



TEACHERS' RESOURCES



Shadow Reaper Lynette Noni

PLOT SUMMARY

The city of Aravell is in peril, plagued by a deadly blackmist and reapers who roam the streets, stealing magic from innocent children. Seventeen-year-old Viridia Solace has trained for years to hunt these reapers who are led by the man who murdered her parents: the Reaper Priest.

When the Priest's most loyal follower, Reeve Ashton, is captured, he offers Viri a chance to avenge her parents . . . for a price. She knows better than to bargain with a reaper, but his offer is too good to resist.

Soon she's breaking him out of prison and following him into the blackmist forest so they can stop the Reaper Priest's plot to doom the city. Viri is staking her life on Reeve's plan, but how can she trust a silver-tongued criminal to keep his word? And how can she trust her own heart when a buried secret could shatter everything?

RECOMMENDED FOR

Ages 15+ (Years 10 to 12)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities: Literacy; Critical and creative thinking; Ethical understanding

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Stunning new epic fantasy duology by bestselling and award-winning Australian author Lynette Noni.
- Perfect example of the fantasy genre – written by an author at the top of her game.

THEMES

- Belonging and identity
- Family and friends
- Power and secrets

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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Shadow Reaper by Lynette Noni

PRAISE FOR SHADOW REAPER:

‘This year’s must-read YA fantasy.’ Rebecca Yarros, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fourth Wing*

‘No one does fantasy like Lynette Noni. Prepare to be obsessed.’ Lauren Roberts, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Powerless*

‘Lynette Noni is a marvellous and inventive storyteller, whose books are absolutely impossible to put down.’ Sarah J. Maas, international bestselling author of *A Court of Thorns and Roses*

ABOUT LYNETTE NONI

Australian author Lynette Noni studied journalism, academic writing, and human behaviour at university before venturing into the world of fiction. She is the #1 bestselling and award-winning author of *The Prison Healer* series, *The Medoran Chronicles*, the *Whisper* duology, and *Wandering Wild*. To date, her books have sold more than one million copies in over 20 countries across the globe.

AUTHOR’S INSPIRATION

Lynette says: The main inspiration came from one of those ‘shower thoughts’ moments when, out of nowhere, an image popped into my mind of an attractive guy leaning against a wall looking like he was waiting for someone. The casualness of his pose intrigued me because, in the image, he was in what appeared to be a dungeon cell, yet he seemed completely unfazed by his situation. I immediately wanted to know more: who was he, why wasn’t he worried about being locked away, and who was he

waiting for (and why)? Those questions marinated in my brain and I worked backwards from there.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

1. Before reading the novel look at the cover – based on the images and design, what do you think the book will be about?
2. How has the designer used special embellishments (foil, gloss) to make the book stand out?
3. Without reading the book’s blurb, write one based on the information you have on the cover. (Don’t forget to read the quote on the front to help with this.)
4. Look at the colours used on the cover. Why do you think they have been chosen? How different do you think this cover would be if they had used green, or yellow instead of red?
5. Research YA fantasy covers. Can you identify a trend within this genre when it comes to cover design?

WRITING STYLE

Lynette Noni writes fantasy novels that contain action, secrets, high emotional stakes and engaging characters.

Questions and activities

1. How does the author create tension throughout the novel? Create a list of the ways she ensures that the reader is invested in Viri’s story and keeps them turning the pages? (E.g. How does she use the chapter breaks to create tension? How does she use language?)
2. How would you describe the style of Lynette Noni’s writing? Do you think it suits this type of story?
3. What makes the style of writing in *Shadow Reaper* different from the writing you’d find in a crime or romance novel? Are there also similarities?
4. Read the first few pages of the story again. How does the author establish the main character



clearly and quickly for the reader? How has she made sure we connect to Viri and want to stay with her on her journey?

5. Look at the glossary and map at the start of the novel. Did these help you while you were reading the narrative? Why do you think novels include these elements?
6. Choose a scene you liked in the novel and write it from one of the secondary characters' points of view. E.g. Jessalyn, Sage or Soren.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Fantasy novels

Fantasy novels have grown in popularity over the last few years, especially in the Young Adult and New Adult markets. But fantasy has been an established genre for a long time.

