atlantis.html
www.atlantisquest.com



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