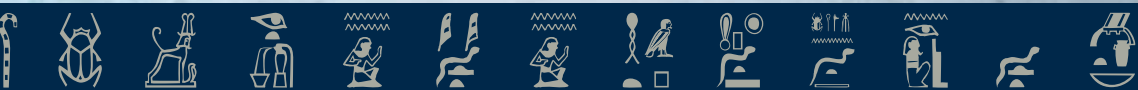


DISCUSSION GUIDE

Disney • HYPERION BOOKS



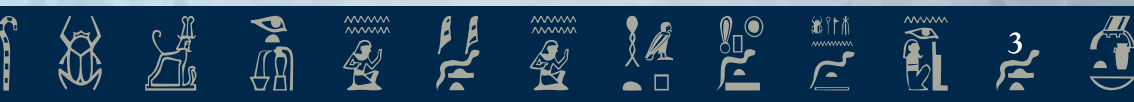


CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

READING, WRITING, AND RESEARCHING

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

- 1 Consider Carter and Sadie's relationship; how has it evolved over the course of their story?
- 2 Why would you expect Carter and Sadie to feel such a sense of guilt regarding the fate of Bes? In what ways has the dwarf god exhibited his loyalty and support of the Kanes? What role do you expect Bes to play in *The Serpent's Shadow*?
- 3 The Kane Chronicles features a number of characters who exhibit a variety of strengths. Who most impresses you with their strength? Explain your choice.
- 4 What purpose do shadows serve? Predict what role shadows will play in *The Serpent's Shadow*.
- 5 Walt's role is important in *The Throne of Fire*; predict what part he will play in *The Serpent's Shadow*.
- 6 Ancient Egyptians believed the *sheut* to be one component of the soul. Based on what you've learned about Egyptian mythology, what are the other parts? What makes the *sheut* so important?
- 7 Due to the absence of Carter and Sadie's parents, which characters have served as guides for them throughout the series? What have these individuals been able to offer the siblings?
- 8 Consider the developing relationship between Sadie and Anubis; what makes the bond between the two so complicated? What role do you predict Anubis will play in *The Serpent's Shadow*?





- 9 Throughout the series, the story is told in alternating chapters by Carter and Sadie. In what ways does hearing these diverse perspectives affect the story? Would the story be richer if just one of the siblings were telling it? Why or why not?
- 10 Apophis tells Sadie, “But I am everywhere. I can destroy anything you value... and anyone you value.” Consider the gravity of the serpent’s statement. Given these foreboding words, what does Sadie’s willingness to continue her battle against chaos tell us about her nature?
- 11 Like Riordan’s other series, the Kane Chronicles is a story about family. Explain the significance of family to each of the major characters.
- 12 What roles do Horus and Isis play in the Kane Chronicles? Though they are a support system for Carter and Sadie, the sibling pair is also fearful of them. For what reason?
- 13 Describe Carter, Sadie, Walt, and Jaz. What are three things that you find most (or least) appealing about each of them?
- 14 At the end of *The Throne of Fire*, readers learn that as a descendent of Akhenaten, Walt is dying from a family curse and has a year or less to live. In what ways does this knowledge of Walter’s health complicate things for Carter and Sadie? How do you expect this knowledge to impact their decisions and actions involving Walt in *The Serpent’s Shadow*?
- 15 Using the phrase, “This is a story about...” supply five words to describe the Kane Chronicles. Explain your choices.





KEY EVENTS:

- Defeated the Persians at Thermopylae
- One of its earliest societies was likely destroyed by a terrible natural disaster
- Center of political, social, and economic life was often the agora
- Traditionally fragmented, a great king unified them and conquered a massive empire
- Perhaps the greatest of its many remarkable thinkers developed our scientific method

ROMAN CULTURE

DEITIES: Bacchus, Janus, Neptune, Juno, Venus

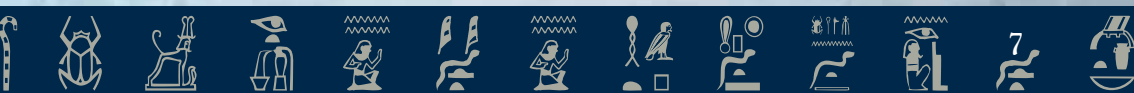
CITIES: Ostia, Pompeii, Rome, Mantua, Constantinople

