EXPLORE THE MAGYKAL WORLD OF SEPTIMUS HEAP



Septimus Heap, Book Five: Syren

Tr 978-0-06-088210-5 • \$17.99 (\$23.99) Lb 978-0-06-088211-2 • \$18.89 (\$24.89)

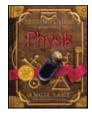
Septimus Heap, Book Four: Queste

Tr 978-0-06-088207-5 • \$17.99 (\$21.00) Lb 978-0-06-088208-2 • \$18.89 (\$24.89) Pb 978-0-06-088209-9 • \$7.99 (\$9.99)

★ "Breezy charm, gusts of spectacular Magyk, and a buoyant plot." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

• New York Times Bestseller





Septimus Heap, Book Three: Physik

Tr 978-0-06-057737-7 • \$17.99 (\$21.99) Lb 978-0-06-057738-4 • \$18.89 (\$21.89) Pb 978-0-06-057739-1 • \$7.99 (\$9.99)

- ★ "Readers will be indubitably hooked." —VOYA (starred review)
- New York Times Bestseller Book Sense Bestseller

Septimus Heap, Book Two: Flyte

Tr 978-0-06-057734-6 • \$17.99 (\$21.99) Lb 978-0-06-057735-3 • \$18.89 (\$24.89) Pb 978-0-06-057736-0 • \$7.99 (\$9.99)

- $\bigstar \text{ ``Terrifically entertaining.''} VOYA \text{ (starred review)}$
- New York Times Bestseller Book Sense Bestseller
- Book Sense Children's Pick Kansas State Reading Circle
- New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age



Magyk -

Septimus Heap, Book One: Magyk

Tr 978-0-06-057731-5 • \$17.99 (\$21.99) Lb 978-0-06-057732-2 • \$18.89 (\$20.89) Pb 978-0-06-057733-9 • \$7.99 (\$9.99) Pb Spanish 978-0-06-084979-5 • \$7.99 (\$10.50) CD 978-0-06-156306-5 • \$14.95 (\$16.25)

- ★ "[A] deliciously spellbinding series opener." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)
- New York Times Bestseller Book Sense Bestseller
- Kirkus Reviews Editors' Choice
- Parents' Choice Recommended Award



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Angie Sage loves the sea, spooky old houses, and medieval England, the inspiration for the Magykal world of Septimus Heap. She was born in London and grew up in the Thames Valley, London, and Kent. The mother of two grown daughters, she now lives in Somerset in the west of England in a very old house in the middle of a village. When not writing, she likes to sail her boat, *Muriel*. Angie Sage is also the author-illustrator of many picture books as well as the author of the Araminta Spookie series.



www.septimusheap.com

For exclusive information on your favorite authors and artists, visit www.authortracker.com.

To order, please contact your HarperCollins sales representative, call 1-800-C-HARPER, or fax your order to 1-800-822-4090.

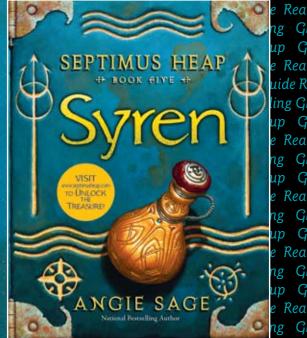
Prices and availability subject to change.

Questions and activities prepared by Linda Z. Hamilton, Ph.D., Leawood, Kansas.

Reading Group Guide

Guide Reading Group G Reading Group Guide Rea Group Guide Reading G Guide Reading Group G

Group Guide Reading G Guide Reading Group G Reading Group Guide Rea



Guide Reading Group G Reading Group Guide Rea Group Guide Reading G Guide Reading Group G

Rea

SEPTIMUS HEAP, BOOK FIVE:



BY ANGIE SAGE

Group Guide Reading Guide Reading Group G Reading Group G Reading Group Guide Rea

