

Educator Information and Directions

This PDF provides the materials that accompany the lesson “*The Lightning Dreamer*.” This PDF contains activities for students to complete before, during, and after they read the poem. Highlighted words within the poem indicate vocabulary words that will be referred to in assessment questions.

Student Reading Guide

Before Reading

- Read some information about today’s poem.
- Start thinking about the topics in the poem by answering the questions.

During Reading

- Read the **Purpose for Reading**.
- Read the poem.
- Take notes and annotate what you are reading.

After Reading

- Reflect on what you have read by answering the questions.
- Complete the **Online Assessment** questions.

Taking Notes and Annotating

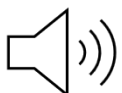
Here are some strategies for annotating and taking notes **in the text itself**:

- **Highlight** or underline important words or words you don’t know.
- **Circle** key concepts and ideas.
- Use abbreviations or symbols. For example:

?	To show confusion or questions
FL	To identify figurative language
★	To identify imagery
SD	To identify sound devices

Here are some strategies for annotating and taking notes **in the notes section** under the text:

- Summarize key points in your own words.
- Write brief comments and questions.

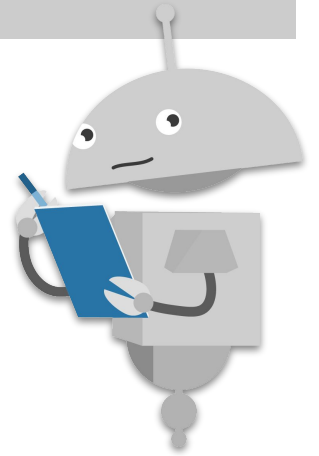


If you would prefer to listen to the poem, click the link to access an audio recording: [Link to Audio Recording of Poem](#)

Before Reading

Today's poem is an excerpt from the verse novel *The Lightning Dreamer*, about a girl whose imagination is set free through reading.

Before you read today's poem, think about your own imagination. What does your imagination mean to you? Do you think it is important to have a vivid imagination, or not?



What ignites your imagination or provides you with an escape from reality? Is it books, movies, TV shows, video games, art, or something else entirely? Write or draw to share your thoughts below.



Describe a favorite character you have met in a book, movie, TV show, video game, or other venue. Include details about the character's appearance and personality, as well as what motivates the character. Write or draw to share your character below.

During Reading



Purpose for Reading: Today’s reading is an excerpt from the verse novel titled *The Lightning Dreamer*, by Margarita Engle. This poem, “Tula [“Books are door-shaped”],” features a young girl whose parents do not allow her to read. As you read, think about how the elements of poetry help the author shape the theme and mood.

While you read, remember to annotate and take notes! You can review strategies for annotation on page 1 of this PDF.

Excerpt from *The Lightning Dreamer* by Margarita Engle

Tula [“Books are door-shaped”]

(1) Books are door-shaped

portals

carrying me

across oceans

(5) and centuries,

helping me feel

less alone.

But my mother believes

that girls who read too much

(10) are unladylike

and ugly,

(continued)

Notes

During Reading (continued)



Excerpt from *The Lightning Dreamer* by Margarita Engle (continued)

so my father's books are locked
in a clear glass cabinet. I gaze
at **enticing** covers
(15) and mysterious titles,
but I am rarely **permitted**
to touch
the enchantment
of words.

(20) Poems.
Stories.
Plays.
All are forbidden.
Girls are not supposed to think,
(25) but as soon as my **eager** mind
begins to race, free thoughts
rush in
to replace
the trapped ones.

(continued)

Notes

During Reading (continued)



Excerpt from *The Lightning Dreamer* by Margarita Engle (continued)

(30) I imagine distant times
and faraway places.

Ghosts.

Vampires.

Ancient warriors.

(35) Fantasy moves into
the tangled maze
of lonely confusion.

Secretly, I open
an invisible book in my mind,

(40) and I step
through its magical door-shape
into a universe
of dangerous villains
and breathtaking heroes.

(continued)

Notes

During Reading (continued)



Excerpt from *The Lightning Dreamer* by Margarita Engle (continued)

- (45) Many of the heroes are men
and boys, but some are girls
so tall
strong
and clever
- (50) that they rescue other children
from monsters.

