

THE LOST KINGDOM OF BAMARRE

BY GAIL CARSON LEVINE | TEACHING GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

Peregrine strives to live up to the ideal of her people, the Latki—and to impress her parents: affectionate Lord Tove, who despises only the Bamarre, and stern Lady Klausine. Perry runs the fastest, speaks her mind, and doesn't give much thought to the castle's Bamarre servants, whom she knows to be weak and cowardly. To her shock, Perry learns from a fairy that she was born a Bamarre. Only then does Perry see the injustices around her and question Lakti values. Why do the Lakti revel in war? Why do they oppress the Bamarre? Magic and friendship help Perry become a hero for the Bamarre, but will the Lakti—or the vicious monsters she encounters—defeat her before she can free her people?

In this compelling fantasy set in the world of *The Two Princesses of Bamarre*, Newbery Honor-winning author Gail Carson Levine introduces a spirited heroine who must overcome deeply-rooted prejudice—including her own—to heal her broken country.



Grades: 3–7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe Perry and how her understanding of the world changes in the course of the story. What are her strengths and weaknesses? What gives her pleasure? What helps transform her views of the Bamarre and the Lakti? Discuss her name and whether or not it suits her.
2. Contrast Willem and Perry, pointing to differences in their personalities and actions. Why are they good friends? What do they learn from each other? Why do you think Willem, unlike Perry's father, still loves Perry when he learns she's Bamarre?
3. Annet and Perry are both taken from their parents. What does each of them lose because of it? What is Annet's life like as a Bamarre servant? How do her feelings about Perry change and what causes the change? Describe their relationship at the beginning of the book and again at the end.
4. Why do you think Lord Tove hates the Bamarre? Explain how the Lakti justify their tyranny over the Bamarre, giving specific quotes from them. Discuss the benefits and drawbacks to the Lakti of treating the Bamarre as inferior.
5. What is Lady Klausine like and how does she treat Perry? Why do you think she chose a Bamarre child to adopt? How does Lady Klausine change during the story? Describe how she shows her love of Perry and how that differs from her husband's treatment of Perry.
6. In the last line of the book, Perry and Annet cross into their new country and toss their tassels behind them. Why did they have to wear tassels? What are the Beneficences and why did the King introduce them? Define the word *beneficence* and discuss whether it accurately describes what the Lakti put into effect.
7. Explain how the Lakti define courage, drawing from their beliefs and sayings. Does Perry fit their definition? In the end, does Perry change her view of what courage means? Give examples of ways that the Bamarre are courageous and discuss whether their act in the past of welcoming the Lakti into their country showed kindness.
8. "The purpose of war is to create eternal peace," according to the Lakti (p. 90). What does this mean? Does it seem to be working? Would the Bamarre describe their existence under the Lakti as peaceful? Analyze whether the belief behind the saying is why Lord Tove likes to fight.
9. Lay out Perry's plans for the Bamarre rebellion and future, step-by-step. Describe her actions and those of her Bamarre family to advance the rebellion, and the reaction of the Bamarre people. How does Perry deal with Lord Tove in order to meet her goals?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

10. How is poetry important in the book? In what way does it help distinguish Perry from the Lakti? Why do the Lakti have such a low opinion of poetry? What are some of the benefits of poetry as shown in the story?
11. Talk about the role of magic in the story, including the fairy and magical objects. How do the fairy's actions affect the plot? What magic does she perform, and why? How do magical objects aid Perry? Identify elements in the story related to fairy tales.
12. List some roles of females in the Lakti and Bamarre societies, including Lady Klausine's. Did it surprise you that Lakti women are warriors? Based on our society, what roles in the story might be described as "traditional" female roles, and which ones are less traditional? How does Perry differ from princesses in most traditional fairy tales?

Common Core State Standards (Reading Standards for Literature):
RL.4-7.1, RL.4-7.2, RL.4-7.3, RL.4-7.4, RL.4-7.5

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- **POETRY FOR ALL.** Have students choose a few of the poems in the novel and memorize them like Perry does. They should recite the poems to the class, a small group, or the teacher. Then have students write and illustrate their own short poems on subjects related to the novel such as courage, kindness, war, monsters, and so on. Compile the poems into an illustrated class book.
- **WHERE IN PERRY'S WORLD?** As students read the book, have them make notes about the geography that Perry describes, including countries, borders, cities and towns, rivers, mountains, and so on. Then, working in small groups, have students create a map to go with the book, labeling geographical places and features, and adding a legend/key. Display the maps on a bulletin board.
- **WORDS OF WISDOM.** The story is full of short sayings of the Lakti and Bamarre. Have students each choose two sayings and write an essay that explains how they are used in the book, what they mean, and how they might be applied to the student's own life or modern life in general.
- **MAGICAL HELP.** The magical boots and tablecloth help Perry in her journey. Have students each come up with another magical object that could help Perry in her fight against the monsters and in her quest to establish a new kingdom. Students should create a poster with a drawing of the object along with an explanation of its magical qualities and how those qualities would help Perry.
- **TAKE THE STAGE.** The exciting plot of *The Lost Kingdom of Bamarre* lends itself to acting out dramatic scenes. Have groups of two to four students pick a scene from the novel and act it out for the class. The performance should include dialogue and action; a narrator can help set the scene and fill in details. Props and costumes are optional.

Common Core State Standards (Reading Standards for Literature): *RL.4-7.1, RL.4-7.7; (Writing):* *W.4-7.2, W.4-7.3; (Speaking & Listening):* *SL.4-7.1*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo by David Levine

Gail Carson Levine's first book for children, *Ella Enchanted*, was a Newbery Honor Book. Levine's other books include *Ever*, a *New York Times* bestseller; *Fairest*, a Best Book of the Year for *Publishers Weekly* and *School Library Journal* and a *New York Times* bestseller; *Dave at Night*, an ALA Notable Book and Best Book for Young Adults; *The Wish*; *The Two Princesses of Bamarre*; *A Tale of Two Castles*; *Stolen Magic*; and the six Princess Tales books. She is also the author of the nonfiction books *Writing Magic: Creating Stories that Fly* and *Writer to Writer: From Think to Ink*, as well as the picture books *Betsy Who Cried Wolf* and *Betsy Red Hoodie*. Gail and her husband, David, live in a two-centuries-old farmhouse in the Hudson Valley of New York State. You can visit her online at www.gailcarsonlevinebooks.com and at www.gailcarsonlevine.com.

Teaching guide created by Kathleen Odean, librarian, author, and Common Core workshop presenter.