

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR  
OF THE TIGER'S CURSE SERIES

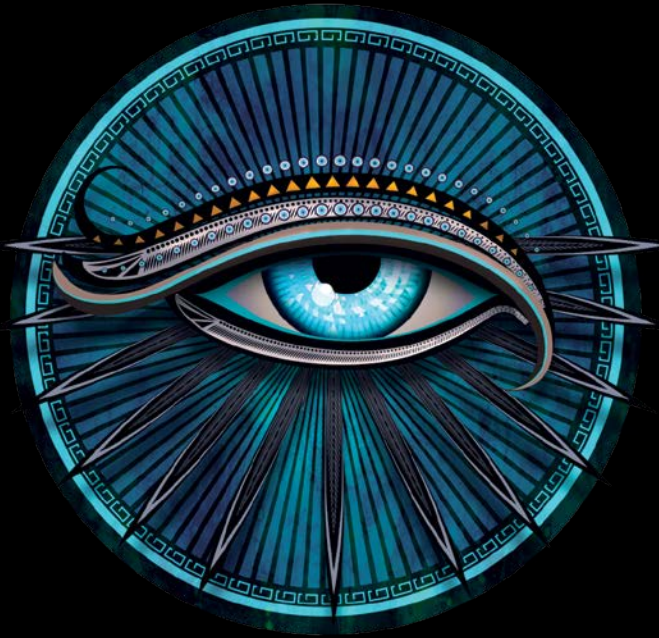
# COLLEEN HOLLER



# REAWAKENED

Includes  
Common Core  
Standards  
Correlations

“You must never underestimate  
a willing sacrifice.”



## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

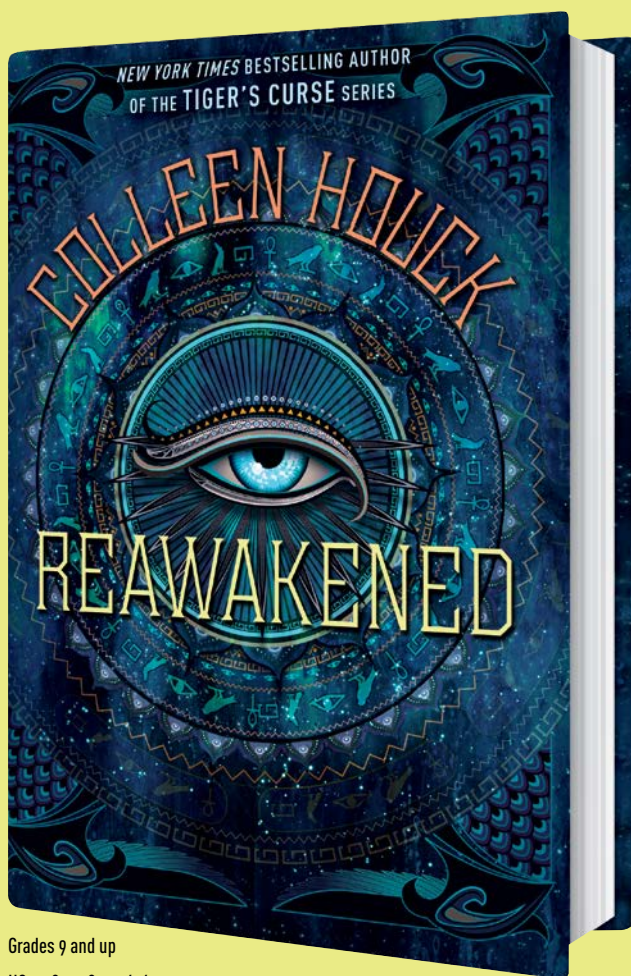
**Character** What does it mean to have character? What are the most important character traits a person must possess to lead a full life? What are your most positive character traits, and how are they realized on a daily basis? Can character be acquired or changed?

**Strength** What is the difference between physical strength and inner strength? Think about a time in your life when you had to use physical strength to accomplish a task. Now think of a time when you had to summon inner strength to overcome something personally difficult. How were the experiences alike, and how were they different?

**Observation** What does it mean to have powers of observation? How is seeing different from observing? What qualities must one possess to be observant, and can these qualities be practiced or are people born with them? What might you do to hone your powers of observation?

