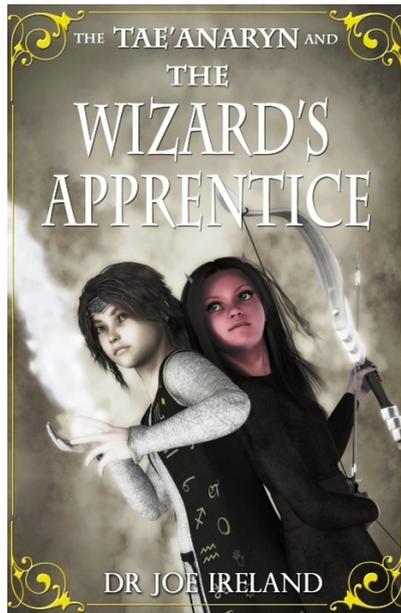


# Book 2: The Tae'anaryn *and* the Wizard's Apprentice.

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Extended teacher notes



By Dr Joseph Ireland

“Dr Joe”

The Tae'anaryn *and* The Wizard's Apprentice  
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## **Introductory notes**

I am Dr Joe – Scientist, Author, *Edutainer*. This means I go around schools and the community helping people to appreciate their world from the perspective of science – and it is a beautiful world, full of wonder, imagination and important questions. But some of the best questions cannot, and maybe never be, answered by science. This is a book that encourages you to ask those kinds of questions.

*The Tae'anaryn and the Wizard's Apprentice* is a thinking book. It is a book designed to get you thinking, imagining, questioning and exploring your real world from the safety of an imaginary one.

Make the most of every moment, because your life is a precious one, and you have so much to give!

Sincerely,

Dr Joe.

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## Quotes by chapter

One of the best things about writing a book intended to be 'philosophical' in nature is that I don't feel compelled to tell you, subtle or otherwise, the difference between right and wrong; The idea here is to get people talking. I think such truths will out on their own one day, but so often we are laden with misunderstandings, prejudice, or simple ignorance that we miss out on something *unless* we simply talk about what we believe and know.

This section hopes to address that by giving us something to talk about. Do you agree, disagree, or something entirely different with each of these made-up quotes below? How do you think they relate to the chapter they belong to, and do they teach us anything about the philosophical issue under consideration?

### Introduction: The question

*What is evil?*

- Piex, the Wizard's apprentice.

### The day the wizard went away

*Be strong in adversity. Sometimes the hardest thing to do, that requires the greatest strength, is not to fight, or even to flee ... but to comply.*

- Prayoth, High Priest of Serros at Emerell.

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**Of black and silver**

*There is no evil; no dark, no light. Only an infinite number of shadows.*

- Teaching of Bgretthol, high cleric of Pumos.

**Wizardry**

*My only regret is not trying something new, every day.*

- Anon. cited in 'Recollections of the tae'anaryl.'

**Conspiracy**

*Sometimes you must wait for change.*

*Other times, it's up to you to make the change you wait to see.*

- Plarros, 6<sup>th</sup> sage of Lumos, keeper of times.

**Dragon training**

*Enough goodness can counteract any evil in the world, and kindness is a balm to sin.*

- Prayoth, High Priest of Serros at Emerell.

**The test**

*Does wisdom teach you? Do you steal treasures from the sacred past? Or let them lie, gaining the greater truth?*

- Nemon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sage of Lumos, keeper of times.

**Test continues**

*There are many who would try and teach you what evil is, and many other things. I think you should listen to them*

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*all, and search for yourself the truth in all their contradicting words. Great words matter, but it is what you believe that will guide your own actions.*

*- Broak, the pre-ancient.*

### **The dungeon and the dragon**

*'These lies are old, youngling, very, very old. There is power in evil, but it will always lead to suffering and regret in the end. Goodness, properly practiced, will always lead to strength and joy at the last. It really is as simple as that.'*

*- Norius, Moon dragon, cited by Piex. Castle records 63.2.313 CY*

### **The Imp**

*'I don't think that chain holds you,' she said. 'Your opinion that you're only capable of evil does.'*

*- Kialessa, to the Imp in the Tower.*

### **The dream**

*I do not know all the reasons for suffering in this world, but I do know this: that the question you must ask of deity is not why, but what you will do with the situation you are given. Will you honour your gods with your choices, even in the midst of sorrow and pain you are called upon to endure?*

*- Plarros, 6<sup>th</sup> Sage of Lumos, keeper of times.*

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### **The angel**

*Never lose hope! Never lose sight of your goal, and eventually you will find a way. Without hope, you will surrender to an inferior foe. Without hope, you will fail to take a test you would have passed. Only those prisoners without hope will be blind to the opportunity of escape ...*

- High Priestess of the Eternal, castle records, 15.2.312  
CY

### **The dragons**

*The dragon looked down at her with the profound wisdom of age. 'Oh, I do not complain. Though suffering is not always easy to bear, all suffering has purpose. One day you will understand. I am here for reasons that goes far beyond Tobiuus's petty plans, I assure you.'*

*'What reasons?'* Eclipse asked.

