

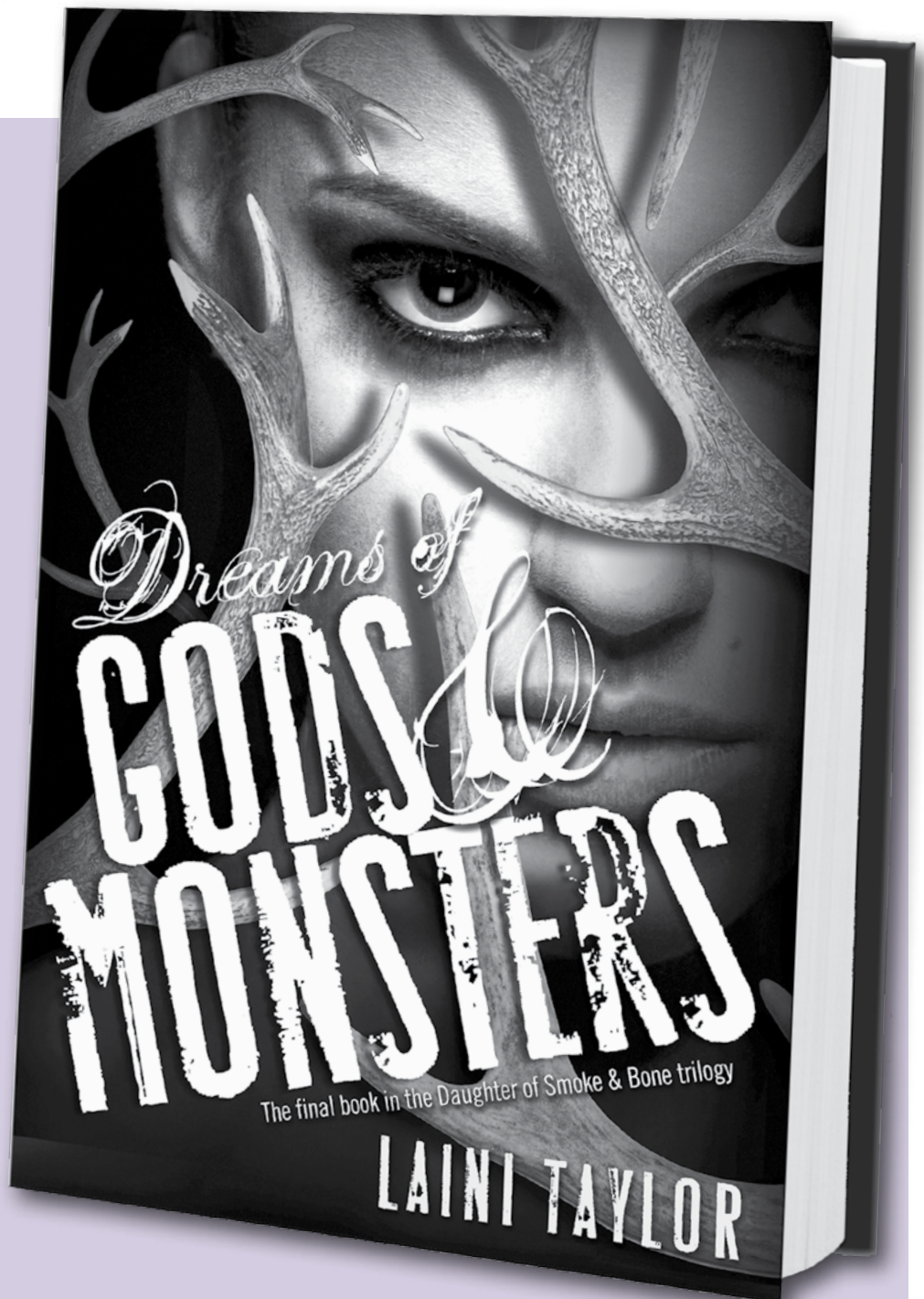
# *Dreams of* **GODS & MONSTERS**

## Curriculum connections

- ❖ Literature
- ❖ Folklore
- ❖ Art

Ages 15 & Up

By  
**Laini Taylor**



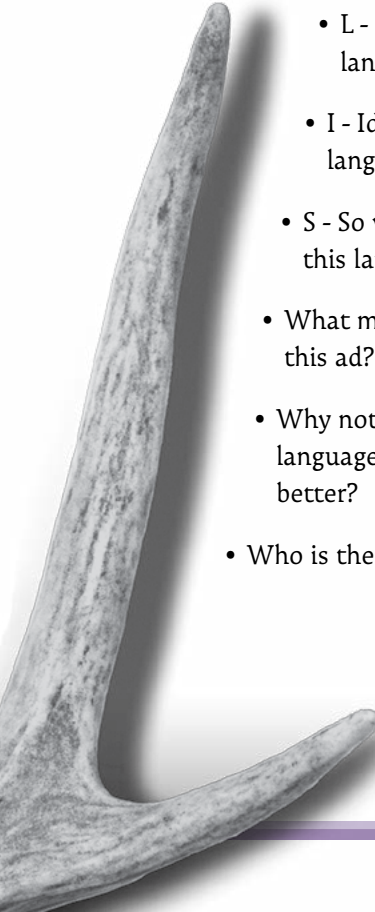
## CONSIDERING DREAMS OF GODS & MONSTERS THROUGH LITERARY ELEMENTS ANALYSIS

Use the following activities to allow students to show their understanding of various literary elements in the novel.

### Figurative Language Scavenger Hunt

Taylor infuses her story with rich, figurative language. In order to take figurative language to the analytical level, students must be given the opportunity to determine the reason for an author's choice of figurative language and its effect on the audience. Begin by having students practice discovering and identifying figurative language. Model the following lesson.

- Give students a variety of magazines from which to choose so that they may explore advertisements and cut them out.
- Explain to students that figurative language is not just used in fictional text. In fact, it is used frequently in the copy of advertisements. Have students find a pre-determined number of examples of figurative language in the copy of advertising text.
- In order to fully analyze the figurative language, students must LIST them.

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- L - Label (What type of figurative language did you find?)
  - I - Identify (Quote the actual figurative language written in the text.)
  - S - So what? (So what's the big deal with this language?)
  - What makes this language effective in this ad?
  - Why not choose a *different type* of figurative language? Would something else work better?
  - Who is the intended audience?

- What effect would this figurative language have on the audience?
- Is this an appropriate effect?
- What is the author's overall purpose of this ad?
- How does using the device help or hurt the author's overall purpose?
- T - Talk (Share your analysis with the others in the class in order to model analytical thinking.)

Finally, place students in small groups and assign each group a specific chapter in *Dreams of Gods & Monsters* to analyze examples of figurative language (similes, metaphors, hyperbole, and personification). Allow them to creatively display their findings.

