

Why a Book Club Selection?

In her creation of Tyme, author Megan Morrison has taken the elements of traditional European fairy tales and recast them in a rich multicultural series. In her world, Rapunzel rescues herself from the tower; Jack is not selfish or hapless, but curious and clever; Cinderella fights for workers' rights; and the dashing prince might just be an introvert. Readers will see much that they recognize, but also will find the heroines to be powerful, the heroes to be respectful partners in adventure, and many of the characters to be, refreshingly, people of color. Book Clubs will find much to admire and discuss.

Read-alikes: Think Gail Carson Levine with more laughs, but equal depth and a multicultural cast.

Formats: Available as a hardcover, paperback, eBook, and as an audiobook.

Sequels: Grounded: The Adventures of

Rapunzel is followed by Disenchanted: The

Trials of Cinderella with more books set in Tyme

planned! And, yes, there is also a Book Club Guide for Disenchanted!

About the Guide

Hosting a book club, as either a librarian or a parent, is a rewarding but labor-intensive endeavor. Curious City creates Book Club Guides to offer ready-made event ideas, in-depth discussion questions, and downloadable activities for the book club coordinator. Look in this guide for:

- * Promotional Copy: Calendar copy or invitation text
- * Poster/Flyer: Customizable for dates and reading assignments
- * Discussion Questions: Both chapter-by-chapter and larger discussion questions
- * Sharing Food: Suggestions for snacks or pot-luck meals
- * Activities: Ubiquitous acorn templates to plan a journey through Tyme, an invitation to create and share a new Tyme character with author Megan Morrison, and instructions on playing Tyme's favorite games Jacks



MEGAN MORRISON

About the Book

Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel

Book #1 in the Tyme Series By Megan Morrison Published by Arthur A. Levine Books, Scholastic Inc. Hardcover, Paperback, eBook, Audiobook Ages 8+

You know about the tower, the hair, and the witch. But in the world of Tyme, they're only the beginning . . .

Rapunzel knows only her magical tower and her wonderful Witch, who guards her against evil princes far below. But when a peasant named Jack climbs into her life, Rapunzel learns that Witch is in terrible danger — and to keep her safe, she must leave her tower and journey with Jack on a quest far across Tyme. There she finds a world filled with even more peril than Witch promised . . . and more beauty, wonder, and adventure than she ever dreamed.

Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel is the first book set in the land of Tyme — with many more tales to come.

Praise for the Book

"The novel does not miss a beat in creating Tyme, a beautifully described world with a seamless fusion of magical and nonmagical beings, scenery and objects. Although there are dark, suspenseful moments and some acts of violence, there is also plenty of humor...The characters are refreshingly three-dimensional, helping readers empathize with Rapunzel as she wrestles with universal feelings of love and betrayal..." —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Morrison has a deft hand with both world-building and pacing, carefully constructing the geography and various politics of the fairy-tale world of Tyme in between chase scenes, bridge collapses, narrow escapes, and bargains with all sorts of devious beings." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* (starred review)

"Fairy tale meets funny in this fresh take on Rapunzel... Morrison's cuttingly clever take on classic tales will please readers and keep them hungry for more. Finding out the truth behind the tale has never been so snarky." —*School Library Journal*

"Those expecting a Disneyesque Rapunzel in Morrison's debut, first in the Tyme series, will be pleasantly surprised by the novel's emotional depth and inventiveness... Morrison turns the idea of a naïve, sheltered princess on its head..."—*Booklist*

Promotional Copy

Ever wonder why Rapunzel had to *wait for a prince* to rescue her from her tower? The girl in the tower in author Megan Morrison's world of Tyme might surprise you. She is ready for an adventure, despite a fairy threatening her life, Stalkers trying to swallow her whole, only a nightgown and slippers as traveling gear, one hundred feet of hair to drag along, and a lifetime of misinformation about life on the ground. Join us as we read **Grounded: The Adventures of**

Rapunzel by Megan Morrison (Scholastic Inc.) and find out how fairy tale heroines and heroes look much different in the kingdoms of Tyme. *Locate a poster/flyer as a stand-alone .jpg download from CuriousCityDPW.com (search site for "Grounded")*. The fonts on the poster at Miltonian Tattoo and Minion Pro.

