



Northern Lights By Philip Pullman

Talking Points

- 1 The book is set 'in a universe like ours, but different in many ways.' In what ways is the universe different, and in what ways is it 'like ours'?
- 2 How would you describe daemons? What purpose do they serve? If you had a daemon, what kind of creature would yours be?
- 3 What kind of words would you use to describe Lyra? Does she change in the course of the book, and if so, how?
- 4 When the Master first hands Lyra the alethiometer, he tells her what it is, but he doesn't explain how to use it. Why? And why is the alethiometer so precious and so powerful?
- 5 Northern Lights is a story about Lyra and her quest, but it is also a novel of ideas that touches upon science, and religion. What do you make of these ideas? How important are they to your understanding of the story?
- 6 'There is a curious prophecy about this child: she is destined to bring about the end of destiny.'

Does witch queen Serafina Pekkala's prediction surprise you? Northern Lights is the first part of a story in three volumes. In the light of this prediction, what do you think the future holds for Lyra?

Activity: The Greatest!

Which of the Carnegie all-time Top 10 reads is your group's favourite? Here's one way to find out – with a heated debate!

Select 10 people in your class or group to be the main debaters. Each one reads one of the Carnegie all-time Top 10 books. They then take it in turns to tell everyone about that book and why they think it's the Carnegie all-time great – in just two minutes!

After everyone's had their say, you can then open up the debate to the rest of the group for another 10 minutes or so. When that time is up, the whole group votes on which book he or she thinks is the greatest!

Afterwards, you can discuss whether the book won because it was the best piece of writing, or because the person championing that book made the most convincing case.