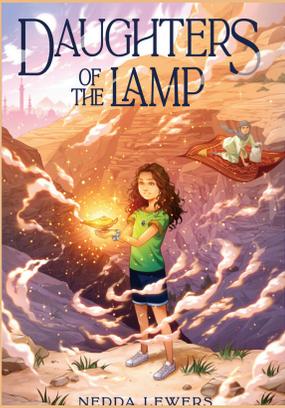


Educator's Guide for Daughters of the Lamp



About the Book

Percy Jackson meets Arabian fairy tales in this stunning middle grade fantasy debut about a girl who becomes the guardian of Ali Baba's legendary treasure.

About the Author

Nedda Lewers is a national bestselling author and a proud former teacher. She writes books that take children on fun adventures and feature characters who are trying to make sense of the big, complicated world and their place in it. Even though it wasn't easy growing up with one foot in America and the other in Egypt, Nedda cherishes how that experience has given her a rich and expansive perspective from which she draws to write her stories.



How to Use This Guide



Read Aloud: Pause for "Stop & Talk" questions and Quick Writes



Small Groups: Use the literature circle roles and discussion sets

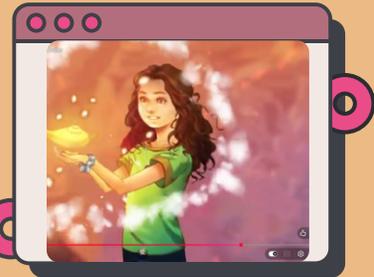


Independent Reading: Assign checkpoint questions and response activities

Before Reading



Book Trailer
[Watch here](#)



Author Intro
[Watch here](#)

Research

Research Prompt: In *Daughters of the Lamp*, Sahara learns that stories she thought were just folktales are connected to real magic and her family's history. Folktales were often shared out loud long before they were written down. They were used to teach lessons and pass down culture and history. Choose one folktale from below and research where it comes from and what it teaches.

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

Aladdin and the Magic Lamp

Prince Ahmed and the Fairy Peri-Banu

Themes

Daughters of the Lamp centers around these particular themes

Identity and heritage

Family relationships

Legacy

Power

Courage and responsibility

Truth and Secrecy



Discussion Questions

Pre-Reading

1. **Picture/Title Talk.** What predictions can you make based on the cover and the title? Now read the back of the book. Have your predictions changed? How?
2. **Prior Knowledge.** The main character Sahara is both Egyptian and American. She lives in New York with her dad and visits her family in Egypt in the book. What things do you know about New York? How about Egypt?

Part 1 (Flight)

1. **Describe** Sahara. Name two things that we learn about her and her family.
2. What is Sahara upset about? Why is it so important to her?
3. Who is Morgana? What happens to her?
4. What gift does Sahara's aunt, Amitu, give to her and why?
5. **Make a prediction.** What do you think will happen to Sahara and Morgana?

Part 2 (New Lands)

1. How does Sahara feel when she first gets to Egypt? Does this change?
2. Who are the new family members that Sahara meets? Describe them.
3. **Connection:** What is Fanta's real name? Do you have a nickname or know anyone who has a nickname?
4. **Connection:** Sahara constantly wonders how two places (both New York and Egypt) could be her home? Have you ever felt like more than one place could be considered home?
5. What is the significance of Sahara's name? Why is it important?
6. What treasures does Morgana smuggle away and why does she have to protect them?
7. Who is El Ghoula and what does Naima think she did?
8. What two crimes happen during this part in the book? How does Kitmeer play a part in one of the crimes?
9. Sahara believes in logic and science. How is her cousin, Naima, her opposite?
10. **Make a prediction.** Do you think El Ghoula is who Naima thinks she is? Why or why not?

Part 3 (The Wedding)

1. What is a laylat el henna? What happens at the one for El Ghoula?
2. Who is Umm Zalabya and what does she tell Sahara to remember?
3. What magical item does Morgana lose? How does she lose it?
4. What do Sahara and Fanta have to do to get around Mustafa Fouad?
5. Who makes up the magical trio that finds Morgana? What do they tell her?
6. Why do Naima and Sahara try to stop El Ghoula and Khalu Omar's wedding? What do they think El Ghoula did?
7. **Make a prediction:** At the end of this part of the novel, Sittu and Khaltu find Sahara and Naima down in the chamber. Sittu says that it's time for the truth about their family. What do you think that truth will be?

