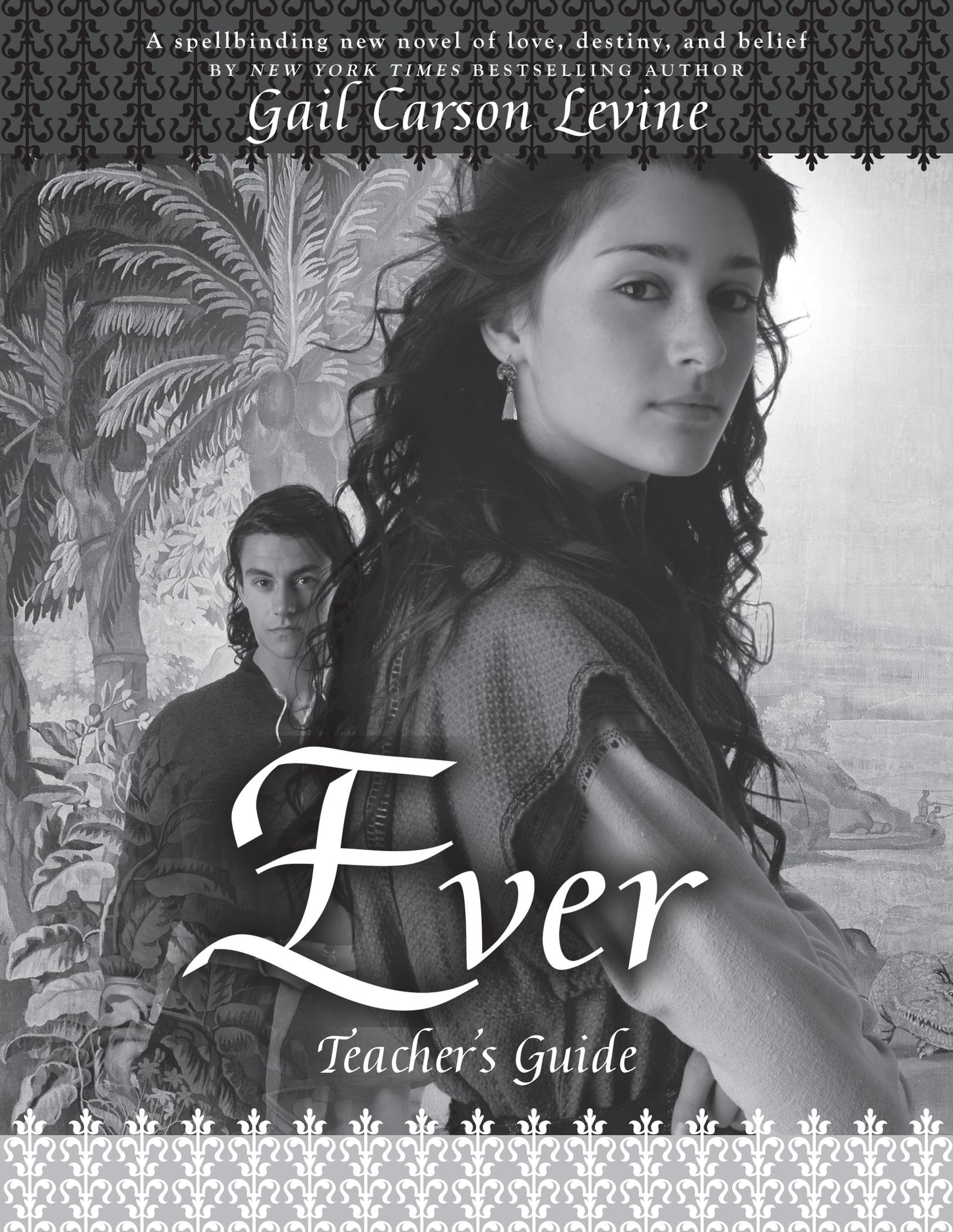


A spellbinding new novel of love, destiny, and belief

BY NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Gail Carson Levine

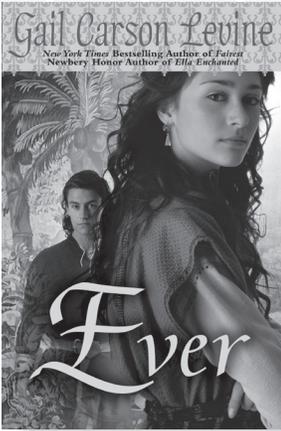


Fever

Teacher's Guide



About the Book



Olus, the youngest of the gods on Enshi Rock, is lonely. While seeking adventure in a faraway land, he falls for Kezi, the lovely and dutiful daughter of a local official. But when Kezi's mother becomes ill, her father promises his god, Admat, that he will sacrifice the first person who offers congratulations if she recovers. The worst happens: That person is Kezi. Olus reveals himself and tells Kezi, who is determined to savor the last thirty days of her life, how she might win immortality. The two embark on a quest that takes them from the underworld to Olus's mountain of the gods, exploring questions of religion, doubt, and love along the way.



Discussion Questions

1. Olus and his mother, Hannu, have very different opinions about mortals. Hannu hurts mortals without realizing it, seeing them as short-lived soap bubbles who aren't worth her trouble. Describe the relationship between humans in Akka and their gods.
2. In chapter 2, Nia says, "A debt unpaid is an open wound. Admat will make it fester." How is this idea explored throughout the story? What debt is Kezi paying by offering herself as a sacrifice, and how do her childhood experiences influence what happens to her as a young woman? To what extent do you think Kezi's life is ruled by fate, and to what extent does she have control over what happens to her?
3. Do you think that Senat did the right thing by keeping his promise and vowing to sacrifice Kezi? Explain.
