

# READERS NOTES

## LILY QUENCH AND THE MAGICIANS' PYRAMID

Natalie Jane Prior

### Synopsis

In this, the fifth book in the Lily Quench series, Lily and Queen Dragon once again embark on a mystical adventure, full of danger at every turn.

While they now know how to close off the Eyes in Time in order to stop Gordon the Black Count and his army returning to the little town of Ashby, Lily and Queen Dragon have not been able to locate the existing Eyes. To find the Eyes, they have to track down the magicians who built them. They travel far to the north, to a place of sedgy wilderness and bubbling peat pools and arrive in a magical land which the magicians inhabit.

On arrival they are captured and separated. Lily finds herself in a cell and is taken to dine with three magicians – Quin, Joscelin and Roger. On meeting the magicians, the scaly patch on Lily's elbow immediately warns her that she is in terrible danger. Lily manages to escape from the magicians and goes in search of Queen Dragon. What she finds, however, is another dragon called Baba who has been locked up for many years and is very ill. Baba explains to Lily that the magicians have been drinking a potion concocted from her blood. The magical potion extends the magicians' lives but now that Baba is so ill, they are looking for a healthy dragon to replace her. With horror, Lily realises that dragon is her beloved friend, Queen Dragon.

When Lily tries to find Queen Dragon they are both turned into mosaics in the ceiling of the magicians' banquet hall. With her great resourcefulness and bravery, Lily manages to free herself, together with all the other animals trapped in the mosaic by the wicked magicians' spells. In a desperate fight for survival, Lily and Queen Dragon must find the secret locations of the Eyes in Time before the magicians find them and imprison them for all time.

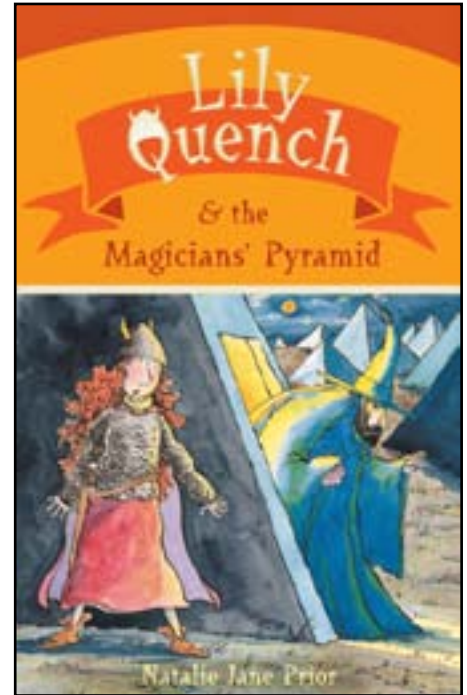
In a terrible final battle, Baba gives her life to save Queen Dragon, and Lily escapes the evil Roger. Lily and Queen Dragon finally triumph, returning to Ashby Water with the information they need.

### Style

This fifth instalment in the Lily Quench series is told in a similar style to the previous books—lovely, lyrical language that never talks down to the reader. Hidden in the fantasy story are many historical and artistic facts that the reader can follow up, too. Unlike the previous books, *Lily Quench and the Magicians' Pyramid* is somewhat darker in subject matter. The character of Baba is a very tragic figure and the magicians are evil indeed. Like all good fantasy adventures, Natalie Prior reveals the dark side of human nature as well as the good. But like all classic children's books, loyalty, love and friendship triumph.

### Editor's Note

Following the success of the first two Lily titles, a publishing decision was made to continue the Lily Quench series. After discussions with the author, it was decided that 7 books would cover a story arc in which Lily rescues her hometown from the evil forces of the Black Count and his army, the relationship between Lily and Queen Dragon is developed, and the search for Queen Dragon's long lost love, King Dragon, is completed. This fifth instalment takes Lily closer to her goal of finding a way to stop the invasion of the Black Army. At the end of the book, Lily has a premonition of the future which leads beautifully into what will be the sixth book in the series, *Lily Quench and the Hand of Manuelo*. The Lily books are a perfect mix of classic adventure and fantasy and Lily is a wonderful role model and heroine for all young girls.



## Educational Applicability

### *Before reading the text*

- Recap what has happened in the previous books esp *Lily Quench and the Lighthouse of Skellig Mor*.
- From looking at the cover illustration and the title, predict what you think may happen in this story

### **After reading text**

- Write or illustrate a story map outlining the sequence of events throughout the story.
- Discuss the main themes of this story—how love, sacrifice and loyalty overcome evil. Find examples of these themes in the book.
- These themes are quite common themes in other books—identify books you have read that touch on these themes.
- Create a character profile table. Identify how some of the characters have grown and changed throughout the series thus far. Identify new characters and when they made their first appearance in the series. (see character profiles in the front of the book)
- Discuss the character of Baba. Write Baba's story based on what Baba tells Lily (pgs 127-132).
- Look at issues such as animal cruelty and animals held in captivity in our world.
- Art: Refer to Chapter 9—Lily and Queen dragon are magically cast into a mosaic on the banquet hall ceiling. Explore the use of mosaics as artworks throughout history. Experiment with creating your own Lily mosaic from another part of the story.