Engle, Margarita. *The Lightning Dreamer*. Houghton
Mifflin Harcourt, 2013.

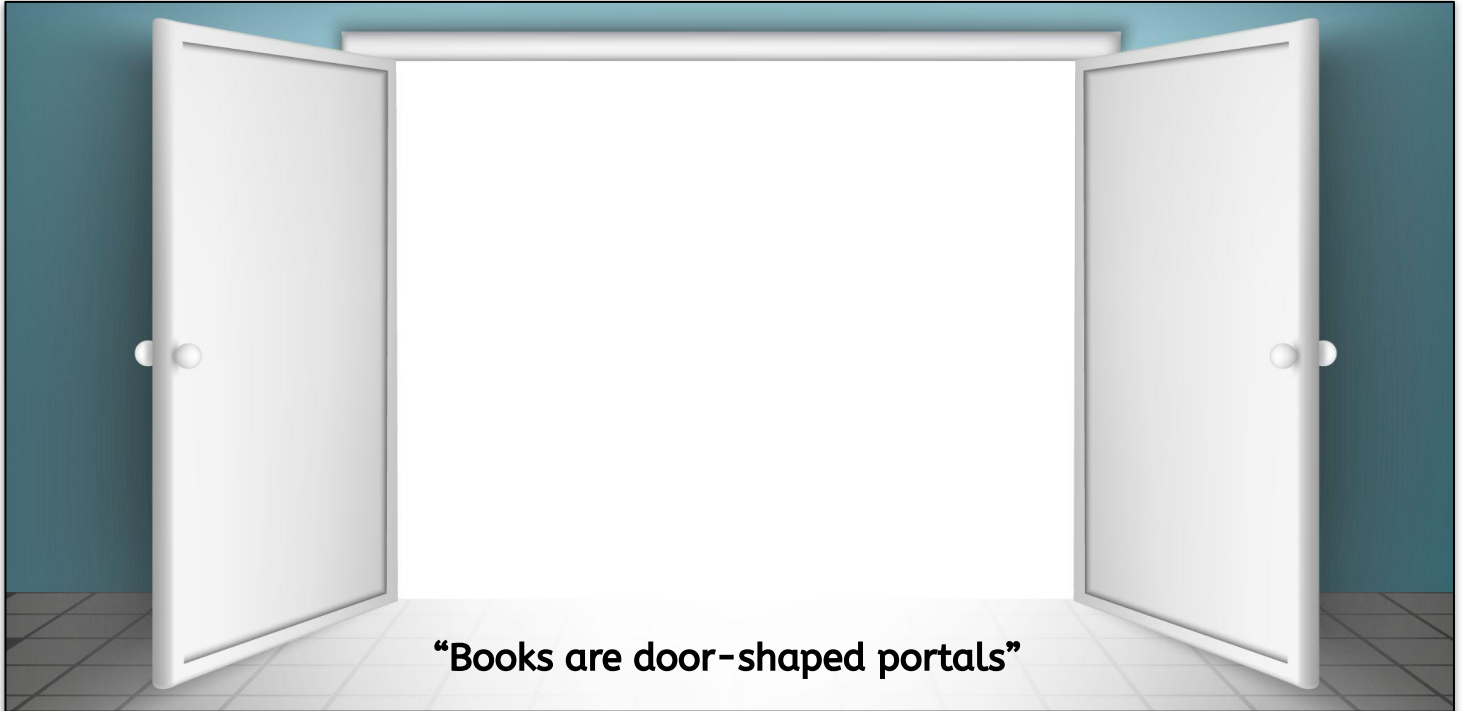
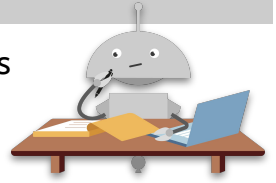
Notes



After Reading



What do books open up for the speaker of the poem? Look for words and phrases in the poem that describe what the speaker discovers through reading and add them to the open doorway below.



Write a summary of this poem in **exactly 10 words**. Think about what is most important to include from the poem in order to capture its meaning.



Example from The Three Little Pigs:

Three pigs build homes - only one outsmarts the hungry wolf.

After you are done reading and answering these questions, you may want to ask yourself some more questions, like "What is the mood of this poem?"

You may even want to read the poem a second or third time! When you feel ready, go ahead and take your assessment!