

The Cadet *of* TILDOR

ALEX LIDELL

Teacher's Guide

Aligned with Common Core Standards and Bloom's Taxonomy

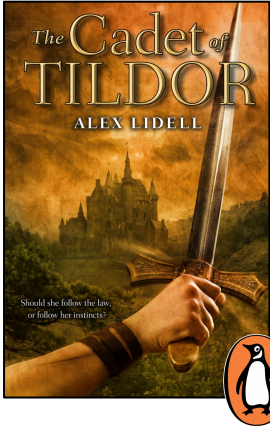
Should she follow the law,
or follow her instincts?

The CADET of TILDOR: Teacher's Guide ^(v 10)

By Alex Lidell. Dial Books for Young Readers (Penguin) 2013. www.alexlidell.com

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Novel Summary



There is a new king on the throne of Tildor. Currents of political unrest sweep the country as two warring crime families seek power, angling to exploit the young Crown's inexperience. At the Academy of Tildor, the training ground for elite soldiers, Cadet Renee de Winter struggles to keep up with her male peers. But when her mentor, a notorious commander recalled from active duty to teach at the Academy, is kidnapped to fight in illegal gladiator games, Renee and her best friend Alec find themselves thrust into a world rife with crime, sorting through a maze of political intrigue, and struggling to resolve what they want, what is legal, and what is right.

Tamora Pierce meets George R. R. Martin in this smart, political, medieval fantasy-thriller. *Grades 7+, Pages 409, ATOS score 5.1, AR points 14. ISBN: 9780803736818*

Reviews / Awards

Nominee for the Amelia Bloomberg Project List of 2014 (Recommended Feminist Literature for birth-18)

"At an elite military academy, Renee fights to prove herself the same as the boys and instead finds the strength and courage to win on her own terms."

Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Finalist

"Fans of Tamora Pierce and Kristin Cashore should pick up *Cadet*-as should anyone looking for a fantasy that is, though sounding like an oxymoron, grounded in reality." - School Library Journal

"A gripping debut... [A] portrayal of believable characters struggling with realistic conflicts affecting every level of society." - Kirkus

"A wild, energetic novel that proves girls CAN be warriors while still being true to themselves." - Sarah Dessen, author of *The Moon and More*

Teacher's Guide Overview

CADET has a heavy focus on ethical dilemmas and fictional situations that mirror real world issues.

Examples include:

- Choice between staying loyal to a friend, versus obeying the rules
- Ethics of laws that place the common good over individual freedom
- Repercussions of ends-justify-the-means philosophy

Guide is aligned with Common Core standards (grades 7-10) and Bloom's Taxonomy. It includes:

- Reading comprehension questions and answers for each chapter. (*CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1-4; L.4,5,10*)
- Higher level thinking questions for each set of approximately 5 chapters. (*CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5,6,8; W.1-4; SL.1-4; L1,2,6,10*)
- "Beyond the Book" projects for each set of approximately 5 chapters. (*CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7,9; W.2-9, SL.1-6; L1,2,6,10*)
- Mid and full book large view questions/projects. (*CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7,9; W.2-10; SL.1-6; L1,2,6,10*)

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Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapter 1-5

Chapter 1

- 1. Who is Lord Tamath's servant paying in the opening of the book and why?
- 2. Who says "No quantity of training will make a wolf from a cockroach." What is this character referring to?
- 3. What is Renee's life dream?

Chapter 2

- 1. How is Sasha related to the king of Tildor?
- 2. Renee and Alec have different reactions to the news that Korish Savoy will be their instructor in the upcoming year. What are their reactions?
- 3. In his welcome address to the cadets, what does King Lysian say is the greatest problem Tildor currently faces?

Chapter 3

- 1. What did Savoy's orders instruct him to do?
- 2. How does Savoy feel about his new orders?
- 3. What does Savoy think would have happened to him, had he not fostered with Verin as a child?

Chapter 4

- 1. How does someone become a mage?
- 2. Does Renee want to be a mage now?
- 3. According to Lord Palan, why was he watching Savoy's class?
- 4. What is the relationship between Savoy and Seaborn?

Chapter 5

- 1. Why did Alec go to southwest Atham?
- 2. Who set fire to the mage registration post in Atham?
- 3. According to Tildor's law, what must a Servant of the Crown do if he finds an unregistered mage?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 1-5

Free Writes / Self Reflection

- Both Renee's father and the Academy of Tildor have doubts about Renee's ability to succeed at becoming a Servant of the Crown. Describe a situation when someone doubted your ability to do something that you wanted to do. What did you do? How did things turn out?
- In chapter five, Alec breaks the rules by going into Atham to buy veesi leaf, which is illegal. What would you do if you found out that your close friend was breaking the rules? Would you tell on him? Have you ever been in that situation? If not, how do you think you would act?