FACTS:

- Aqueducts carried water to cities from hundreds of miles away
- Slaves and prisoners fought in arenas for the entertainment of the people
- Traced their origins to twin brothers who were believed to be raised by a wolf
- Empire included all of the Mediterranean world, France, Britain, Anatolia, and most of the Middle East
- Developed the arch, the dome, and invented cement

KEY EVENTS:

- Interaction with Greek colonies led to the incorporation of their writing system and much of their religion
- The government of the Republic was the model for our own government
- When not in combat, its soldiers built its infrastructure
- Thanks to its extensive and sophisticated trade networks, the wealthy reveled in silks from China, perfumes from India, and precious stones from Persia
- Though the heart of the empire was overrun by corruption and invasion, its prosperous eastern provinces thrived for another thousand years after collapse





EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY RELAY

The table below lists all of the deities mentioned in the Kane Chronicles and their functions in the Egyptian pantheon. Divide students into two teams lined down the center of the room. The first students on each team are asked a deity or a characteristic, and must try to answer with the corresponding item before their opponent. If a student answers correctly, they return to their seat—if not, to the back of the line! The first team to seat all of its members wins the relay.

Time limits can be applied to answers if necessary, and this could also easily be integrated with gods from other mythologies if that is appropriate.



HORUS





EXTENSION ACTIVITIES & RESEARCH

VISUALIZING CHARACTERIZATION

Throughout the Kane Chronicles, Riordan infuses an array of fantastic and intriguing characters. One of the great rewards of reading a novel is the opportunity readers have to form images of the characters in their minds to give the story optimum meaning.

Put students into groups with paper and pencils, markers, or crayons, and give each group fifteen minutes to draw their interpretation of a particular hero, villain, deity, etc., from *The Serpent's Shadow* or the Kane Chronicles as a whole. When time has expired, have them compare their interpretations and discuss the nature and purpose of their similarities and differences. In particular, encourage them to recognize and account for commonalities and distinctions that are and are not provided by the text.

NOME ROAMING

The nomes in the Kane Chronicles are designations for the location of House of Life magicians. The inspiration for them were the nomes of ancient Egypt, which divided the realm of the pharaohs into administrative districts. These had much more than political significance, however—each also had specific totems and religious significance as well.

Assign student pairs or groups to research the nomes of ancient Egypt and their political, economic, and religious significance. How do these relate to the place of nomes in the Kane Chronicles?

Once research is finished, have research groups develop their own nomes, to include names, totems, affiliations to Egyptian mythology, and the significances of their choices.

