DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

The Wolf and His King

by Finn Longman

These suggested questions are to spark conversation and enhance your reading of *The Wolf and His King*.

- 1. The king's chapters in this book are written in second person, while Bisclavret-the-man's chapters are in third person. How did this difference in perspective shape your experience of both characters? What do you think is the significance of these choices?
- 2. Bisclavret's cousin learned his secret when they were both young. Do you think things would have been different if he had only learned it as an adult? What would your response be, if *your* cousin had a secret like this?
- 3. Do you see any parallels between Bisclavret's transformations and experiences from your own life? Do these similarities affect how you view Bisclavret's attempts to manage his condition?

- 4. Bisclavret is the only character in this book with a name. Did this bother you? How quickly did you notice the absence of names?
- 5. The king is drawn to Bisclavret in part because of his own loneliness and isolation. How might things have been different if the king had not been in exile prior to the start of the novel?
- 6. Religion and faith are important to the worldview of the characters. What do you think is the most impactful aspect of this on how the story unfolds?
- 7. How does the king's relationship with his scribe illuminate his character and his experiences in exile and at court?
- 8. Do you think Bisclavret's wife was justified in her response to learning his secret? Why or why not?

- 9. The king often hesitates to act decisively in moments of danger. What examples of this can you identify? Do you think this is a weakness?
- 10. Before reading this book, how did you imagine the medieval period? Did anything in this novel challenge or subvert these ideas?
- 11. The novel opens with a passage from 'Bisclavret' by Marie de France, followed by lines from a fourth-century Latin poem. What expectations did these epigraphs create for you, and how closely did the book match them? Why do you think they were positioned in this order?
- 12. If Bisclavret lived in the modern day, in what ways would this make his life easier or harder?