08/00

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Magykal journey of Septimus Heap continues! In *Syren*, the fifth book in the enthralling series, Septimus is stranded on an island with a Magykal girl named Syrah, a cat-shaped lighthouse that has lost its Light, and an eerie presence that sings to him—can Septimus resist its persistent call? Amid multiple sea journeys and travels in an Ice Tunnel, encounters with White and Darke Witches, wraiths and ghosts, a jinnee and a Cat-Man, Septimus and his loyal friends band together to thwart evil using intelligence, humor, and, of course, Magyk.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- I. A recurring theme in *Syren* is achieving freedom and accepting the responsibility that accompanies it. What do you think freedom means to Septimus, Jim Knee, Wolf Boy, Nicko, Syrah, and Jakey Fry? How are their ideas of freedom similar or different? What does freedom mean to you?
- 2. What or who is the Syren? What is the function of the Syren's singing?
- 3. Identify the White and Darke witches in Syren. What are the differences between them? What are their powers for good and evil? Would you rather be Linda in the Witches Coven or Aunt Zelda in the Keeper's Cottage? Why? Who is more powerful, a Wizard or a Witch?
- 4. As you read, make a list of the charms, chants, incantations, spells, omens, and superstitions that are used in the story to combat evil. Can these examples of Magyk be used against good as well? Which form of Magyk would you like to possess and why?
- 5. Brainpower and reasoning are also used to combat evil in the novel. Find examples of strategic thinking by Septimus, Beetle, Wolf Boy, Lucy, Jenna, Nicko, and Snorri that help them succeed.

- 6. How is *Syren* a story about cementing friendships and reestablishing families? Do you feel sorry for Merrin Meredith or Jakey Fry? Explain.
- 7. Which of the survival rules that Septimus and Wolf Boy quote do you think is the wisest? Why? How does this rule apply to your life?
- 8. Angie Sage uses colors and smells to identify characters and objects. To whom or what do the following refer: purple, green, gray, patchwork, dark blue, yellow, red, ebony, gold, lead, blue lights and mist, peppermint, stinking black slush, and licorice?
- 9. How does ExtraOrdinary Wizard Marcia Overstrand help save Septimus during his adventure? What is Marcia Overstrand's opinion of Septimus?
- 10. What does it mean to be Possessed? What is the difference between a wraith and a ghost? What is a ghost ship? How can someone sell himself or herself to a ghost, and who does this in the story? Do you believe in ghosts? Why or why not?
- 11. Who is Jim Knee? Why is he/she important in the story and how does he/she help Septimus be successful?
- 12. In chapter 30, Wolf Boy says, "It reminds me of those stories about people in olden times who used to fly to the moon." When do you think Syren takes place—in the past, present, or future?
- 13. Angie Sage uses the word snake as a noun, verb, and adjective in Syren. Is this word's meaning positive or negative in the story? What unflattering animal names do characters in the story call each other, and what do these names mean?
- 14. As the series continues, how has Septimus matured and grown? How has he learned from his mistakes?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- I. Singing for You. Who are the Sirens of Greek mythology? Research these creatures and note the similarities and differences between the ancient Sirens and the Syren in Angie Sage's book. Which one would you rather encounter and why? Read several Greek myths and then write a short story where Septimus and his friends come across one of the gods, goddesses, or creatures from these myths.
- 2. Bird Band Messages. One form of communication in Syren is the use of carrier pigeons. Read about this very real form of communication and discover when and how it was used. Are carrier pigeons still used today? What more rapid forms of communication do you use? Do you use any slower forms of communication? Explain.
- 3. Summer Beach Game. Play the Village Chief game with your friends, either at the beach or in a sandbox, following the directions in "Histories and Happenings" at the end of the novel. How is the game played? How long does it take to win? What games would you like to teach Septimus and his friends?
- 4. Light My Fire. Four lighthouses originally surrounded the Enchanted Islands. Lighthouses have long been used on coastlines throughout the world to protect ships from crashing into rocks or running aground in shallow waters. Research the shapes and locations of famous lighthouses and read about the isolated lives of the people who loyally keep the lights shining. What forms of light have been used over the years? Are lighthouses still in use today? What are wreckers and what business are they in?

www.septimusheap.com