### Character Report Card


Ask students to examine the ethical nature of a character's actions and choices in the book. Have them set up a "report card" using a chart and include the following four categories: respect, responsibility, cooperation, kindness, integrity, self-control, honesty, and effort. Using evidence from the novel, have them assign a grade for each category. In addition, have them cite the specific incident from the book which they graded in one column, and also provide feedback to the character under a "comments" section.

### Advice Column

Ask students to describe one of the problems faced by one of the characters and write advice to him/her. Students may choose to be serious or humorous. Use the letter format common to newspaper advice columns, where the person with the problem writes for advice and the advisor writes back. Often the person seeking advice "disguises" his or her name with a descriptive name associated with the problem.

### Fortune Cookies

Have students imagine they are dining with three characters from the book. Have them create fortune cookie statements for each character, making sure they tell you which character received the fortune and why it is fitting.



### Gift Giving

Have students select five or more gifts that would be perfect to give to one of the characters; while these gifts can be tangible or intangible, they should be things that he/she would really want or need. Be sure an explanation for the gift and why it is appropriate is attached.

### Facebook Page

Select a character of your choice and create a faux Facebook page for that character, being sure to complete all the pertinent information, like education, relationships, groups to follow, pages to like, as well as 2-3 status updates.

### If These Walls Could Talk

Ask students to create a conversation between a character in the book and some intangible thing (justice, love, goodness, greed, etc.) or his/her conscience. Have them script the conversation for dialogue, making sure they use appropriate punctuation.