Writing / Discussion prompts

- Describe what Renee is like in the beginning of the book. What kind of girl is she? Use examples from the story to support your analysis.
- How do you think Renee would react if she found out that Alec has been buying veesi? Explain why.
- Consider the situation Seaborn presents to the class in Chapter four. Describe the dilemma in your own words. What do you think is the right thing to do and why?

Beyond the text

- Read the following news article from ABC News, *FBI Analyst Sues FBI For Gender Discrimination, Saying Fitness Test Biased Against Men*, April 2012. <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/chicago-fbi-analyst-sues-fbi-fitness-test-biased/story?id=16111740#.T7VBj1KscdM>. Write an essay on whether you agree with the Special Agent trainee in the article. Use specific quotes and examples from the article to explain and support your view.
- **Variation:** Write a persuasive essay on whether physical standards in the military should be different for men and women.

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 1-5

Chapter 1

- 1. The servant is paying tribute to a crime group called *The Family* to keep them from harming the De Winter estate.
- 2. Renee's father. He means that no matter how hard Renee trains, she will never be able to be as good at fighting as her male classmates.
- 3. To become a Servant of the Crown

Chapter 2

- 1. Sasha is the king's cousin
- 2. Renee is excited because she thinks Savoy can help her improve her skills. Alec is cautious because he thinks that having Savoy in charge will bring extra scrutiny onto the cadets.
- 3. King Lysian says that the greatest problem Tildor faces is the disease of crime

Chapter 3

- 1. Go to the Academy of Tildor and teach cadets
- 2. Savoy is unhappy about his orders. He wants to continue fighting real battles, not teach kids in a school.
- 3. Savoy believes that if he had not fostered with Verin, he would be in prison instead of in command of an elite group of soldiers.

Chapter 4

- 1. Mage abilities (Control) develop, on their own, during puberty. It is impossible to "choose" whether or not you become a mage.
- 2. No, Renee does not want to be a mage now - although she did once, when she was little.
- 3. To check on his nephew, Tanil's, progress.
- 4. Savoy and Seaborn are childhood friends

Chapter 5

- 1. Alec went to southwest Atham to buy veesi leaf, an illegal substance.
- 2. The Vipers set fire to the mage registration post in Atham
- 3. Per Tildor's law, an unregistered mage must be arrested.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapter 5-10

Chapter 6

- 1. "You think you can overpower him? Or anyone in the salle?" Who says this, to whom, and what are the circumstances? Who is the "him" mentioned in the quote?
- 2. What does the Viper meeting Tanil at Rock Lake want from him?
- 3. What unpleasant discovery does Renee make about Alec after they confront Tanil at Rock Lake?

Chapter 7

- 1. What explanation did Diam give Savoy to explain why he and Renee were dripping wet?
- 2. How does Veesi leaf affect regular people? How does it affect mages?

Chapter 8

- 1. Where did Diam get the spyglass?
- 2. Whose signature is two puncture wounds on the neck?
- 3. Connor Seaborn is now a Servant Magistrate, but what track was he in originally, when he started the Academy as a cadet?

Chapter 9

- 1. What holiday is Tildor celebrating?
- 2. What is Sasha's opinion of how King Lysian is handing the situation with the Vipers?
- 3. How did Savoy react when Renee's father hit her?
- 4. Why was Lord Tamath at the Academy on Queens Day? Was he planning on seeing Renee?

Chapter 10

- 1. What action did Savoy tell Renee to take in order to stop more arrows from flying into the dining room?
- 2. Who was behind the attack?
- 3. Who does the four-fingered Guardsman Fisker call an "incompetent bastard"?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 5-10

Free Writes

- Compare and contrast Sasha and Renee. Cite specific examples from the text to support your comparison.
- Describe Savoy's character. Would you want to have him as your teacher? Why or why not? Explain with details. Would you want to have him as your friend? Why or why not? Explain with details.
- How are you like or unlike Renee? Explain using specific details from both the book and your life.

