

Questions for *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones

Book Discussion Questions

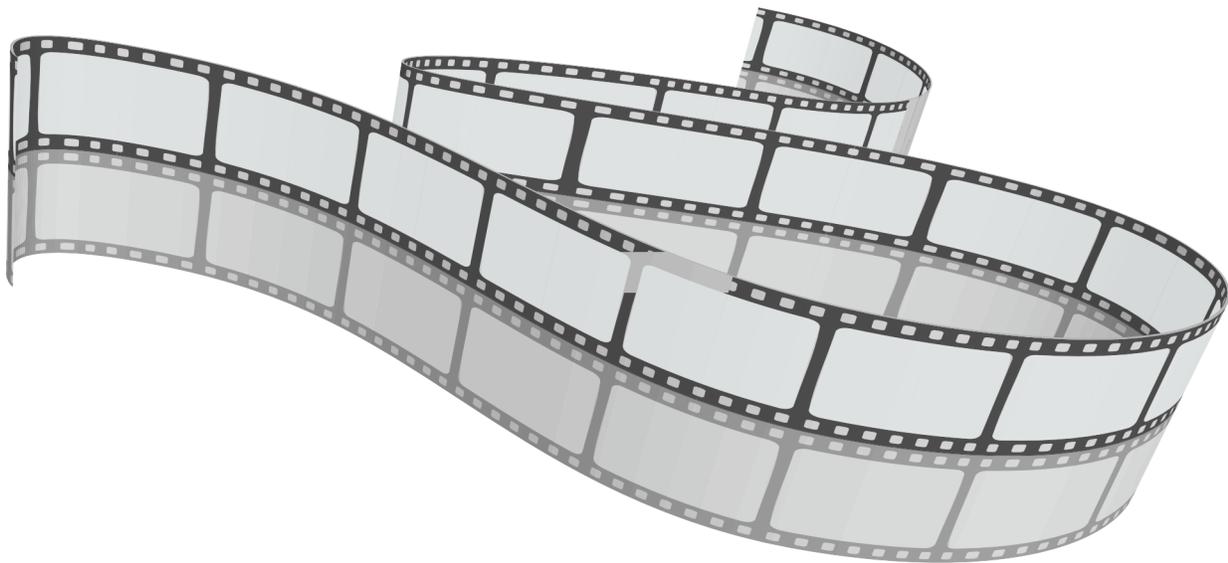
1. The characters are related in many ways to each other. Which relationships are key to the book in your opinion?
2. Why do you think the Witch of the Waste chose to curse Sophie with old age instead of turning her into a turnip?
3. Does magic help or hurt the inhabitants in the land of Ingary?
4. Does Sophie limit herself or do circumstances limit Sophie?
5. Does Howl really avoid responsibility or just give the impression of avoiding it?
6. What is the significance of the Wizard Suliman's name? Hint, look at cognate names of Suliman or more often Suleiman.
7. How does Ingary compare to Wales?
8. Is Howl's notoriety deserved?
9. Who is the real master of the Moving Castle, Howl or Calcifer?
10. If you had a magical door, what are the 4 places you would choose?



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Movie Discussion Questions

1. How does the movie being made by a Japanese studio alter the plot?
2. What counter culture Steampunk influences do you see in the movie?
3. Has the fundamental message of the story changed?
4. Do you feel the movie stays true to the characters' essence from the book?
5. How is Calcifer's appearance in the movie influenced by the kawaii culture of Japan?
6. How would you describe how the Witch of the Waste in the movie?
7. What does Sophie's cleaning of the castle represent?
8. Was simplification of the plot necessary in the movie or did they cut too much out?
9. How would you describe Sophie's journey in the movie?



10. Does the soundtrack enhance or distract from the movie?