### Character Diary Entry

Given the rich narration, readers are offered great insight about the characters from the events of the novel. Assume the role of one of the secondary characters and draft a diary entry detailing what you experienced and witnessed. To prepare, create an outline using the five W's (who, what, when, where, and why). Remember to write in first person and give special attention to sensory imagery (what you saw, smelled, heard, etc.)

### Journal Response

Throughout *Dreams of Gods & Monsters*, many characters exhibit acts of bravery. Consider the individual actions of these characters. Who do you believe to be the most courageous? Write a letter to that character explaining why you believe his/her actions are so brave?

### Create Original Inspired Art from the Book

Previews of coming attractions in the movie industry are known as trailers. Design an original book trailer for *Dreams of Gods & Monsters*. Begin by creating a storyboard, detailing which scenes you intend to incorporate in your trailer. Use a moviemaker program such as Animoto.com. Post your finished trailers on Youtube.

Music is often used to connect people to each other and the world at large. Select a favorite character and create an original playlist that is representative of the experiences that character undergoes throughout the novel. Create original art for the playlist and include appropriate artist information, as well as an explanation for the selection of each song.

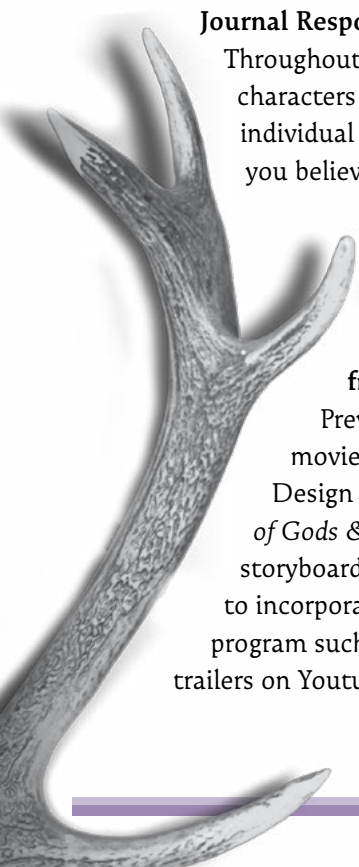
Using a variety of mediums, create an original piece of art which is symbolic of one of the major themes of *Dreams of Gods & Monsters* (these may include but are not limited to the following: love, family, friendship, sacrifice, or loyalty).

## EXPLORING DREAMS OF GODS & MONSTERS THROUGH WRITING AND REFLECTION

The following questions may be utilized throughout the study as reflective writing prompts, or alternatively, they can be used as targeted questions for discussion and reflection.

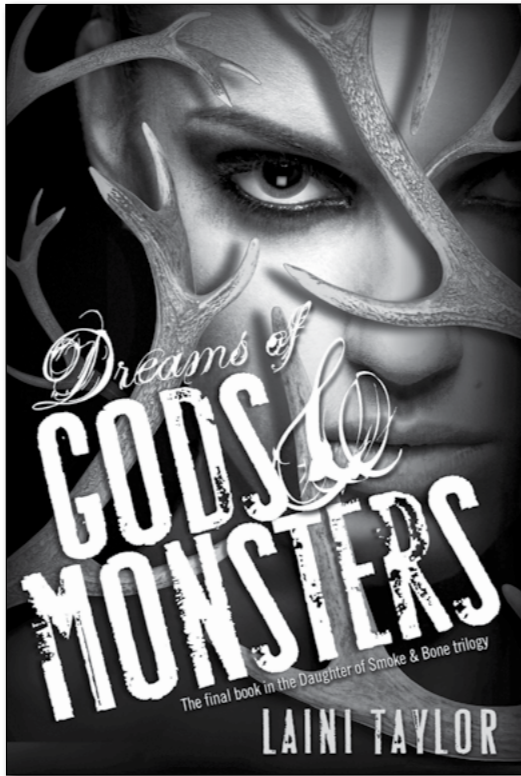
### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- As *Dreams of Gods & Monsters* opens, Eliza states, "It was just a dream. It was just a dream. I'm okay." Based on her statement, what can be inferred about Eliza's dreams? What makes them so terrifying? What does the pervasive nature of them suggest?
- Why is it ironic that Eliza has a roommate named Gabriel? How does he show his compassion toward her?
- How would you characterize the relationship between Karou and Liraz, and how does it change over the course of the novel?
- In *Dreams of Gods & Monsters*, the frustration Karou feels about her life and relationship with Akiva motivates and incapacitates her. Consider how she deals with her frustrations. In what ways does she acknowledge them? Is she able to turn to others for help? What are the consequences of her reactions?
- Akiva tells Karou, "We can fight them together. I have an army, too." What makes his offering so extraordinary? What are the challenges in making such an alliance?