Essay / Discussion questions

- Consider the opening scene of chapter six, where Savoy and Renee are in the salle. Describe in your own words what happens. What points are Renee and Savoy trying to communicate to the other? Who do you believe to be right? Explain your view with details.
- Do you think Renee should have told Savoy the truth about what happened at Rock Lake? Describe the pros and cons of telling vs not telling. Use specific details from the book to support your view.
- Consider the discussion between Alec, Sasha and Renee at the end of chapter 7, about the ethicality of forcing mages to take something that inhibits their powers. Describe the dilemma in your own words, then give your opinion on it using specifics from the book to support your view.
- Consider Sasha's opinion of King Lysian's actions on pages 64 and 65. Do you think she is right? Why or why not? Support with specific details.

Beyond the Book

- Research and describe a real world controversy where people may be forced to take a drug/ medication. Describe what the controversy is and what your opinion on it is. (Examples to consider: birth control medication for mentally retarded women, vaccinating children against their parents' wishes, taking active measures to save the life of a patient who wants to die, etc.)
- It has long been debated on how to best respond to criminals' or terrorists' demands. Research a situation when criminals or terrorists made a demand (i.e. after taking hostages or committing a violent act). How did the authorities react? Did it turn out well? Explain why or why not using specific details.
- **Variation 1:** Does the US government "negotiate with terrorists"? Research current events or news archives for statement government officials made about the topic.
- **Variation 2:** If the US government is not supposed to give into criminals' demands, why are there hostage negotiators in police departments? Is "negotiating" with criminals the same things as giving in to their demands? Are there any kinds of demands law enforcement may consider granting? *(hint to teachers: yes, in the course of hostage negotiation, law enforcement will sometimes concede non substantive demands such as a demand for a can of soda or a pizza)*

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 5-10

Chapter 6

- 1. Savoy says this to Renee when she tried out strength Alec with a sparring move.
- 2. Payment on a lost bet.
- 3. Alec uses veesi

Chapter 7

- 1. They were helping the stable hands water the horses (a lie)
- 2. For most people, veesi dulls negative emotions. For mages, it inhibits their ability to Control.

Chapter 8

- 1. From Lord Palan
- 2. Vipers
- 3. Connor Seaborn started out in the fighter track

Chapter 9

- 1. Queens Day
- 2. Sasha things King Lysian is wrong
- 3. Savoy stood up for Renee, threatening to hurt Lord Tamath if he strikes Renee again.
- 4. Renee's father was there trying to negotiate a business deal. He was not planning to see Renee.

Chapter 10

- 1. Close the window shutter
- 2. The Vipers
- 3. Savoy

Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapter 11-15

Chapter 11

- 1. What is the legendary mage Keraldi famous for?
- 2. Can animals be mages? If yes, give examples. Otherwise, why not?
- 3. What surprised Renee about the fighting style Savoy is using? Does she think this style is a good fit for her? Why or why not?

Chapter 12

- 1. Why is Lord Palan Tanil's guardian? What happened to Tanil's father and the youngest of the three brothers?
- 2. Why is the Family redirecting its veesi shipments to other routes?
- 3. What would Tanil like for Lord Palan to do about Savoy? Does Palan agree with Tanil's wishes?

Chapter 13

- 1. What topic are Renee and Alec supposed to write an essay on, for Seaborn's class?
- 2. One of which two students is most likely to get cut after midyear exams?
- 3. What do Savoy and Seaborn disagree about?

Chapter 14

- 1. Why is a Board of Inquiry being assembled?
- 2. How did the Vipers get Mistress Olivia to cooperate with them?
- 3. What was Fisker trying to accomplish with his questions to Savoy in front of the Board of Inquiry?

Chapter 15

- 1. What special group of people do Renee and Alec get to work out with?
- 2. What does Alec mean when he says, "I don't enjoy the same sight you do"?
- 3. What big secret does Renee find out about Alec at the end of chapter 15?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 11-15

Free Write

- Write the next scene in the story after Renee finds out Alec's secret. Variation: Write out a conversation between Renee and Alec that might have taken place after Renee found out Alec's secret.
- Consider a situation in your own life when you found out something bad about someone you care about. How did it affect your relationship? Did you have to make any difficult decisions? Describe in detail.

Essay / Discussion questions

- Lord Palan and the Madam are heads of two powerful crime groups in Tildor. In Tanil's opinion, how do Lord Palan and the Madam compare? Do you think Tanil's reasoning is sound? (Ch 12) Why or why not? Support with specific examples from the text.
- Ch 13: Seaborn's assignment to Renee's class instructs the students to analyze a particular case and write their opinion on whether a thief's intentions should be taken into account when passing judgment. Describe the facts of the case in your own words, then answer Seaborn's question.
- Consider Mistress Olivia's story, especially the end, when she acknowledges committing treason, saying "What choice had I? ... I will sacrifice my life for my son," and one of the judges replies with "Your life is yours to give, mistress. But you offered up the Crown's." Do you sympathize with Olivia? Do you think she is a victim or a perpetrator?
- What do you expect Renee will do now that she knows Alec's secret?

