

EGMONT

USA

The Wizard of Dark Street by Shawn Thomas Odyssey

Ages: 8-12

“Upbeat in tone, this delight is an excellent blend of fantasy and mystery with a variety of suspicious characters and enough red herrings to keep the reader guessing all the way to the end.”

—*Booklist*

Summary:

Oona Crate was born to be the Wizard’s apprentice, but she has another destiny in mind.

Despite possessing the rare gift of natural magic, Oona wants to be a detective. Eager for a case to prove herself, she wants to show her uncle—the Wizard of Dark Street—that logic is as powerful as magic. But when someone attacks the Wizard, Oona must delve even deeper into the world of magic to discover who wanted her uncle dead.

Full of magic, odd characters, evil henchmen, and a street where nothing is normal, *The Wizard of Dark Street* will have you guessing until the very end.

Discussion Questions:

1. Imagine you were to open your local paper and find an ad like the one the Wizard placed in the *New York Times* seeking a new apprentice. Would you answer the ad? Why or why not?
2. On page 5, Oona says, “Magic is a fickle thing . . . I prefer things that work.” Do you think that Oona has changed her mind about magic by the end of the book? Explain your answer.
3. Deacon has been Oona’s constant companion since her 11th birthday. If you could have a talking animal companion, which animal would you choose and why?
4. Who is Ingregious Goodfellow and why does Oona’s uncle call him “a scoundrel, a thief, and a homicidal maniac all rolled into one”? (pg. 7)
5. What makes Oona special? Why is she next in line to be the Wizard of Dark Street?
6. Why is Lamont John-Michael Arlington Fitch III the only applicant for the Wizard apprenticeship from New York City? How did he find his way to Pendulum House?



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7. "Neither man nor faerie can live long without hope." (pg. 171) Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
8. On page 172, Oona asks Samuligan if he likes his job. He tells her, "I have deuled spells against the greatest of them all, and lived to fight another day. . . . And yet in the end, it seems that I have found nothing more satisfying than being a simple servant." Why do you think being a servant in the Wizard's home is Samuligan's most satisfying occupation?
9. Why does the dagger burn Oona's hand when she touches it?
10. What will happen if Red Martin destroys Pendulum House and the pendulum stops swinging?
11. What are the Glass Gates and why have they been closed? What would happen if they were to open?
12. What role does Sanora Crone and the rest of the witches play in the disappearance of the Wizard? Do you feel they are innocent in this mystery? Explain your answer.

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About the Author:

Shawn Thomas Odyssey is a professional music composer for film and TV, with works including HBO's *Deadwood* and the recent video game release of *Kung Fu Panda*. He is married to a mysterious dancer whom he met while working at a haunted theater, and along with a passion for collecting magic wands, he enjoys playing unusually dangerous music in a band whose name to this day remains a tightly held secret.

For more information visit:

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