- Explain the significance of the title, *Dreams of Gods & Monsters*. How does it accurately describe the events and relationships portrayed in the novel?
- What role does Akiva play for the Stelians? Why do they want him to “come home”? How does learning about his relationship to the Stelians change Akiva?
  - What role does art play in Karou’s life? How has she used her drawings as a means of coping with her earthly world?
- Thiago/Ziri tells Liseth, “I’ve given my order. Was I less than perfectly clear?” In your opinion, what makes the deception that Ziri commits with the help of Karou so challenging? What is ultimately at stake if they are found out?
- As Eliza’s story unfolds, readers learn more about her unusual life with her family. Based on what you discover, are you surprised she has tried to escape from this reality? In your opinion, has she made the right decision? Why or why not? How would you describe the rest of Eliza’s family?
- Describe Liraz. What makes her a dynamic character? What are three things that you find most (or least) appealing about this character? What are the biggest challenges she has to overcome? In your opinion, what is the catalyst that makes her character evolve?
- Issa tells Karou, “You see, child? Your heart is not wrong.” What does she mean by this statement? In what ways is the alliance a new beginning for everyone?
- Explain why Eliza’s feels her research fellowship at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History to be so important. Why do you think Dr. Chaudhary selects her to accompany him on his research?
- *Dreams of Gods and Monsters* is told in third person point of view. In your opinion, would changing the point of view make the story better or worse? Why? Would it offer the same emotional impact?
- Karou gives The Shadows That Live to the rebellion as a secret weapon. What is so risky about this particular choice of hers?
- Sacrifice is a major theme throughout the novel; offer specific examples where a character’s willingness (or unwillingness) to sacrifice himself proves advantageous or disastrous to the individual and the group as a whole.
- Describe Zuzana. Is she the type of friend you’d like to have? Why or why not? In what ways has she shown her devotion to Karou?
- Throughout the novel, readers witness the complexities of the various relationships among the characters. Consider whose relationship seemed most similar to one of your own personal relationships. What about it reminded you of your experiences?
- When Karou tells Thiago/Ziri that he’s extremely convincing at acting like the White Wolf, he begs her, “Don’t forget. Not ever. Not for a second.” Why is it so important to him that she remember who he really is? What does Ziri’s sacrifice mean to the collective group?
- Consider the novel’s cover. In what ways are the images symbolic for the events that transpire throughout the course of the book?
- If you could select one character in the novel to learn more about, who would it be? What is it about this particular character you found interesting or intriguing?
- Liraz fearfully asks Karou, “Does water, moving water, does it...hasten...evanescence?” What does her concern about preserving Ziri’s soul indicate? What do you predict will happen between Liraz and Ziri in the future?
- The settings for *Dreams of Gods & Monsters* are critical components of the novel; name the places you believe to be most important to the story. Using textual evidence from the book, explain why you find them to be significant to the overall story structure.
- Describe Ester Van de Vloet and Razgut; in what ways are these two the perfect lifetime companions for each other?
- What lessons do the angels and chimaera learn from each other? Do you believe both sides benefit equally from their choice to join forces to defeat Jael?
- Using the phrase “This is a story about...” supply five words to describe *Dreams of Gods & Monsters*. Explain your choices.

## about the book



HC: 978-0-316-13407-1

Also available in downloadable audio and e-book formats

In this thrilling conclusion to the Daughter of Smoke & Bone trilogy, Karou is still not ready to forgive Akiva for killing the only family she's ever known.