Discussion Questions

Look for chapter-by-chapter discussion questions as well as larger questions that speak to the book's central themes of ignorance, privilege, power, diversity, curiosity, betrayal, and forgiveness. *Locate the questions on pages 6-14 of this kit or as a stand-alone PDF download from CuriousCityDPW.com (search site for "Grounded").*

Sharing Food

Food is hard to come by when you are traveling across Tyme with very few Thorns in your pocket. You are lucky to have a few hot loaves of bread that pop out of the magical Ubiquitous acorns you carry. But, oh, when you arrive at the food shops and booths of Cornucopia, the food choices are endless!

If you need a snack for book club, consider the miniature muffins that Rapunzel samples from *The Muffin Man* when she arrives hungry in Cornucopia without a Thorn to her name. If your book club serves a pot luck meal, ask readers to revisit Chapter 10 and bring something that reminds them of the food booths of Tyme's greatest food city.

Activity: Journey Through Time with Ubiquitous

The citizens and travelers of Tyme rely on the everyday magic of Ubiquitous acorns. Available at various levels of complexity and price, the acorns can be cracked to reveal anything from a hot loaf of bread to a bridge to cross a river. This activity asks readers to plan a journey through Tyme and select the Ubiquitous acorns they want in their pockets. A template of acorns allows readers to write the contents of each Ubiquitous on the acorn.

A group activity could be sharing the readers' collective acorns in a Ubiquitous store, setting the prices (look for the Tyme currency guide), and having readers budget their journey. Explore the description of the store in Cornucopia in the second part of Chapter 11. If you have a bountiful oak tree, consider collecting real acorns and having readers write symbols on them with Sharpie. *Locate this activity on pages 15-16 of this kit or as a stand-alone PDF download from CuriousCityDPW.com (search site for "Grounded")*.

Activity: Playing Jacks Like an All-Tyme Champion

Rapunzel, locked in the tower by Witch for 15 years, had a lot of time to perfect her game of Jacks. In Chapter 10, Rapunzel challenges and beats the Capital Champion, winning herself both a bag of coin and placement in the All-Tyme Championship. Play a game of Jacks with your readers to give them a sense of just how brilliant Rapunzel is at Tyme's most prized sport. Consider inexpensive bags of Jacks as gifts for your readers. *Locate this activity on page 17 of this kit or as a stand-alone PDF download from CuriousCityDPW.com (search site for "Grounded")*.

Activity: Twisting Fairy Tales for Tyme

Author Megan Morrison has built the world of Tyme by twisting traditional European fairy tales. This activity asks readers to identify the Tyme characters they recognize from traditional fairy tales and to make a list of the characteristics that have remained the same in the Tyme stories. They are then asked to name the new characteristics of the Tyme characters and speculate on why Megan Morrison made those changes.

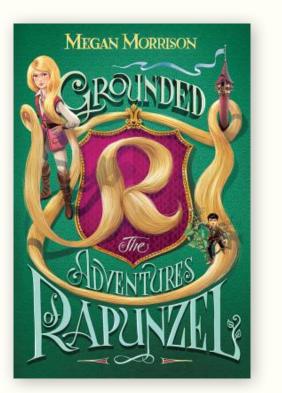
Readers are invited to alter another fairy tale character to create their own Tyme character. If you choose, share their characters with the author on the contact page of MeganMorrison.net. She will share the characters on her blog (with your readers' privacy protected). *Locate this activity on page 18 of this kit or as a stand-alone PDF download from CuriousCityDPW.com (search site for "Grounded")*.



BREAKING NEWS FROM TYME! Rapunzel Escapes Her Tower!

Read all about it in the novel

Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel (Book #1 of Tyme) by Megan Morrison (Scholastic Inc.).



