

## Fantasy: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

**Themes:** Fantasy, Magic, Fiction

**Book Brief:** This guide is designed for use with fantasy books at the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

**Content Connections:** ELA

### Time To Read!

**Before we read, let's look at...**

**The Cover:** Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what is this book about? What sorts of magical or fantastical things will happen in this book? Have you read any other books by this author or any books that seem similar?

**Prior Knowledge:** What is the genre of fantasy? Have you read any other fantasy books? Name some common characteristics of a fantasy book.

**Vocabulary:** Identify 10-15 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

**Purpose for Reading:** It's important to be able to identify the theme of a story, and fantasy books often have clear themes. As we read, think about what the theme, or central idea, might be.

### While We Read

**Monitoring Comprehension**

- Summarize the story, including key details and avoiding personal thoughts or opinions.
- Has this book been recorded, filmed, or staged in any way? If so, watch the whole production or just one or two scenes and compare and contrast the written version of the story with the audiovisual version.
- Consider what this story has in common with myths, folktales, and/or religious works. This may include themes, plot patterns, and character types. Analyze how this work borrows literary elements from earlier works.
- Consider the world, or setting, the author creates, and explain how this setting influences the characters and plot.

### Let's Think About

**Our Purpose:** What is the major theme of this book? What details let you know? Try to express the theme in one sentence.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Have students choose one character and explain the decisions he or she makes over the course of the story. Why does the character make these decisions? Have students explain whether they think they would have made the same decisions the character made and why or why not. Students should write 2-3 paragraphs on this topic.