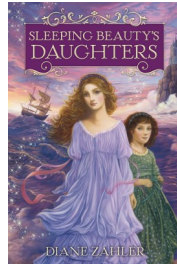# Reader's Guide

Sleeping Beauty's Daughters

By Diane Zahler

The activities and questions in this guide are correlated to Common Core State Anchor Standards. For more specific, grade-level standards within each Anchor Standard, see the specific Literature, Writing, and Speaking and Listening Standards for your grade at http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy.

Extension Activities

1. A Curse that Continues.

Sleeping Beauty's Daughters asks the question: What if Sleeping Beauty's curse were passed on to the next generation? Read a version of the original story. Compare and contrast it with Diane Zahler's version. How is the curse the same? How is it different? How do the characters' reactions to the curse differ in the two stories? Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the two story versions.

CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.9, CCRA.W.9

2.**French Legends.**

Diane Zahler incorporates French legends into her story, including the tale of the Beasts of Gevauden and the legend of Melusine. Using the Internet, research one of these legends and write your own version of the legend. You can include illustrations you find online or create your own illustrations to show the menacing creatures in the legend you've chosen.

CCRA.R.7, CCRA.W.3, CCRA.W.6, CCRA.W.8

3. **Manon's Back Story.**

The fairy Manon has a back story — her own story, which reveals why she is the way she is. Write your own version of Manon's story. Incorporating the information you find out about Manon in *Sleeping Beauty's Daughters,* try to make her a fully rounded, sympathetic character.

CCRA.R.3, CCRA.W.3, CCRA.W.9

4. **Mapping the Journey.**

Aurora, Luna, and Symon make a long sea journey to try to find a way to break the curse on Aurora. They travel without a good map — but you can create a map that shows their journey! Using details from the story, create a map that shows where the trio goes, from the town of Vittray to the islands to the mysterious land where at last they confront the evil fairy Manon. And don't forget the spot where "Here Be Dragons"!

CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.3

Discussion Questions

CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.3, CCRA.R.10; CCRA.SL.1, , CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.L.6

1. What has the effect of Manon's curse been on Aurora and Luna's parents? How have their reactions to the curse affected their daughters?

2. At the beginning of the book, how does Aurelia feel about Luna? How does Luna feel about Aurelia? What details from the early chapters tell you the two girls' feelings?

3. When the curse comes to pass in Chapter 6, Luna immediately turns on Master Julien. Why does she think the curse is his fault? Is she right?

4. Sleep becomes almost a character in the book, once the curse takes effect. What character traits does Sleep have? Are Sleep's intentions good or bad?

5. What effect does Melusine have on the two sisters? On Symon? Why do the princesses tease Symon after they leave Melusine's Isle?

6. Why does Luna jump overboard in Chapter 12? What effect do her actions have on the others? How does Luna feel about what she has done?

7. What are some of things Luna lies about? Why does she feel the need to lie?

8. In Chapter 14, Leander says, "You cannot know what I sacrificed when I left." What did he sacrifice when he left home? How did his sacrifice affect him and the members of his family?

9. When Aurora looks in Emmeline's pool, she sees the future as it might happen. How does she feel about what she sees? Why does she feel this way?

10. When Manon and Emmeline confront each other, Luna takes action. What does she do? What does her action say about her character?

11. Near the end of the novel, Luna expresses an interest in cartography. What is cartography? What role does it play in the sisters' journey to find Emmeline?

12. Both sisters change over the course of the novel. What words would you use to describe Aurora at the beginning of the story? What words would describe Luna? Make a list of words that describe each princess. Then think about how they change. Make another list of words that describe them by the end of the book.