4. Kezi's vision of an ideal match changes as the story progresses. Imagine what her life would have been like if she had married Elon. Would she have become a different person? How is she transformed by her relationship with Olus? What makes Olus and Kezi a good match?
5. Kezi's uncle Damki's wedding ceremony introduces the theme of taking both the sweet and the bitter, and the people of Hyte believe that everything happens "as Admat wishes." What helps them embrace both sides of the balance? Do you think they are right to thank Admat for everything, both good and bad, that happens to them?
6. Being in love changes people! Olus sees the heroine in Kezi before she knows her own strength, and he faces his fears to become a champion. And loving Olus makes Kezi feel blasphemous: Toward the end of the story, she realizes that she wants Olus more than she wants her god. What implications do these feelings of love have? Do other characters in the story have to make difficult choices because of love?
7. After visiting Wadir, Kezi seems unsure of her faith. In chapter 54, she says, "A believer would have looked longer," and then corrects herself, saying, "No, a believer wouldn't have had to look at all." What do you think she means? Do you agree?
8. How do Kezi's beliefs about Admat change throughout the story?
9. Kezi has a new identity by the end of the story. Do you think it is fitting? If you were going to become a god, what god would you be? What could you offer people that they don't already have?
10. Kezi's pronouncement on human sacrifice is taken as truth by the people of Hyte, and she makes a significant contribution to the laws of Admat. What does Gail Carson Levine suggest by writing this? Where do religious laws come from? Can, and should, an individual be able to alter them?