Beyond the Book / Writing Craft

- Imagine you are a judge today and Olivia is brought before you, confessing to having assisted in attempted murder because a criminal was threatening to hurt her son if she failed to cooperate. What judgment would you pass and what punishment would you impose? Explain why.
- Now that you know Alec's secret, look back through the text and find hints that prepared the reader for the revelation. Why is it important to prepare a reader for events?
- Write a short story / scene with a surprising – yet believable – ending.

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 11-15

Chapter 11

- 1. Defining the Keraldi Barrier to Healers. Per legend, Keraldi also had a bond bird.
- 2. Yes, animals can be mages.
- 3. Renee is surprised to see Savoy using a style that is based on speed and precision, instead of strength. She thinks it would be a poor fit for her because it would make her seem weak.

Chapter 12

- 1. Lord Palan is Tanil's guardian because Tanil's father died in prison protecting the Family's secrets. Tanil's father was Lord Palan's older brother. Lord Palan's younger brother had run away to join a mercenary company.
- 2. To keep the veesi hidden from the Vipers
- 3. Tanil would like Palan to get rid of Savoy. Palan disagrees with Tanil.

Chapter 13

- 1. The essay topic is whether a thief's intentions should be taken into account when passing judgment on his crime.
- 2. Renee or Tanil.
- 3. Seaborn would like Savoy to stop training with Renee in the morning because Renee is having trouble keeping up in other classes. Savoy thinks it should be Renee's choice.

Chapter 14

- 1. To evaluate the Queens Day events.
- 2. They threatened her son.
- 3. Fisker was attempting to make Savoy look incompetent.

Chapter 15

- 1. The Seventh
- 2. Alec is implying that Renee finds Savoy and Cory attractive
- 3. Alec is a mage.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapter 16-21

Chapter 16

- 1. What is the special connection between Diam and Khavi?
- 2. Why did Alec keep his abilities a secret?
- 3. How does Renee manage to finish the essay assignment for Seaborn?

Chapter 17

- 1. In Savoy's dream, where is he?
- 2. Why did Verin come see Savoy?
- 3. What happened to Alec's mother? Why was he raised by his grandmother instead of his mother?
- 4. What was Savoy tapping against his leg when he came out of Verin's office and told Renee to follow him?

Chapter 18

- 1. How does Savoy punish Renee?
- 2. Who was boy in the horse theft case that Seaborn assigned to the cadets?
- 3. In Renee's opinion, why did Savoy punish her the way he did?

Chapter 19

- 1. According to the captain of the Palace Guard, why does Fisker dislike Savoy?
- 2. What was Tanil really doing in Renee's room before the exam?

Chapter 20

- 1. What does Renee realize about fighting while sparring with Tanil during exams?
- 2. How does Tanil win the sparing match?

Chapter 21

- 1. What major accusation is made at the end of midyear exams?
- 2. Why does Alec have to leave the Academy?
- 3. What major news does Khavi communicate to Alec?
- 4. What choice does Renee make about her career?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 16-21

Free Writes

- How do you feel about Alec's choice to keep his mage abilities a secret? Why?
- What do you think is the appropriate punishment for plagiarism? Explain why.
- After Renee and Savoy's Rock Lake conversation, how do you feel about Savoy? Do you like or dislike him? Explain your view.

Essay / Discussion questions

- Analyze the relationship between Savoy and Verin, citing specific examples from the text to support your thesis. You may consider what kind of relationship it is (ie. father/son, teacher/student, commander/subordinate, friend/friend etc), whether it's a positive or negative relationship, and how the two men feel about the relationship and each other.
- Consider Renee's crime and the subsequent punishment. Do you condone or condemn Savoy's actions? Explain why.
- After the Rock Lake conversation at the end of chapter 17, what is Renee's opinion of Savoy? Do you agree or disagree with her assessment of him? Why? How do you think Savoy feels about what happened? Use specific examples from the text to support your point of view.
- Do you agree or disagree with Renee's choice to leave the Academy? Explain your view.