Questions and activities

1. Research the fantasy genre. Find out what the first fantasy book was and who wrote it. Have you heard of this novel? Is there dispute about what the first fantasy book is? Why do you think this is the case?
2. The rise of BookTok has helped grow the fantasy genre in popularity. When did the BookTok trend begin and why?
3. Research other books Lynette Noni has written. Has she written exclusively in the fantasy genre? Looking at the books she has written, how are they all connected or linked by theme or genre?
4. Authors of fantasy novels often create their own magic system for the world they are writing about. These magic systems often have rules that are established early in the story and demonstrated to the reader. Can you find moments in the first half of the novel where the magic system is explained or demonstrated to the reader? Can you also find a moment when these rules are broken?
5. What makes the magic system in *Shadow Reaper* different to the magic systems in other fantasy novels?

6. How many tropes can you find in the narrative? Make a list and then compare it with a classmate's list. How many differences are there?

Found Family and friends

Questions and activities

1. The theme of 'found family' is popular within the fantasy genre. Why do you think this is so? Can you think of other examples of found family in books you have read? What is it about the fantasy genre that allows this theme to be explored by authors?
2. How does the author demonstrate what Viri's 'found family' is like in a quick and easy way? What else do we learn from this scene?
3. Think about the friendship between Viri and Wynter. Do you think the secrets each have been carrying will change their relationship? How do you think the revelations of these secrets will play out in book two?
4. Reeve has his own found family in the novel. Pick one of his friends: Jonas, Sage or Ardin. Write a scene showing Reeve and your chosen character meeting for the first time.
5. What did you think about the relationship between Reeve and Braedon at the start of the novel? Had those feelings changed by the end?

Power and secrets

Questions and activities

1. Each character is seeking power – in some form – in the novel. In groups, choose a list of ten characters and then discuss the type of power they are each looking for on their journey. Share your thoughts with the rest of the class – do you have different answers for the same characters in some instances?
2. A lot of secrets are being kept by different characters in the story. Do you think it is okay to keep secrets from a friend? Why or why not?
3. Viri and Reeve haven't seen each other in a long time. Do you think it's possible to reconnect with someone after so many years?



4. Which character do you think is keeping the most secrets in the story? Write a journal entry from this character's point of view after one of the major scenes in the book.
5. Re-read the journal entries of Mage Kadmus Castro. Can you find evidence in the journals of Kadmus overreaching and beginning to value power over magic?

KEY QUOTES

1. *"Time to choose, Little Shadow. Will you bargain with a reaper?"* (P105)
What makes this offer so dangerous for Viri?
2. *'Zeranthé says I'm being obtuse, that Tephryn doesn't want to meet about the comets but instead has romantic inclinations. I'm not sure I can trust a dragon's judgment on such matters, nor am I sure how I'll proceed if it turns out she's right.'* (P180)

The author doesn't dwell on the fact that dragons exist in the timeline Kadmus is living in. What do you think has happened to the dragons given that they don't exist in Viri's era? Do you think this might be explored in book two? Why or why not?

3. *"That's alchemy for you," Wynter said with a humble shrug. "Magic can do anything. The only limit is your own imagination."* (P200)

Do you think Wynter is right when she says this? Why do you think she isn't good at traditional methods of healing? Can you find examples of magic being influenced by imagination in the story?

ACTIVITIES

1. The BookTok community has helped with foster the popularity of Book Clubs and book communities. In groups of four or five, create a class book club. Decide how the books will be selected, how often you will get together and how you will run the meetings. (See Worksheet 1 for

questions that you can use for your first meeting using *Shadow Reaper* as your first book.)

2. Fantasy novels are usually rich in world building. In a small group, create your own magical world – set up geographical, magical and societal rules for your world.
3. Draw your own map based on the fantasy world you created in the question above. Don't forget to include any borders, significant settlements and geographical locations you need the reader to be aware of to help them navigate the story.
4. Compare the world of Aravell with that of Mage Kadmus's Elverdine Isle. Write a list of what is different and what is the same. Does this give you any clues as to what might be uncovered in the next book?
5. Write up Viri's mission report from her capture of the reaper in the first chapter. Don't forget to include as much detail as you can, while writing in a professional and formal manner.