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About the Book

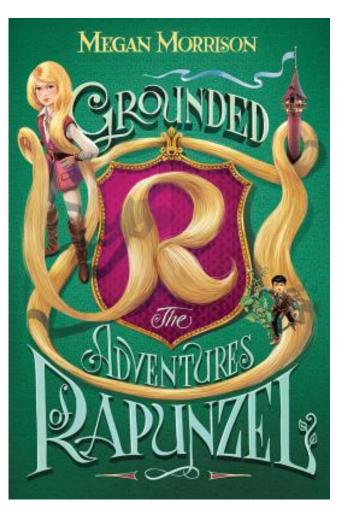
Grounded:

The Adventures of Rapunzel

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About the Tyme Series

Welcome to the land of Tyme, where fairy tales aren't quite what they seem to be. In this world of enchanted adventures, no hero is entirely good, no villain is entirely bad, and there is no spell that can solve every problem. Here, the true magic lies in the choices people make. Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel is the first book set in the land of Tyme — with many more tales to come.

About the Author

Megan Morrison is a middle-school drama teacher and a writer. She cofounded the Harry Potter fanfiction site the Sugar Quill, and she has been developing the world of Tyme off and on since 2003. **Grounded**, her debut novel, was followed by **Disenchanted**, with more Tyme novels to come. She lives near Seattle, Washington. Follow her at MeganMorrison.net and on Twitter at @megtyme.

Praise for the Book

"The novel does not miss a beat in creating Tyme, a beautifully described world with a seamless fusion of magical and nonmagical beings, scenery and objects. Although there are dark, suspenseful moments and some acts of violence, there is also plenty of humor...The characters are refreshingly three-dimensional, helping readers empathize with Rapunzel as she wrestles with universal feelings of love and betrayal..."

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—Booklist

"Filled with mystery, adventure and myriad twists and turns, *Grounded* turns a traditional fairy tale into something more. Strong characters and a complex story will encourage readers to return for the next journey in the world of Tyme." — *BookPage*

"Think you know Rapunzel's story? Think again, because the tower was only the beginning. With a lovable heroine who finds her courage, a somewhat reluctant guide, and an adventure worth following, *Grounded* is one of my favorite reads this year!" —Jennifer A. Nielsen, *New York Times* bestselling author of The False Prince

"The last time I read a book this funny, this smart, and this charming, it was written by J.K. Rowling. *Grounded* reveals a wonderful new world begging to be explored, full of the kind of magical detail that turns casual readers into lifelong fans. The Tyme fandom begins here!" —Melissa Anelli, author of the *New York Times* bestseller Harry, a History and webmistress of the Leaky Cauldron

Larger Discussion Questions (Perhaps as Large as Tyme Itself)

Author Megan Morrison has built the world of Tyme as the setting for her novels. What characters has she used from traditional fairy tales? What did Megan Morrison keep from the traditional stories and what did she add? *Explore this question on the activity sheet available in the Grounded Book Club Kit & Novel Study at CuriousCityDPW.com.*

Do you remember the traditional story of Rapunzel? Did you ever wonder why she stayed in her tower or why the witch kept her? Why do you think the author choose to tell Rapunzel's story? What do you think she hoped you, the reader, would discover about Rapunzel and yourself?

Witch keeps Rapunzel isolated from the world to keep her innocent and to keep herself strong. Witch does this by providing for Rapunzel's every need, lying to her about the rest of the world, and wiping her memories when Rapunzel meets someone from the outside world. What do you think the author is trying to tell us about isolation and ignorance? Is it healthy to know only what one person tells you? What are some of the things you learned from your broader family, from friends, and from teachers that have shaped who you are?

Witch tells Rapunzel awful lies about the other people and beings of Tyme. We see the impact of this in Rapunzel's arrogance and cruelty toward Jack in the tower and at the start of the journey. Can a lack of experience with people different from ourselves give us dangerous assumptions about them? How does Rapunzel's growing friendship with Jack change her?