Beyond the Book / Writing Craft

- What literary work is the following line an allusion to "After she finished copying Sasha's words, Renee spent the rest of the night washing the ink from her hands"?
- Research corporal punishment in schools. Is it allowed anywhere in the United States? Interview older family members or friends – did any of them go to school where corporal punishment was allowed? What is your opinion on it? Should corporal punishment in schools be allowed? Why or why not?
- What is your school's policy on cheating? Do you think it's a fair policy? Why or why not?
- Brainstorm reasons why people cheat. Is cheating ever justifiable? Prepare notes to debate this topic in class.

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 16-21

Chapter 16

- 1. They are bonded
- 2. He did not want to register and be forced down a pre-designed career path
- 3. She copies Sasha's old essay

Chapter 17

- 1. In a jail cell / a dungeon.
- 2. Savoy had missed a teachers' conference
- 3. Alec mother registered as a mage and left Alec in his grandmother's care while she went to her assignment.
- 4. Renee's journal (where Renee had copied her roommate's paper)

Chapter 18

- 1. He beats her
- 2. The boy accused of horse theft was Savoy
- 3. Because he is a bully

Chapter 19

- 1. Because Savoy was responsible for Fisker losing a finger
- 2. Tanil severs the laces on Renee's gear

Chapter 20

- 1. Renee realizes that she can rely on speed and precision instead of strength – just as Savoy had taught her in their morning sessions.
- 2. Tanil cheats by pretending he is surrendering but then hitting Renee when she stops fighting.

Chapter 21

- 1. That one of the students is under the influence of veesi
- 2. To keep his mage secret from being discovered
- 3. Diam has been kidnapped
- 4. Renee chooses her friends over her career

Mid-Book Questions and Projects

Imagine you are Renee. Write a diary with at least three entries describing your life's events and your feelings about them.

Write a chapter title for each of the first 21 chapters.

How has Renee changed from the beginning of the book until now?
How has she stayed the same?
You may present your answer through an essay, compare and contrast chart, artwork or skit.

Korish Savoy is a bad teacher.
Write a 5 paragraph persuasive essay supporting or denying this statement. Map the paragraphs as follows:

- 1 Introduction. Clearly state your point of view.
- 2 Supporting argument 1.
- 3 Supporting argument 2.
- 4 An argument that the other side might use and your rebuttal to it. I.e. "although some people may claim.... They are wrong because...."
- 5 Conclusion.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapters 22-25

Chapter 22

- What does Savoy want Alec and Renee to do once the bad weather clears?
- How does Alec protect Renee from Savoy?
- Quote identification: "Yes. It's blond, green-eyed and thinks it's a god." Who says this, to whom and under what circumstance?
- What important information does Renee find out from Seaborn about the circumstances surrounding her punishment?

Chapter 23

- What is the Viper's color?
- In what way does Alec like Renee? Does she feel the same about him?

Chapter 24

- What event did Savoy purchase tickets to?
- What does Savoy discover about Seaborn in this chapter?
- Why did Savoy become a Servant of the Crown?

Chapter 25

- On their way to find Diam, what major action does Renee take for the first time in her life?
- At what cost do the main characters escape the Vipers?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 22-25

Free Writes

- Describe a situation where you felt something about another person, who didn't reciprocate those feelings. If you have never been in such a situation yourself, describe one a friend told you about or one you've seen on TV or read about in a book. How did the situation play out? In retrospect would you have done anything differently?
- Killing a guard in the Viper's underground was Renee's "rite of passage". In today's world, what kind of "rites of passage" do kids face?

Essay / Discussion questions

- Consider the new information Seaborn tells Renee about the circumstances surrounding her punishment. Do these news change your opinion of Savoy? Why or why not?
- Evaluate Alec's actions in defending Renee from Savoy. What are the pros and cons of the decision he made? Weighing the pros and cons against each other, do you think he did the right thing? Why or why not?
- Compare and contrast the Vipers and the Family.

Beyond the Book / Writing Craft

- Write a short story where things appear to be one way until new information completely changes the readers' or characters' perspective.
- Compare and contrast how the media portrays the "mob" and its activities (ie. *Godfather*, *The Sopranos*) vs gangs and their activities. Do you think organized crime or gangs are a bigger threat? Why?

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 22-25

Chapter 22

- Return to the Academy
- Alec uses his Control to heat Savoy's sword, thus burning Savoy's hand.
- Renee says this to Savoy when he starts issuing orders about camp set-up and asks if Renee has a problem with something.
- Renee finds out that Savoy's punishment saved her from expulsion.

Chapter 23

- Green
- Alec has romantic feeling for Renee, which she does not share.

