

Discussion Questions for
GRACELING
by Kristin Cashore

www.gracelingbook.com
Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-15-206396-2
Paperback ISBN: 978-0-547-25830-0

How does Katsa describe her “nature” at the start of the novel? Does she believe she can alter this “nature”? Do you think her “nature” changes by the end of the novel?

The concept of a Grace plays an important role in the development of characters in *Graceling*. What is your definition of a Grace? If you could have a special Grace, what would it be? How would you use it in your current life?

Which type of Grace do you think is more powerful—one that is an enhancement of physical strengths or mental strengths?

What are the things Katsa fears most? How do these fears impact her thoughts, actions, and behavior?

Gracelings are described as “outsiders” and “not normal.” If the skills of a Graceling are not helpful to the king then they are ostracized from their community. Why do the townspeople treat the Gracelings in this way?

How does Katsa’s understanding of friendship change throughout the story?

The Council is very important to Katsa. Why? What is the purpose and mission of the Council?

Prince Po’s grandfather, Prince Tealiff, tells Katsa that Po “sees the strength in beautiful things.” He explains that this is what makes Po different from his six brothers. How does Po’s appreciation of beauty influence his connection to people, animals, and nature? Is his perception of beauty changed in any way by the end of the novel?

Katsa is fiercely independent yet she is able to care deeply and love Po. Po is equally self-sufficient yet falls deeply in love with Katsa. How does the tension between being independent and being in love affect their relationship?

Do you think this novel makes a statement about marriage? Is it a statement that supports the covenant of marriage or argues against it?

In what ways do the contours of the landscape both help and hinder Katsa and Po in their attempt to save Bitterblue from King Leck?

Katsa learns that power throughout the Seven Kingdoms can be gained from a variety of sources. What are some of these sources? What opinions does Katsa have about people in positions of authority? Is she interested in having power or authority over others?

Katsa spends much of her daily life involved in combat and fighting. Describe how she feels about combat at the start of the novel. Do her opinions about being a skilled fighter change by the end of the story? How and why?