*'I do not yet know,' the moon dragon said in a voice as calm and still as a moonlit ocean.*

- Norius, moon dragon, cited by Piex. Castle records  
63.2.313 CY

### **The archmage and the sagemaster**

*There are two kinds of trouble in the world, those we can handle, and those we really should keep far away from!*

- Humdug - dwarf scholar.

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**Norius, the moon dragon**

*I think the greatest good I've ever done was not slaying a dragon or speaking with a god. It was just doing what I knew I should, each and every single day, whether anyone noticed or not.*

*- Darrix the Devout, from 'Advice to Warriors'.*

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## Poetry

Do you like poetry? I'm not a huge fan, but I find a poem inserting itself in just about every book I write!! What are your thoughts on my latest contribution? How does it measure up to your expectations of [rhythm, rhyme, and message](#)?

*Under the tower, silver and black,  
A prisoner waits, her freedoms lack.  
A prisoner bold and kind and true,  
Protect her heart from darkness new.  
The other chained in towers tall,  
Bitter, vengeful, darkness fall.  
Two prisoners, but one key,  
Both are trapped, both to free.  
Answers simple; for you see,  
The one's chain, the other's key.  
When once you know, as so one should,  
Knowing evil, yet choosing good.*

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## **Teacher notes**

### **Curriculum**

*The Tae'anaryn and the Wizard's Apprentice* provides many wonderful opportunities to explore curriculum issues. In the Australian curriculum, those opportunities come in particular from the strands of creative and critical thinking, ethical understanding, and personal and social capability. For example, from Inquiring - identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas, year six students are required to 'pose questions to clarify and interpret information and probe for causes and consequences.' Students can achieve this as they discuss the actions of characters in the story, respond to questions in the 'points to ponder' section below, and develop their own questions as they apply this information to their own lives.

## **Points to ponder by chapter**

### **The question**

In this chapter Piex asks the question: 'what is evil?' What prompts this thought? Do you think it would be wrong to hunt down a creature if it attacked you just so that it could eat?

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### **The day the wizard went away**

Piex was very upset when his favourite mentor and teacher had to leave. Do you think his reaction was justified or a bit of an overreaction?

Kialessa told him to make the most of the opportunity. Did he? What do you think he could have done to learn without a teacher around?

### **Of black and silver**

Kialessa and Piex were captured and taken to a tower where Piex's uncle tries to force him to learn how to harness the power of evil. What is Piex's reaction? Does he try to learn how to be evil? Would you?

Tobiuss claims there are opposites in everything. Do you think this is true? And just because evil is the opposite to good, does that mean you need to be evil to have 'balance' in your life?

### **Wizardry**

Kialessa begins to learn a little wizardry in this chapter. Why do you think her attempt goes wrong?

Do you think she should make an oath not to tell others the words of power? What is the difference between an oath and a promise? Are promises important?

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### **Conspiracy**

Kialessa was tired of waiting to be rescued. Do you think trying to escape was a good idea? Was it better for them to just wait?

Tobiusus claims that if good hearted angels 'took over' the world it would be a bad thing. What do you think?

### **Dragon training**

Kialessa meets a new friend in this chapter: Eclipse the dragon. Eclipse is a prisoner too. What plans does Tobiusus have for her?

Eclipse tries to prove Tobiusus is not evil because he has done many good and helpful things. Do good deeds counteract evil deeds in a person's life, or must both be answered for?

### **The test**

Why does Tobiusus put them through illusionary tests? Should he make them as realistic as possible, even if that means illusionary flesh eating acid and bone breaking spiked clubs?

Kialessa has trouble with the moral implications of opening someone's sarcophagus (coffin). Would you do this in the quest for knowledge? Should archaeologists and others search through tombs and graves for lessons from the past? What do you think they do with what they find and what they learn?

### **Test continues**

The spirit Broack takes them from the tower to another place, teaching them and helping them think about their plight. They ask

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him about evil and he doesn't really answer them. What answer does Broack give?