Chapter 24

- Predator fight
- Seaborn "dabbles in whispered" – he is an intelligence agent.
- If Savoy wasn't the Crown's Servant, he'd be its criminal.

Chapter 25

- Renee kills a man.
- Savoy sacrifices himself to let the others escape.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapters 26-30

Chapter 26

- According to Seaborn, what would happen if the Vipers found out Savoy's identity?
- What means of transportation does Seaborn use to return to Atham.
- What is Master Zev's opinion of Alec's decision to avoid mage training?

Chapter 27

- Why does Diam want to go to a Predator match?
- What's a "blinder"?
- What happens when Renee tries to spar with one of Alec's mage friends?

Chapter 28

- Where is Savoy now and what do his captors want with him?
- At the end of chapter 28 Savoy concludes that he has chosen his enemies poorly. Who was he choosing between and what error in judgment did he make?

Chapter 29

- Who comes to Renee's rescue in the alley?
- Why did Alec's mage friends not join the fight?
- Why did Jasper have to go home early?

Chapter 30

- What does Savoy find out about Den when he catches him in the training room late at night?
- How does Den feel about having whipped Savoy?
- What kind action does Savoy do when Den's daughter, Mia, comes into the training room?
- What deal do Savoy and Den make?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 26-30

Free Writes

- If someone said, "people enjoy watching violence and others' suffering," would you agree or disagree? Explain your reasons. Do you think Predator Fights would be a lucrative business in today's world? Explain why or why not.

Essay / Discussion questions

- Write a letter as Alec to Renee, explaining how you feel about your life and your friendship with her.
- Write a diary entry as if you were Jasper. Discuss Cat, Renee and your general outlook on life.
- Consider Seaborn's decision to ride Kye back to Atham. What is the implication of this? Why do you think the author decided to have him travel that particular way?

Beyond the Book / Writing Craft

- In Catar, Predator fighting is a big business. Did anything similar happen in the history of our real world? Research and describe at least one such event. Why did it happen?
- Where does the phrase "bread and circus" come from? Discuss the reasons behind this. Was it effective?

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 26-30

Chapter 26

- The Vipers would kill Savoy.
- Seaborn rides Kye.
- Zev believes Alec is irresponsible.

Chapter 27

- Diam wants to go to the Predator match because Savoy purchased the tickets.
- A derogatory term mages use to refer to non-mages.
- The mage sets her practice sword on fire instead of sparing.

Chapter 28

- Savoy is in a Predator training ground. The Vipers want him to fight in their games.
- Savoy mistakenly thought Den was more dangerous than Jasper.

Chapter 29

- Alex, Diam and Khavi come to Renee's rescue.
- The mages thought they would be ineffective because they would be unable to Control in the middle of a riot.
- Jasper's mother wanted him home and Jasper also had pups to feed

Chapter 30

- Den does not know how to sword fight
- Den feels ashamed
- Savoy protects Den's image in front of his daughter by claiming someone else, not Den, had hurt him.
- Savoy will teach Den to use a sword and Den will give Savoy extra lessons in unarmed combat.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapters 31-35

Chapter 31

- Den tells Savoy that spectators don't pay to watch Boulder *fight*. What do they in fact pay to see?
- What does Renee discover about Jasper when meeting him in the Predator arena?

Chapter 32

- What happened to Sasha while Renee was in Atham?
- According to Sasha's information, what led to Savoy being assigned to the Academy?

Chapter 33

- When Lord Palan meets Renee in the courtyard, he denies the Family's involvement in her mother's death. What alternative explanation does he imply?
- Who does Renee believe to be behind the Diam's kidnapping?
- Quote identification: "A Servant taking independent action is not entitled to the Crown's army any more than a royal account keeper with personal debts is entitled to the Crown's coffers." Who says this, to whom and in what context?

Chapter 34

- What made Den believe that Renee and Savoy know each other?
- Was Den's "freedom fight" real?

Chapter 35

- True or False: Fisker hates Savoy because Savoy's actions led to Fisker losing a finger?
- What major discovery about Savoy does Renee make while talking with Seaborn and Fisker?
- According to Seaborn, how is King Lysian planning to respond to the Viper's kidnapping of his cousin, Claire?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 31- 35

Free Writes

- Do you sympathize with Fisker's hatred of Savoy? Why or why not?
- Which character or characters do you find the most "gray" – straddling the line between being good guys and bad guys? Explain why with support from the text.