Part 4 (The Chamber)

1. How do the magic trio lock the lamp? How does Morgana feel about this?
2. What is Sahara's family secret? Who in the family is allowed to know?
3. How does El Ghoula get the lamp?
4. How do Sahara and her crew get to el Borg?
5. Who is the real El Ghoula, and what happened to Noora?
6. How does Sahara prevent El Ghoula from opening the lamp?
7. Sahara says her mom has been helping all along. How was she helping?
8. **Reflection:** Do you agree with the ending of the story? Would you have ended it differently?

Family Glossary

Sittu: Grandmother

Giddu: Grandfather

Amitu: Aunt on father's side

Khaltu: Aunt on mother's side

Khalu: Uncle on mother's side

Writing Prompts

Creative writing: Choose a favorite character from a fairy tale or folktale and write a story that includes that character in the modern world.

Describe a scene where Sahara is brave.

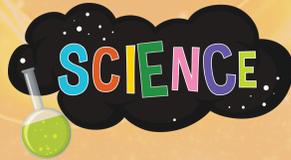
What makes it brave? Write about a time when you were brave.

Different POV: Rewrite one scene from Naima's point-of-view or from El Ghoula's point-of-view

Cross-Curricular Connections

Social Studies

Explore Egypt through maps, landmarks, and culture. Discuss how setting shapes a story.



Explore the scientific terms that are introduced in the book including the scientific method and pulleys.



Design an alternate cover using symbols from the story. Students write an artist statement explaining their choices.

Creative Extension Activities



Clue Tracker Board: Create a class board with three columns (Clue/What we think it means/new prediction). Add to it after each reading session.



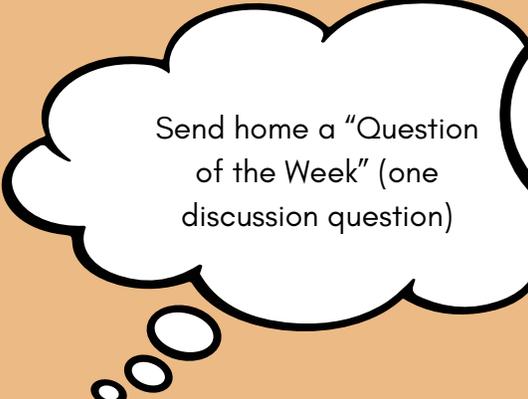
Sahara Characterization Activity: Draw an outline of Sahara. On the outside, write what she shows others. On the inside write what she feels.



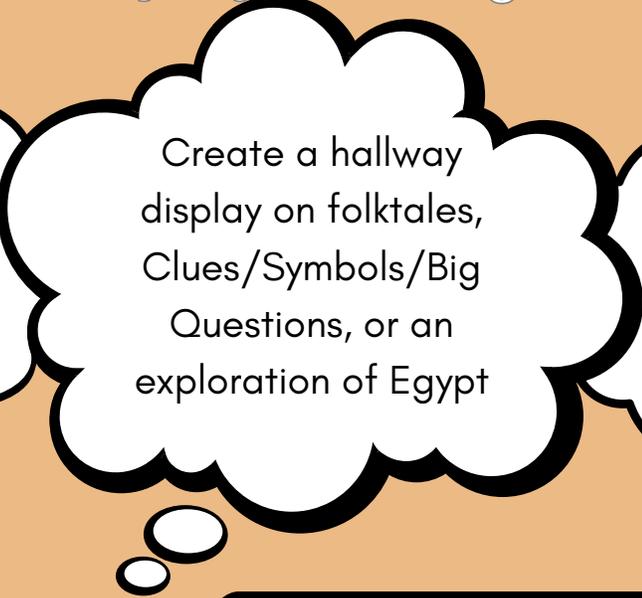
Character Choice Comic: Choose a turning point in the novel and draw a 4-panel comic showing: the problem, the choice, the consequence and what the character (s) learned.

Family & Community Ideas

Invite families to join your reading adventure



Send home a "Question of the Week" (one discussion question)



Create a hallway display on folktales, Clues/Symbols/Big Questions, or an exploration of Egypt



Host a "Living Museum of Folktales and Treasures" project showcase (student-made artifacts, placards, and costumes)