What good is the advice 'you need to find the answer that's right for you'? Is there any wisdom in such an answer, as opposed to giving them his personal answer? On the other hand, when is it better to answer a question rather than letting others find their own?

### **The dungeon and the dragon**

Norius teaches them that evil will lead to suffering and regret in the end, and that goodness leads to freedom and growth. What do you think?

Norius claims that evil causes can only be commanded through the acts of evil – lies, threats, manipulation. What do you think?

### **The imp**

Kialessa told the imp that it could be free, but what did it have to do? Do you think that sometimes the only thing holding us back from achieving what we want might be our belief that we can't do it?

### **The dream**

Kiel arrived to comfort Kialessa and Piex, showing them that there were many, many people seeking for their freedom and praying for their safety. Do you think perhaps in your life there might be people, maybe even people you don't yet know, who care about your safety and are working for your freedom?

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### **The angel**

The angel claims that many who do evil convince themselves that they are actually doing good in order to keep doing it. What do you think? Do you think others have 'given up' on themselves, and don't care anymore if they act evil or not?

### **The dragons**

What does it take to convince Eclipse that Tobiuus is evil?

What does she do about this? Do you think it was a good decision?

### **The archmage and the sagemaster**

Here Kialessa realises that it is the very nature of evil to take something good and make it seem bad, then to take evil things and make them seem good. How often has this happened in your life? Have you ever mistaken something good for evil, or vice versa? Even knowing the nature of evil how hard can it be sometimes to tell the difference between good and evil?

### **Norius, the moon dragon**

The angel was 'told' not to deliver them till the time was right. Why do you think it might have been important that the angel waited three days to deliver them? What had to happen as part of the 'testing'? What might they have missed out on if they'd been saved three days earlier? Do you think sometimes it's better to wait out a difficult time, rather than never have any pain or suffering at all?

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How long might Eclipse sleep for? Do you think Kialessa will see Eclipse again?

## Notes

*The Tae'anaryn and the Wizard's Apprentice* asks a difficult philosophical question: 'What is evil?' How would you answer this question? Here are some suggestions from characters in the book. Which resonates most with you?

- Tobiuus: good and evil are opposites, (like helping and hindering) both have power, and the truly powerful embrace them both (page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**).
- Kialessa: evil is causing unnecessary suffering (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).
- Txlax: there is no good or evil, only what you prefer (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).
- Chammah: evil is perversion of goodness and truth (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).
- Piex wondered: there is no evil, only Chaos and Law. (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).
- Piex later on: evil is to gain power or enjoyment from other's suffering (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).
- **Error! Reference source not found.**Norius**Error! Reference source not found.****Error! Reference source not found.****Error! Reference source not found.**

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**found.:** to do evil is to do what you know to be wrong (**Error! Bookmark not defined., Error! Bookmark not defined.**).

Here are some other thoughts:

- Kialessa and Eclipse: is suffering evil? Should you cause others to suffer so that you can prosper (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**)?
- The Angel: evil people, knowingly or not, often call their works good (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).
- Norius: we all bring forth acts of good and evil until perfected (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).

*and*

- Broack: only the answer that holds meaning to you will matter (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).
- Kialessa: don't worry if you can't answer right away (**Error! Bookmark not defined.**).

And some general questions on the nature of evil:

- Is there a difference between *being* evil and *doing* evil?
- What is the opposite of evil?
- Will evil and good always exist?
- Do you think some people or creatures are 'born evil'?
- Can we *accidentally* do an evil thing?
- Can an evil deed be 'washed away', or is it eternal?

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- Can an evil person become good? If so, how? If now, why?

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## Glossary

Amicable - Friendly

Crenulations - wiggly bits on the top of a castle wall.

Drudgery - boring, like writing glossaries.

Extinguish - to put out a fire.

Glib - superficial, or with little importance or meaning.

Lenience - to go easy on someone.

Manifested - to appear. The term is often used to describe what  
ghosts do when they choose to become visible.

Motif - a repeating design or pattern.

Paralysation - unable to move.

Prudent - a wise and necessary course of action.

Sarcophagus - a kind of coffin where dead bodies are kept.

Serendipitous - fortunate, good. Piex loves using this word.

Scoria - a kind of dark coloured volcanic rock.

Stanza - verses in a poem.

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### **Book 3**

Messages have arrived from the High King, while secret whispers speak of impending war. To strengthen the High kingdom, new laws are being enacted on the people that some people might see as 'unjust'...

In every disaster someone suffers, someone prospers, and someone takes a stand. Will Darrix keep his oath to honour the High King? Or will he risk jail, or worse, in rebellion?

How *does* someone take a stand for what they believe in?