Essay / Discussion questions

- Explain, in your own words, Verin's reasoning for not authorizing a mission to rescue Savoy. Analyze the merits of his argument. Given Verin's position, is his decision correct? Why or why not?
- Alec says, "People commit crimes everyday, Renee. It's not fair to single us out for special penalty." Do you agree with Alec? Why or why not?
- Imagine yourself an advisor to King Lysian. Lysian asks your opinion on whether it would be appropriate to send an official army delegation to rescue Savoy. Prepare and deliver a 3-minute speech to the king, advising either for or against the action.

Beyond the Book / Writing Craft

- On page 304, Den explains that while Madam is a harsh mistress, all in all things are better with her than they were without her. In real life, is harsh leadership better than chaos?
- What other books exploring the effects of harsh leadership / chaos have you read? How do they compare to CADET? Explain with specific details.
- Research an instance in history where a dictator either came into power, or was overthrown. Compare and contrast the situation before and after.
- Looking back through the text, what clues can you find about Savoy's family origin? Why do authors plant clues in text?

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 31-35

Chapter 31

- Spectators pay to watch Boulder kill
- Jasper is a Viper and the Madam's son

Chapter 32

- Sasha was attacked.
- Palan offered information to the Crown in return for Savoy's assignment to the Academy.

Chapter 33

- Palan implies that Renee's own father may have been behind Renee's mother's death.
- Tanil
- Verin says this to Renee while explaining why he will not authorize an official military rescue of Savoy.

Chapter 34

- Renee has asked that Savoy be untied. This would be too dangerous unless she knew him.
- No, it was staged.

Chapter 35

- False
- Savoy is Lord Palan's nephew.
- Lysian will travel to Catar to personally oversee affairs and put pressure on the Madam.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapters 36-40

Chapter 36

- Why does Den give Savoy an amulet?
- Who does the Madam blame for Savoy's escape attempt
- What is Savoy sentenced to for trying to escape?

Chapter 37

- What is Jasper upset about when Renee finds him in the mage tavern?
- What are "weeds"?

Chapter 38

- What did Renee need from Savoy when she came to see him, and did she get it?
- What advice does Alec give Renee as how to proceed with Savoy's rescue? What does he say of his own role?

Chapter 39

- What really let to Verin taking on the teenage Savoy as a foster?
- What is likely to happen if King Lysian and the Madam don't find common ground?

Chapter 40

- How did the Seventh know to come?
- Why does Renee want to see Lysian?
- What is the condition Lysian sets for fulfilling Renee's request?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 36-40

Free Writes

- Do you think you would make a good officer? Why or why not?
- Should rules always be followed? Why or why not? What criteria do you use when you decide whether or not to follow a certain rule?

Essay / Discussion questions

- Do you think Renee will make a good officer? Why or why not? Evaluate both the qualities she has to be a good officer and those that may hinder her.
- Evaluate Savoy's refusal to give Renee the code word. Do you think he was right? Why or why not?
- Is Verin or Palan a better person? Why? Use specific examples from the text to support your opinion.

Beyond the Book / Writing Craft

- The Seventh violated the rules when it came to Catar to help Savoy. How acceptable was this breach of protocol? Why? After you write your personal opinion, consider how people from different cultures may answer this question. To help with this analysis, look up the world views of particularist versus universalist cultures.

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 36-40

Chapter 36

- To help Savoy escape
- Jasper
- A death match

Chapter 37

- Jasper is upset because “Cat” will be in a death match and because Jasper is being blamed for Cat’s escape attempt.
- Kidnapped children

Chapter 38

- Renee needed a code word for the Seventh, which Savoy refused to give.
- Alec recommends leaving things alone. He does not want to participate in any plan to rescue Savoy.

Chapter 39

- Palan and Verin made an agreement.
- Civil War

Chapter 40

- Diam wrote them a letter, using his own code word
- To secure protection for the Seventh
- Renee will return to training to become a Servant of the Crown.

Reading Comprehension Questions: Chapters 40-46

Chapter 41

- Lord Palan uses a medicine distribution dilemma to explain the difference between his and Verin's philosophies to Diam. What solution to the dilemma does Diam propose?
- Who is Savoy fighting in the death match? How does Savoy's opponent feel about fighting Savoy?
- What does Savoy do to neutralize his opponent without injuring him?

Chapter 42

- Who was behind the fire in the arena?
- What does Renee try to convince Jasper to do when she catches up to him in the corridor?

Chapter 43

- Quote identification: "Friends need not like each other's choices to guard each others backs, right?" Who said this, to whom, and what were the circumstances?
- What did the Madam do to her son, Jasper, when it became clear that he could not leave with her?