When a brutal angel army trespasses into the human world, Karou and Akiva must ally their enemy armies against the threat and larger dangers that loom on the horizon. They begin to hope that it might forge a way forward for their people. And, perhaps, for themselves – maybe even toward love.

From the streets of Rome to the caves of the Kirin and beyond, humans, chimaera, and seraphim will fight, strive, love, and die in an epic theater that transcends good and evil, right and wrong, friend and enemy.

## PRAISE FOR DREAMS OF GODS & MONSTERS

★ “The twists and turns of the dense plot deepen the complexity and the danger, leading to a potential apocalypse.... The story is borne along by an increasingly strong undercurrent: the hope of overcoming embedded prejudices and instinctual hatreds to create a more harmonious world.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“New revelations, characters, multiple love stories, and constant plot twists and suspense will not disappoint Taylor’s many fans, who will also appreciate the novel’s subtle philosophical undercurrents about racial harmony and the profound difficulty of making choices that reconcile duty, the greater good, and personal happiness.”

—*Booklist*

“Delicious.... An ambitious, gorgeously edgy drama lit up by its coruscating characters and prose.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

## about the author



Laini Taylor

Laini Taylor is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Daughter of Smoke & Bone*, *Days of Blood & Starlight*, *Dreams of Gods & Monsters*, the e-novella *Night of Cake & Puppets*, the Dreamdark books: *Blackbringer* and *Silksinger*, and the National Book Award-finalist *Lips Touch: Three Times*. She lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband, illustrator Jim Di Bartolo, and their daughter, Clementine. Her website is [LainiTaylor.com](http://LainiTaylor.com).



also by *Laini Taylor*



HC: 978-0-316-13402-6  
PB: 978-0-316-13399-9

Also available in  
downloadable audio and  
e-book formats

★ “Innovative, character-driven fantasy with thematic depth...”  
—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* (starred review)

★ “Lush description of a gothic and ghostly Prague beckons readers from the first page and fulfills its promise, leading to a star-crossed romance that spans worlds and transcends death.... Leaves the reader both satisfied and eagerly anticipating a forthcoming sequel.”  
—*The Horn Book* (starred review)

★ “Rarely – perhaps not since the author's own *Faeries of Dreamdark: Blackbringer* (2007) – does a series kick off so deliciously.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

★ “A masterful mix of reality and fantasy with cross-genre appeal. Exquisitely written and beautifully paced.”  
—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ “The suspense builds inexorably, and the philosophical as well as physical battles will hold action-oriented readers. The unfolding of character, place, and plot is smoothly intricate, and the conclusion is a beckoning door to the next volume.”  
—*School Library Journal* (starred review)



HC: 978-0-316-13397-5  
PB: 978-0-316-13398-2

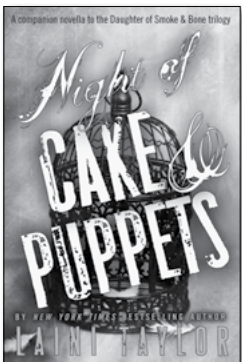
Also available in  
downloadable audio and  
e-book formats

★ “A satisfying feast all on its own.”  
—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* (starred review)

★ “The future of Karou, her ill-fated romance with Akiva, and the survival of both of their races await readers in the concluding volume; it promises to be a doozy.”  
—*The Horn Book* (starred review)

★ “Taylor’s dazzling writing and skill at creating suspense are strong as ever; fantasy lovers will gobble up this book with satisfaction.”  
—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

★ “Taylor manages to make a five-hundred-page epic read at a breakneck speed that will have readers struggling to finish in one sitting.... Will paradoxically satisfy readers’ desire for more of Karou’s story while leaving them begging for the third installment.”  
—*Voices of Youth Advocates* (starred review)



ebook: 978-0-316-36985-5

Also available in downloadable audio

In this stand-alone companion novella, author Laini Taylor brings to life a night only hinted at in the *Daughter of Smoke & Bone* Trilogy—the magical first date of fan-favorites Zuzana and Mik. Told in alternating perspectives, it's the perfect love story for fans of the series and new readers alike.