Curriculum Connections

- 1. The powers of the pantheon.** There are dozens of gods on Enshi Rock, and each has his or her own unique powers, as well as a special relationship with an Akkan city. Find a real example of a patron saint or deity, and describe what people do to honor that figure and what powers they hope their prayers will invoke. (*Social Studies / World Cultures*)
- 2. Where the gods are.** In *Ever*, the gods live apart from Akkan humans on Enshi Rock. Analyze the role of this setting, describing the effects of their separation on the relationship between the gods and mortals. As an extension, research another mythological home of the gods (such as Mount Olympus in Greek mythology) and investigate the connection between that setting and the gods who dwelled there. (*Language Arts / Mythology*)
- 3. Exploring the underworld.** One of the quotes in the opening of this novel comes from a Mesopotamian myth, and the whole book is influenced by images and stories from ancient cultures. Read the story of Ishtar, Persephone, Orpheus, or another mythological character who descends into the underworld. Make a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the story you chose with *Ever*. (*Social Studies / Mythology*)
- 4. Doubting Kezi.** Kezi is hardly the first person to struggle with religious doubt. Investigate the views of philosophers. Do they offer proof for the existence (or not) of a god or gods? Do you find their arguments convincing? Put yourself in your philosopher's head, and write a letter to Kezi telling her what makes you believe (or doubt) that the gods are real. (*Philosophy*)
- 5. Sprouting feathers, changing views.** Reread the sections that take place in Wadir and list sensory details. Using the medium of your choice, make two illustrations: Show what Wadir looks like to Kezi before she drinks the violet liquid and becomes a warki and show what it looks like to her as Eshar. (*Visual Arts*)
- 6. Meaning in movement.** Dancing is crucial for Kezi, and she often improvises dances that express her emotions. Choose one of her dances, select appropriate music, and choreograph a short piece that shows how you think she would have moved in that moment. Be prepared to defend your artistic choices using what you know about Kezi and her culture. (*Performing Arts*)

Creative Writing

- 1. The version you didn't hear.** Gail Carson Levine writes in two voices: that of Kezi and that of Olus. Choose a different voice and retell your favorite part of the story. You could, for example, be young Kudiya as he spends a night rollicking with Olus. Or you could be Puru watching Kezi and Olus dance on Enshi Rock. Does it change the story to tell it from another perspective?
- 2. Taram's tale.** Tell the story of Taram, Kezi's warki friend. Whom is she seeking in Wadir? Will she ever depart, or will she stay wrapped in the illusion that mud is spiced food and dead trees are green, filled with ripening pistachios? What happens to her after Kezi leaves?
- 3. Your own story.** Lucky you: The therka is now in your hand, and you're about to find out whether you will become immortal. What do you wish for? Describe what the gods' drink tastes like and what happens to you as it slides down your throat.
- 4. Words of wisdom.** Religious text is sprinkled throughout the novel, and sayings about Admat are always on Kezi's mind. Create (or choose) three religious sayings, and then tell a story about someone who uses those words of wisdom as a guide when making a difficult choice.

Books by Gail Carson Levine

A S E L E C T E D B I B L I O G R A P H Y

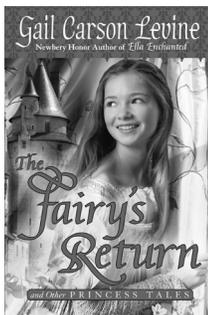


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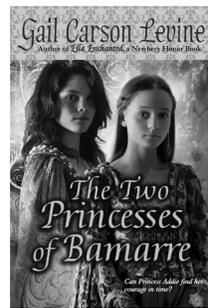
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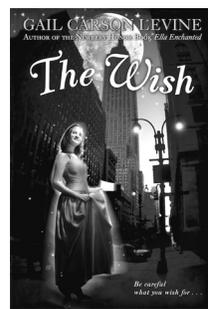
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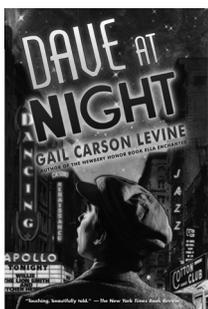
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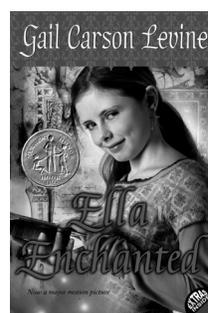
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Questions and activities prepared by Kate Coxon, teacher at San Antonio School in San Jose, California.