

STUDY GUIDE
TO
Shawn L. Bird's
GRACE AWAKENING DREAMS
&
GRACE AWAKENING POWER

for use by book clubs and educators

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MYTH:

1. What are the traditional myths associated with each of these characters? How does knowing the myths connect or expand your understanding of the events in *Grace Awakening*?

- AGLAEA- a Grace, her name means beauty
- ALEXANDER- alternate name for Paris, love of mythic Helen of Troy
- ALEXANDER THE GREAT (aka ALEXANDROS OF MACEDONIA) conqueror of Greece, the Middle East and India.
- APOLLO- god of prophecy and oracles, healing, plague and disease, music, song and poetry, archery, and the protection of the young.
- ARES- Greek God of War
- ASKELPIOS- god of medicine and healing
- CHARIS- a Grace
- CHARITES- The Three Graces, who inspire happiness, joy, beauty, dance and song.
- CONCORDIA- Roman goddess of agreement and understanding, including cosmic and marital harmony
- CYCLOPS- race of fierce giants with one eye. Known for building fortresses and for metal craft, including both beautiful jewellery and weapons
- ENYO- goddess of war
- EPIALTES- god of healing
- ERATO- muse of love poetry
- ERINYS- Greek name of the Furies, goddesses of retribution
- ERIS-sister of Ares. Goddess of strife and discord
- EROS- god of love
- EUPHROSYNE- a Grace, her name means charm or radiance
- EURIDICE- a nymph, wife of Orpheus who died when she was bitten by a

serpent

- GORGONES- three powerful, evil monster women with serpentine hair
- GRACES- in Greek the Three Graces were known as Charites (KAYR-ee-
tess) (singular is a Charis (KAYR-iss))
- KHARON- boatman on the River Styx who ferried the souls of the dead
into the Underworld (also known as Charon)
- LETHE- goddess of forgetfulness and oblivion
- LIMNADES- Naiades or spirits of freshwater lakes
- MARS- Roman God of War
- MEMOSYNE- goddess of memory
- MOIRAE- the Fates who control the destiny of mankind. They weave the
lives into a tapestry.
- MOUSAI- The nine muses who inspired artists:
 - Erato, erotic poetry;
 - Euterpe, lyric poetry;
 - Kalliope, epic poetry;
 - Kleio, history;
 - Melpomene, tragedy;
 - Ourania, astronomy;
 - Polyhymnia, religious hymns;
 - Terpsikhore, choral song and dance;
 - Thaleia, comedy.
- NEMESIS- the goddess of indignation against, and retribution for, evil
deeds and undeserved good fortune. She was a personification of the
resentment aroused in men by those who committed crimes with apparent
impunity, or who had inordinate good fortune
- ORPHEUS- son of Apollo, a God of poetry and music; so faithful to his
wife that he followed her into the Underworld upon her death to bring her
back
- PERITAS- the dog of Alexander the Great. He was likely a Molossus, an
ancestor of the current Mastiff breeds. His name means "January" in

Macedonian. When Peritas died saving Alexander in battle on the campaign to India, Alexander named a city after him.

- **STHENNO**- a Gorgon
- **THALIA**- a Grace, her name means joy or happiness
- **ZEUS**- leader of the Greek gods, who made their home on Mt. Olympus

MUSES vs GRACES

2. What are the differences between Muses and Graces?

LOVE

3. In Greek there are six different words for conveying aspects of love. Each of these aspects is represented by a (male) character in *Grace Awakening*. Which character represents which aspect? How?

Storge- -love of family

Philia- -brotherly love

Agape- -sacrificial love

Eros- -sexual desire

Thelema- -desire for success

Xenia- -love of strangers, hospitality

4. What are some of the classical themes or motifs which occur in *Grace Awakening*?

5. Most of the gods or goddesses in *Grace Awakening* are Greek, but Romans are represented.

- a) What is the difference between the goddesses of marital harmony Concordia (Roman) and Harmonia (Greek)?
- b) Why do you think the author chose Concordia over Harmonia?
- c) The gods of war Ares (Greek) and Mars (Roman) are each represented in the story. Why are they two distinct characters? What is the difference between them?

POETRY:

1. Explore each of the following poetic devices and poetry forms. How are they used in the story? How effective is the use of poetry for adding information or atmosphere to the story? How do the poems connect to character development?

a) Greek epic form (the quatrain that opens each chapter)

- Dactylic hexameter
- Spondee
- Trochee
- Caesura

b) Petrarchan (Italian) Sonnet "Sonnet for Grace"

- Iambic pentameter
- Rhyme scheme
- Alliteration
- Consonance
- Parallel structure
- Metaphor
- Volta

c) Vers libre (free verse) "When I look at you"

- Alliteration
- Consonance
- Assonance
- Personification
- Metaphor

d) Terza rima "Eternity is today"

Iambic tetrameter

Parallel structure

Rhyme scheme

Hyperbole

Alliteration

Assonance

Consonance

Personification

Oxymoron

Metaphor

2. How is *Grace Awakening* similar to an allegory? How is it different from an allegory?

NOVEL(S):

Character:

1. Each of the main character's names reveals something about him/her. Using a baby name book or website, determine each name's meaning and explore how this reflects the character's role and/or personality.
 - Grace Severin
 - Blythe Severin (aka Thalia)
 - David Severin
 - Benjamin Butler
 - Lloyd Isaac
 - Crystal Visions of Rainbows (aka Christie)
 - Claire
 - Bright Nicholas (aka Euphrosyne)
 - James (Jim) Nichols
 - Joshua Wyatt Ames Dagan
 - Marco Diguerra (aka Mars)
 - Alexander Megas (aka Alexandros)
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Christie and Claire.
3. Describe Grace.
4. Bright's decision essentially sets in motion all the events of the story. How does her decision impact others? What is her motivation?
5. Consider The Three Graces aka Grace's mother and aunts. How do they remain true to their mythical origins? How have they been modernized?

Point of view:

6. Most of the novel is written in first person narration. What scenes are the exceptions? What is the reason for this shift in point of view? How does it impact the reader's experience?

Setting:

7. *Grace Awakening Dreams* is set in Calgary. Chinook winds, The Calgary Tower, Fish Creek Park, and the LRT are key Calgarian components. *Grace Awakening Power* is set in the Shuswap. The SABNES trail, Enderby Cliffs, and Shuswap Lake are key Shuswap locales. Does including local settings add anything to the story? How important is it to include familiar places when the setting is a real place?
8. Describe The Other Realm. What is its role in the series?
9. Grace and Ben have memories that span history. How is time important/unimportant to them?

Plot:

10. What is the main conflict of each book?
11. Grace finds herself in a series of difficulties, but is rarely rescued by the males who think they are her protectors. Examine several of her danger moments. How is she escaping the danger? What skills is Grace developing?
12. What was the greatest moment of tension for you? Would you have done what Grace did?

METHODS:

Students can respond to assigned questions in a variety of ways:

- poster
- letters between characters
- setting maps
- skit
- interview
- video game show
- pod cast
- video book trailer
- board game
- outdoor wide game
- dance video
- graphic organizer
- essay
- power point
- blog post
- story diagram
- Venn diagram
- poetry
- photo series
- slide show
- dance routine
- mural
- tableaux
- role play
- video talk show

etc