**Chaos** Chaos is defined as complete disorder and confusion. How do external events in the world, such as war, natural disasters, and accidents, cause chaos in people's lives? Now think of internal chaos that can occur inside a person. What factors might lead to one being in a state of internal chaos, and what are some ways one might resolve it?





Grades 9 and up

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## ABOUT THE BOOK

When seventeen-year-old Lilliana Young enters the Metropolitan Museum of Art one morning during spring break, the last thing she expects to find is a live Egyptian prince with godlike powers who has been reawakened after a thousand years of mummification. And she really can't imagine being chosen to aid him in an epic quest that will lead them across the globe. But fate has taken hold of Lily, and she, along with her sun prince, Amon, must travel to the Valley of the Kings, raise his brothers, and stop an evil, shape-shifting god named Seth from taking over the world. This epic adventure is about two star-crossed teens who must battle mythical forces and ancient curses on a journey with more twists and turns than the Nile itself.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Colleen Houck** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Tiger's Curse series. She has won a Parents' Choice Award and has been reviewed in many publications, including the *Los Angeles Times*. Her favorite elements of writing are romance, action, and dialogue. Says Houck, "Smart and witty verbal jousting is exciting to invent." She has lived all over the United States and currently lives in Salem, Oregon, with her husband and a huge assortment of plush tigers. To learn more about Colleen, visit [colleenhouck.com](http://colleenhouck.com).



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Sacrifice

- Throughout the story, characters are called upon to make a variety of sacrifices, starting with Amon, who must sacrifice his life to save the people of Egypt. What does his willingness to do so tell you about his character?
- After Amon tells Lily the story of Geb and Nut, he says, “Sacrifices must be made so that others may find happiness” (p. 200). Do you agree with him? How has his sacrifice affected his happiness?
- Lily argues with Dr. Hassan (pp. 252–253) saying, “I doubt he’s happy being stuck in the sort of limbo afterlife he described, even should he succeed in his quest. And most of all, I doubt that this life, this sacrifice that has to be made over and over again, is worth it. Amon deserves more.” How are sacrifice and happiness connected?
- On page 342, Lily must decide if she is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to help Amon succeed in his quest to overcome Seth. She concludes, “I’d sacrifice anything to help him.” How does her decision mirror the one Amon makes in the beginning of the story? Lily realizes that she must be willing to “sacrifice [herself] for something outside of [her] own wants and desires” if she is to be worthy of love. Do you agree with this notion?

## Emotions

- Throughout the story, Lily describes herself as feeling lonely and trapped. Discuss why Lily feels lonely. How does her sense of loneliness change over the course of the story? Lily also

refers to her life as an “emotional desert” (p. 41). Why is this an appropriate metaphor? Lily discovers that the bitter taste of Amon’s emotions represent loneliness (p. 53). How can loneliness be bitter? What tastes can you apply to other human emotions, such as sorrow, joy, and anger?

- Throughout the story, Lily is forced to confront a spectrum of emotions that she has kept at bay all her life. Indignation, rage, fear, and confusion are some of the emotions that she must grapple with at the beginning of her relationship with Amon. How does Lily grow emotionally over the course of the story, and why is it important for her to experience a broad range of feelings, both positive and negative?
- Discuss Lily’s self-observation on page 69: “Even if I was uncomfortable with the emotions he evoked, I’d never felt more alive.”
- Lily often experiences a duality of emotions. For example, on page 115, she says, “Amon had a falcon-like stare that made me feel vulnerable and powerful at the same time.” In what other ways is Lily in emotional conflict? On page 196, Lily senses confusing emotions in Amon: “Regret mixed with a deep-seated yearning was paired with frustration.” How does her conflict mirror Amon’s internal struggle between fulfilling his promise and allowing himself to express his feelings for Lily?

## Love

- On page 50, Amon explains the ancient Egyptian concept of *ka* to Lily, to which she replies, “Are you trying to say we’re soul mates?” What is a soul mate? Do you believe in the concept that there is one person on the planet who is spiritually connected to another? How does the initial physical connection



between Lily and Amon eventually change into a heart/soul connection?

