



Skandar and the Unicorn Thief

A.F. Steadman

Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions

1. Throughout *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief*, you will meet unicorns with unique names such as New-Age Frost, Whirlwind's Thief, and Red Night's Delight. With the help of an advisor, research famous race horses and their names. Are there any similarities? Take a moment and try to come up with a few unicorn names.
2. One of the main themes of *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief* is friendship as well as the bonds that bring and keep friends together. Describe your best friends. What makes them good friends to have? Are there such things as bad friends?

Post-reading questions

1. At the beginning of the story, we meet Kenna and learn it's difficult for her to talk about unicorns and the Chaos Cup. Why is this? How would you react in Kenna's position? Do you think it hurts her to be happy for Skandar?
2. Describe the relationship between each of the following characters and their parents: Skandar and Kenna, Mitchell, Bobby, Amber, Flo, and Jamie. Why do you think the author decided to include these types of relationships? Can you think of any example from the book of parents supporting or letting down their children? How do each of these disappointments and encouragements shape the character affected by them?
3. Describe unicorns on the Island. How do these unicorns differ from the ones you may have seen or heard of before? How does a unicorn turn into a wild unicorn? Why do wild unicorns look and *feel* the way they do?
4. Why was Skandar not allowed to take the Hatchery Exam and instead was taken to the island by Agatha? What makes him "special"? Why wasn't Kenna helped in the same way?
5. Describe the hatching of unicorns in the Hatchery. How do riders receive their marks? What is unique about Skandar's unicorn's coloring?
6. Discuss this quote from Agatha, "Mainlanders like to think they know all our secrets, but, truth be told, they only know the ones we want to share. You'll soon learn that." How does this quote foreshadow the rest of the book? What does Agatha mean by this? What are some secrets that Skandar will soon learn? Why do you think the Island wants to keep these secrets from the Mainland?
7. What is the significance of Flo's unicorn? Why is she afraid of having Silver Blade and one day joining the Silver Circle? What did Flo want to do instead of becoming a rider?
8. Each rider is allied with an element: air, fire, water, earth, or spirit. Throughout the book, the author mentions character traits that oftentimes match up with a rider's allied element. How does Skandar, Flo, Bobby, and Mitchell's allied elements reflect their personalities? Which allied element would you choose?

Post-reading activities

1. A.F. Steadman has created a magical world that is filled with fantastical imagery. Pick your favorite scene from the book to recreate in an artistic drawing. You could draw a location such as the Eyrie, Fourpoints, or the Mirror Cliffs. Or you could draw your favorite character and their unicorn in action during a sky battle or the Training Trial. Ask your advisor to submit your complete project to the It List Fan Art competition.

2. Take this quiz to discover your unicorn's name and your element:
<https://www.simonandschuster.com/p/skandar#quiz>. Then, write an additional chapter for the book introducing you and your unicorn as characters!

More About This Book

Author's Website: <https://afsteadman.com/>

Publisher Discussion Guide:

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