

Reading Guide



EREWHON



★ About the Author ★



© ASH PHOTOGRAPHY

ARIEL KAPLAN grew up outside Washington, D.C., and spent most of her childhood reading fairy tales and mythology before settling on a deep love for Jewish folklore. She began studying the history of medieval Spain and the Convivencia while working on a Monroe Scholar project at the College of William & Mary, where she graduated with a degree in History and Religious Studies. She is the author of several books for younger readers. *The Pomegranate Gate* is her first fantasy novel.






★ Book Discussion Questions ★

These suggested questions are to spark conversation and enhance your reading of *The Pomegranate Gate*.

1. At one point, the old woman accuses Elena of being completely amoral. Do you think this is a fair assessment?
2. One of the main differences between Mazik and mortal magic is the relative importance of intention. What do you think about this? How important are a person's raw intentions?
3. There is a debate about whether Toba Bet, who was created by magic, is as much a person as the original Toba. Do you think she has as much a claim to personhood as the person who made her?
4. Asmel claims his academic work has always been politically neutral. Do you believe that is true, or is he overstating this? Do you think academic or scientific work is ever politically neutral? Should it be?

- 
5. The Maziks of Ha-Moh'to worked in resistance to the Queen without trying to overthrow her because they believed a new regime might have been even worse. Do you think this was a wise course of action? Was it the most ethical course?
 6. Asmel tells Toba, "There is little in blood but iron and air and water," and she should therefore not be too concerned about her father, but one of the main themes of the novel is legacy and inheritance. How can these ideas be reconciled? How important is lineage? What do we owe our ancestors, if anything?
 7. The Maziks in the novel all share the same dream-space. Toba thinks this sounds terrible, since interacting with Maziks in the dreamworld doubles her chances of social ruin. Naftaly, on the other hand, takes solace in the shared dreams, which are a respite from his feelings of isolation. Would you want to share dreams with the rest of the world? Or would it be better to keep them private?
 8. Would you want to give up the serendipity of dreams you can't control if it meant never having nightmares?
 9. Why do you think the Tobot are as different as they are?
 10. If the characters ever manage to get to Aravoth, what do you imagine they'll find there?
 11. If Elena hadn't been able to conceal Toba from her father, do you think she would become a person like the Courser?

Check Out Erewhon's Recent Titles