Chapter 44

- What does Savoy do to Jasper shortly after saving the boy's life?
- What was the real reason Fisker came along with Savoy and Renee?

Chapter 45

- Why did Renee need Sasha's ring?
- Was the Family behind Renee's mother's death?

Chapter 46

- What ultimatum does Renee make to Savoy?
- What is Lord Palan's justification for why it was ok to set fire to the arena, killing dozens of people?
- What is Savoy's prediction of Renee's future?

Higher Level Thinking: Chapters 40-46

Free Writes

- Describe a situation, real or hypothetical, where you supported (or would support) a friend because he/she was a friend, even if you disagreed with the choice he/she was making. Do you think that is an important part of friendship? Why or why not?

Essay / Discussion questions

- If the Madam had not interrupted them, do you think Renee would have succeeded in convincing Jasper to join her? Why or why not? Support your view with specific examples from the text.

Beyond the Book / Writing Craft

- Research a situation of adolescent violence, such as the Columbine shooting. What do you think contributed most to the aggressors' behavior – their inherent nature or their environment? Why?
- Imagine Jasper is on trial for his deeds and you are a behavior analysis expert commissioned to write an evaluation / recommendation to the court. Write the document, using specific examples from the text to support your conclusions. Include:
 - An objective overview of Jasper's actions
 - A description of his personality
 - Your opinion as to what led him to take the actions he did
 - Your prognosis as to whether Jasper can be rehabilitated
 - A specific recommendation of what the court should do with Jasper.

Reading Comprehension Answers: Chapters 40-46

Chapter 41

- Make more medicine.
- Savoy is fighting Boulder, who does not want to fight him.
- Savoy puts Boulder to sleep with a chock hold.

Chapter 42

- Palan and the Family
- Renee tries to convince Jasper to switch sides and join her.

Chapter 43

- Alec says this to Renee upon finding her hurt by the Madam.
- The Madam threw her knife at Jasper, trying to kill him.

Chapter 44

- He attacks Jasper and contemplates killing him.
- To kill Savoy

Chapter 45

- To trick her father into revealing his true feelings about the Family and their offer.
- No

Chapter 46

- That Savoy see the Healer or else Renee would reveal Savoy's reasons for avoiding mages.
- Savoy's life was more important to Palan than the lives of the spectators. The spectators' deaths were just as legitimate as enemy casualties in war.
- Savoy believes Renee will "command them all".

Whole Book Questions and Projects

1. Map and explain the development of Renee and Savoy's relationship throughout the novel. What major events influenced it and in what ways?
2. Map and explain the development of Renee and Alec's relationship throughout the novel. What major events influenced it and in what ways?
3. King Lysian has asked you to write a policy recommendation on how mages and mage registration should be handled in Tildor. Write it.
4. Compare and contrast Verin and Palan's value systems using specific example from the novel. Research value systems of different cultures. How might a reader's cultural background and values influence his opinion of Verin or Palan?
 - 4a. What is your own cultural background? How does it influence *your* opinion of the two men?
5. Examine Renee's growth through out the novel. How does Renee in the beginning of the novel compare to Renee at the end of the novel? Use specific examples from the text to support your statement. What major events contributed to her growth and in what ways?
6. Analyze the progression of Alec and Renee's relationship throughout the novel. What events were the driving forces behind their eventual separation? Do you think there is anything Renee could have done that would have led to a different outcome? Why or why not?

Variation: Compare and contrast the development of Renee and Alec's relationship to that of characters from another novel you read or movie you saw. Use specific examples. Which relationship do you think is better? Why?
7. Evaluate the relationship of Verin and Savoy. What are the positive and negative aspects of it? Do you believe Verin did right by Savoy or not? Why?

Variation: Imagine yourself a judge asked to decide, in retrospect, whether Verin's treatment of teenage Savoy qualifies as discipline or child abuse. Make a ruling and write-up your decision, using specific evidence from the novel to support your opinion. Consider the norms of Tildor's society and whether that affects your ruling on this case.

About the Author



Alex Lidell is a YA fantasy author, a Tamora Pierce addict, a horse rider, and a paramedic. The latter two tend to go hand in hand a bit more often than one would like. Alex started writing at 2 am.

Additional Information

CONTACT: Contact Alex Lidell at alex@alexlidell.com with questions, comments and suggestions.

SCHOOL VISITS: Alex is available for school visits, skype class visits, and on-line interactions with students and teachers. Please contact her at alex@alexlidell.com for details.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT: Additional information on the novel and more teachers' resources are available at www.alexlidell.com.

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