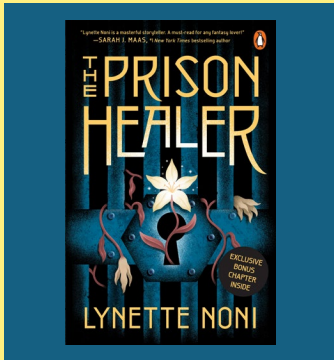
WORKSHEET 1

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR *SHADOW REAPER*

- 1) Who was your favourite character in the story? Why? Is this different to the character you related to most?
- 2) Did you feel there was a particular scene or conversation in the story that made you think 'I'm hooked!'?
- 3) If there was a movie made of *Shadow Reaper*, who do you think would play Viri, Reeve, Braedon and Wynter?
- 4) Did you guess any of the big reveals towards the end of the story?
- 5) What do you think will happen in the next book?
- 6) Would you read other books by Lynette Noni (if you haven't already) and which would you choose?
- 7) Reading the author's biography, how do you think Lynette's background helps with her writing?
- 8) Which was your favourite trope in the book?
- 9) Do you think the cover is a good representation of the story?
- 10) What did you think about the world of Aravell? If you could bring an element of Aravell into our world, what would it be?



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



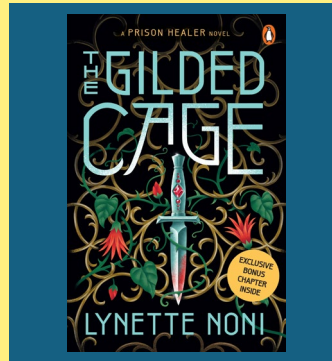
The Prison Healer by Lynette Noni

Seventeen-year-old Kiva Meridan has spent the last ten years fighting for survival in the notorious death prison, Zalindov, working as the prison healer.

When the Rebel Queen is captured, Kiva is charged with keeping the terminally ill woman alive long enough for her to undergo the Trial by Ordeal: a series of elemental challenges against the torments of air, fire, water and earth, assigned to only the most dangerous of criminals.

Then a coded message from Kiva's family arrives, containing a single order: *Don't let her die. We are coming.* Aware that the Trials will kill the sickly queen, Kiva risks her own life to volunteer in her place. If she succeeds, both she and the queen will be granted their freedom. But no one has ever survived.

With an incurable plague sweeping Zalindov, a mysterious new inmate fighting for Kiva's heart, and a prison rebellion brewing, Kiva can't escape the terrible feeling that her trials have only just begun.

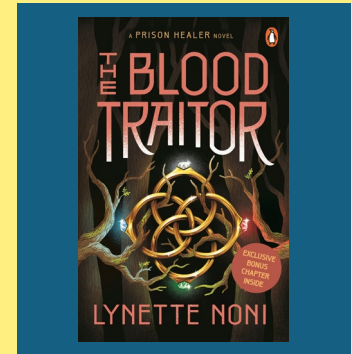


The Gilded Cage by Lynette Noni

Kiva Meridan is a survivor. For the past ten years, her only goal was to reunite with her family and destroy the people responsible for ruining their lives. But now that she has escaped Zalindov, her mission has become more complicated.

Kiva discovers she wasn't the only one who suffered while she was in Zalindov – her siblings and their beliefs have changed, too. Soon it's not just her enemies she's keeping secrets from, but her own family as well.

Outside the city walls, tensions are brewing from the rebels, along with whispers of a growing threat from the northern kingdoms. Kiva's allegiances are more important than ever, but she's beginning to question where they truly lie. To survive this time, she'll have to navigate a complicated web of lies before both sides of the battle turn against her and she loses everything.



The Blood Traitor by Lynette Noni

Kiva thought she knew what she wanted – revenge. But feelings change, people change . . . *everything* has changed.

After what happened at the palace, Kiva is desperate to know if her friends and family are safe, and whether those she wronged can ever forgive her. But with the kingdoms closer to the brink of war than they've ever been, and Kiva far away from the conflict, more is at stake than her own broken heart.

A fresh start will mean a perilous quest, forcing mortal enemies and uneasy allies together in a race against the clock to save not just Evalon, but all of Wenderall. With her loyalties now set, Kiva can no longer just survive - she must fight for what she believes in. For *who* she believes in. But with danger coming from every side, and the lives of everyone she loves at risk, does she have what it takes to stand, or will she fall?



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>Shadow Reaper</i>	Lynette Noni	9781761350986	10+	\$27.99		
<i>The Prison Healer</i>	Lynette Noni	9781761043246	10+	\$19.99		
<i>The Gilded Cage</i>	Lynette Noni	9781760897529	10+	\$19.99		
<i>The Blood Traitor</i>	Lynette Noni	9781760897550	10+	\$19.99		
TOTAL						

NAME: _____
SCHOOL: _____
ADDRESS: _____
STATE: _____
POSTCODE: _____
TEL: _____
EMAIL: _____
ACCOUNT NO.: _____
PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____

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