- After feasting together, Amon declares to Lily that his “heart is lightened” (p. 111) by being with her. How is this “lightening” of one’s heart connected to love? How does Amon’s act of giving Lily his *Amset* (heart) represent more than a physical gift of remembrance?
- During her solo flight with Asten (p. 261), Lily suddenly realizes what her heart wishes for: love (“The idea burst into my mind like a sunrise”). How can the realization of wanting love or of being in love be like a sunrise?
- On page 333, Amon speaks cruelly to Lily, causing her to feel as if Amon “had slammed the door on the golden birdcage [she] had dared to look out of.” How was his cruelty an act of love? What does she mean by “a golden birdcage”?
- In the book’s final chapter, “Heart Scarab,” Lily recognizes that Amon chants “the incantation he’d used to bind the two of us, but this time the words were slightly changed” (p. 372). Reread the first spell (p. 21) and then the one from this chapter. How are they different? What are the keys changes and what do they signify?

## Control

- Reread the spell that Amon performs on page 21. How is it an act of power and control? Do you think it is fair for Amon to help himself to Lily’s energy without her consent?
- Lily admits to living a controlled life. After escaping from Amon, she resettles herself by “sorting and stacking” her papers into neat piles. Discuss Lily’s statement on page 43: “There was something about those piles, along with lists that had heavy black

checkmarks and calendars with full days crossed off, that gave me a sense of control.”

- Although in one sense Lily knows that she is powerless while she is bound to Amon, she resents “the idea of submitting your will to another” (p. 67). Discuss how Lily ultimately comes to trust Amon enough to give herself over to him entirely. How does the nature of Amon’s control over Lily change over the course of the story?
- The tale of Seth, Isis, and Osiris is an example of the dark side of needing to have ultimate control. Discuss how one’s need to control another is dangerous and often abusive.
- Reread page 149. Lily’s realizes that her “little adventure with Amon was so far outside [her] comfort zone that [she] didn’t even know who [she] was anymore.” How can giving up some self-control feel uncomfortable? Describe what Lily means by not “knowing” herself anymore.

## Self-Determination and Choices

- How does Lily’s changing physical appearance reflect her personal growth and emotional evolution (p. 57)?
- What is agency? Why does Lily refer to the choice Amon is giving her to come with him or stay in New York City as “a precious taste of free agency” (p. 80)?
- Why is it so important for Lily to be different from her peers and fight to reshape the course of her life? How is taking control of your own life an example of “gritty determination” (p. 80)?
- Discuss the “new version” of Lily described on pages 162 to 163. How is the new version unlike the Lily from the start of the story? Why does it require bravery to determine your future?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (continued)

- What does Amon mean when he says to Asten, “She is neither mine nor yours. Nor is she attached to anyone else. She belongs to herself” (p. 243)? How does this attitude differ from Amon’s earlier perspective of Lily?
- Why is being willing to have a “voice” essential to self-determination? Why does it make Lily feel proud (p. 271)? How do you use your voice to gain agency in your life?

## LIFE

- On page 89, Amon explains to Lily that feasting “. . . is a time for celebration, renewal.” When Lily asks what Amon is celebrating, he replies, “Life.” How is feasting a symbol of life? Why do you think that Lily does not initially Amon’s “hunger” as a metaphor for living? The feasting metaphor continues on pages 110 and 111. Lily describes their feast as exhilarating, decadent, adventurous, and intimate. How does feasting with Amon begin to inform Lily’s growing willingness to experience the simple pleasures in life?
- On page 119 Amon encourages a reluctant Lily to dance. He says, “You must allow yourself to feel . . . joy, Young Lily. You must take pleasure . . . in just being alive.” How is dancing a metaphor for joy and ultimately for life?
- Lily realizes that the adventure she is having with Amon is ones that she must fully experience and “enjoy every minute while it lasted (p. 134).” Why is it important to live in the moment?
- Reread page 149 in which Lily believes she is about to die and thinks: The irony was that I waited for death, I realized that I was now finally living. Think about the “sweaty, uncomfortable, harsh, heartbroken, scary, and thrilling” moments of your life. How are the often difficult moments, and getting through them, an affirmation of life?
- Discuss Lily’s realization that, “. . . it was better to live, explore and face possible danger than to cower for the rest of my life inside a pretty box (p. 151).” What is Lily’s “pretty box?” Do you agree or disagree with Lily’s sentiment?



### Common Core Standards Addressed in This Guide

#### Grade 8

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2  
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3  
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.5

#### Grade 9

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3  
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.5