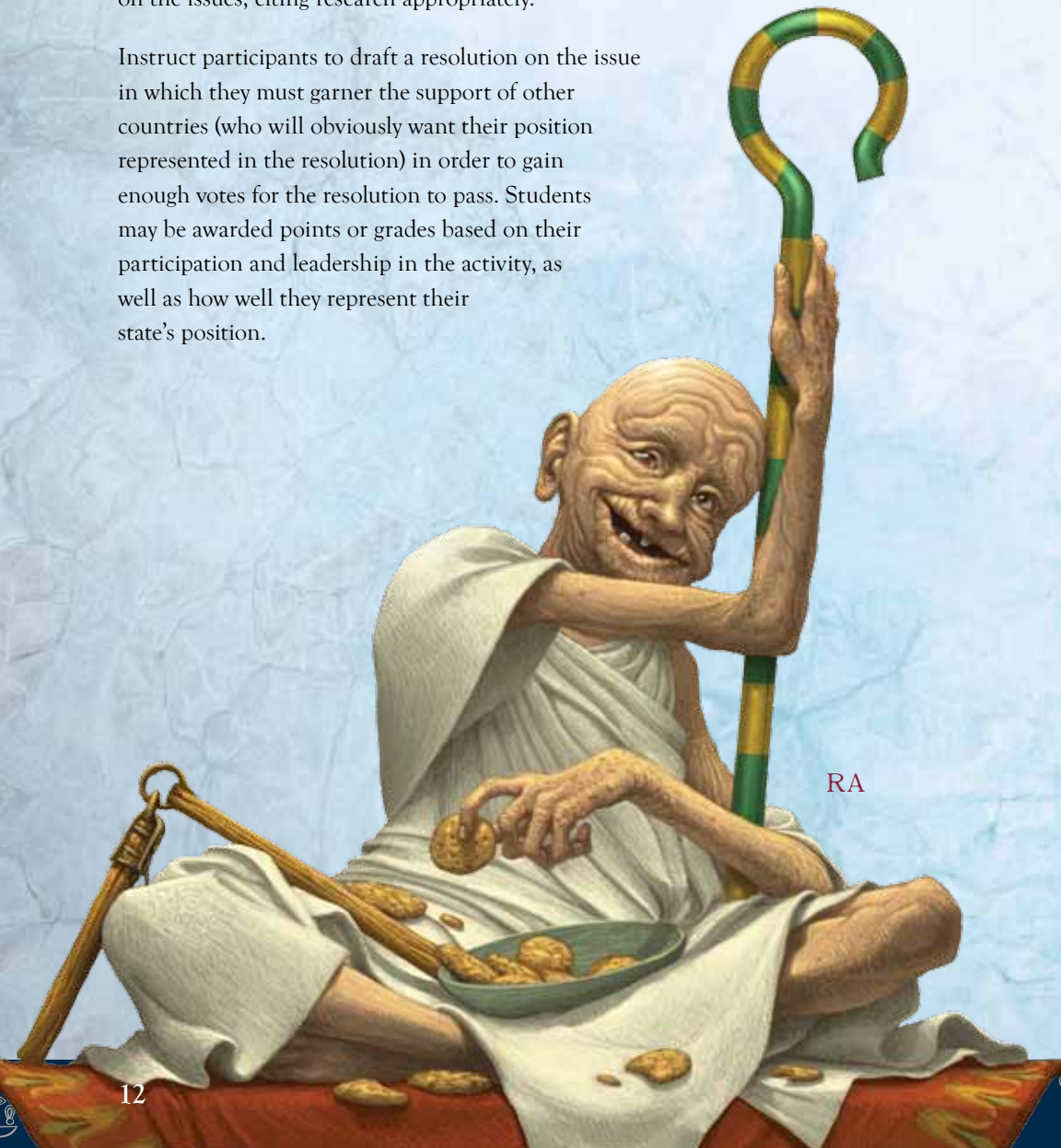




Discuss the issues surrounding this debate in class in an Inner-Outer Circle activity, or in a mock debate. An interesting “real-world” twist might be to assign students to represent relevant countries in a mock discussion on the matter at the United Nations.

“Delegates” may be assigned to write position papers on their country’s stance on the issues, citing research appropriately.

Instruct participants to draft a resolution on the issue in which they must garner the support of other countries (who will obviously want their position represented in the resolution) in order to gain enough votes for the resolution to pass. Students may be awarded points or grades based on their participation and leadership in the activity, as well as how well they represent their state’s position.



RA



Marry Umans

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rick Riordan spent fifteen years as a classroom teacher in public and private schools in California and Texas. In 1997, he began publishing mystery novels for adults. His popular Tres Navarre series won the top three national awards in the mystery genre—the Edgar, the Anthony, and the Shamus. His best-selling series, Percy Jackson and the Olympians, started as a bedtime story for his son. Rick Riordan now writes full-time. He lives in San Antonio with his wife and two sons.





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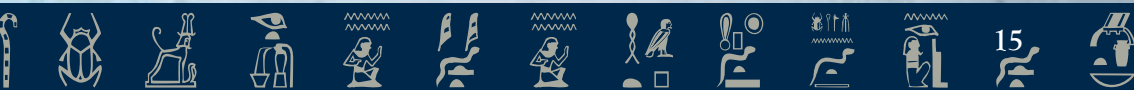
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This guide was created by Rose Brock, a school librarian and doctoral candidate at Texas Woman's University specializing in children's and young adult literature.

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