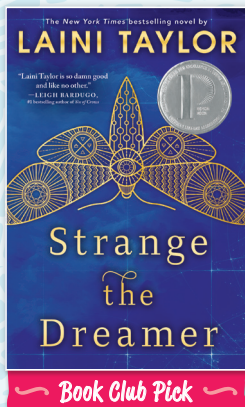


## Strange the Dreamer by LAINI TAYLOR

**MICHAEL L. PRINTZ HONOR BOOK • NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**



### ABOUT THE BOOK:

The dream chooses the dreamer, not the other way around—and Lazlo Strange, war orphan and junior librarian, has always feared that his dream chose poorly. Since he was five years old, he's been obsessed with the mythic lost city of Weep, but it would take someone bolder than him to cross half the world in search of it. Then a stunning opportunity presents itself, in the form of a hero called the Godslayer and a band of legendary warriors, and Lazlo has to seize his chance or lose his dream forever.

What happened in Weep two hundred years ago to cut it off from the rest of the world? And who is the blue-skinned goddess who appears in Lazlo's dreams?

The answers await in Weep.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Lazlo spends his childhood and adolescence with his nose in books. How does Lazlo's life in books prepare him for his extraordinary journey and the world outside the library?
2. Sarai says, "Good people do all the things bad people do, Lazlo. It's just that when they do them, they call it justice" (page 372). Many characters in *Strange the Dreamer* can be described as both heroic and villainous. Minya is cruel, but how is she also heroic? Is Thyon evil? Eril-Fane killed babies. Is he evil? Was the good these characters created worth the bad things they had to do to achieve it?
3. "And that's how you go on. You lay laughter over the dark parts. The more dark parts, the more you have to laugh. With defiance, with abandon, with hysteria, any way you can" (page 135). This is how the godspawn endure life in the citadel. How do the other characters in the book lay laughter over the darkness?
4. Eril-Fane is described as "a great man, and also a good one" (page 69). What is the difference between "good" and "great"? How do these terms apply to him? How do they apply to other characters in the book?
5. Sarai's moths and Lazlo's books allow those characters to experience life from a distance. How does that distance affect their hopes and dreams? How does it affect their relationship with each other?
6. What do you think the eliliths represent? What do you think the color blue signifies?
7. The libraries of Zosma, Weep, and the citadel are beautiful places that are full of sadness. How does this description reflect the themes of the book?
8. Most chapters follow either Lazlo or Sarai. What do their different points of view bring to the story? What do the other characters' points of view add?
9. Why do you think Lazlo and Sarai fall in love so quickly?
10. Were you surprised when Feral and Ruby developed a relationship, despite Sparrow having feelings for him? Who do you think is the better match for Feral?
11. What parallels can you make between things that happen in the novel and things happening in the world today?
12. How does Lazlo change on this journey? How will his new identity shape his journey moving forward? How does Sarai transform over the course of the book?
13. At the end of the book, what monsters still need to be conquered to reach a harmonious end? In real life, is a harmonious end even possible?