Jack is motivated to trick Rapunzel from her tower and accompany her on the journey because doing so keeps Tess safe from the giant. Do Jack's motivations change during the journey? Does he come to care about Rapunzel's growing sense of the world? How does Jack's friendship change Rapunzel? Have you ever been forced to spend time with someone and then discovered something about them you liked?

In her books, in the comforts of her tower, and in Witch's words, Rapunzel was made to believe she was "perfect." When we see her on the ground, she comes across as selfish, arrogant, and even prejudiced. How did Witch surround Rapunzel with privileges that made her think she was better than the rest of Tyme? How do our own comforts keep us from truly seeing people who might have "less" than us?

Consider how Witch erased Rapunzel's memories of her encounters with the real world. Now think about how Rapunzel's curiosity grows stronger and stronger the longer she journeys through Tyme and stronger with each question Jack answers. What do you feel the role of curiosity is in the book? How does curiosity make Rapunzel less "innocent"? How does Rapunzel's curiosity affect Witch in the first chapters and final chapters?

In the beginning of the story, Rapunzel's innocence keeps Witch strong and keeps Witch from going to Geguul. In the end of the story, Rapunzel is no longer innocent, and she knows all the bad things Witch has done to others and to herself. But as Witch's power disappears, the White cannot take Witch to Geguul. Why not? How does Rapunzel save Witch?

The Woodmother shows Rapunzel and the reader Envearia as a powerless young woman under the control of a cruel mother. Envearia goes to the White for power. What do you think of her choice? To stay powerful, Envearia as Witch must keep Rapunzel powerless and attack the power of the kingdom and fairies of the Redlands. What do you think of her choices? Are there other ways to be powerful? At the end of the story, did you think Rapunzel was powerful? Compare how these two women got and used their power.

Everyone that Rapunzel meets has only hatred for Witch. After the Bargaining has come to a close and Witch has answered all of Rapunzel's questions, Rapunzel has every right to hate Witch as well. Why does she forgive Witch? Would you have? Have you ever experienced a time when forgiveness felt impossible? Are there some things that cannot be forgiven?

Chapter-by-Chapter Discussion Questions

Chapters 1-3

According to Witch, Rapunzel's innocence makes her perfect. What is innocence? Are innocence and perfection related? Explain your thinking.

What does it suggest that Rapunzel is reading a book about herself when we first meet her, or that all the books she owns are about her?

Describe Rapunzel's magical powers. If you could command an object in your daily life to do what you needed it to with just an ask, what object would that be?

Draw a picture of Rapunzel's home. Add as much detail as you can from the story.

What are your first impressions of Rapunzel and Witch's relationship? What is your evidence? Would you describe the way she is being cared for as loving? Why or why not?

Why do you think it is noteworthy that Witch had a white streak through her hair? What might this suggest?

After Chapter 2, did you think Jack would return? Why?

Why did Rapunzel save Jack when his rope disintegrated? Why didn't she let him die?

Rapunzel sets off on this adventure to protect Witch. Have you ever had to be brave to protect someone else? Does bravery look different depending on the person?

Chapters 4-6

Explain the role that you believe Jack will play in the story. What is your evidence?

What do you think it would be like to be reduced to the size of the fairies? Would you be afraid? Is Rapunzel?

Why can't Witch help Rapunzel where she is now? Do you think Rapunzel will make it out alive?

Who is Glyph, and why does Glyph defend Rapunzel? Explain if you think she will be a major or minor character in the story. What is your evidence?

Using details from the story, describe in your own words or sketch two different views of the glade and Centercourt. What do you notice that is unique?

Chapters 7-10

Describe a journey you have been on, or would like to go on. Is there a difference between a journey and a trip?

What do you think the significance is of the gift of the lifebreath to Jack and Rapunzel? How does it influence our understanding of their journey?

What do you believe Glyph wants Rapunzel to learn about herself in this journey? Do you agree that Glyph is making the right choice in sparing Rapunzel's life?

Rapunzel does not have a reservoir of experiences to help her understand complex emotions like grief. Do you believe this is something people can have explained to them, like Jack is trying to do with her? Or is it something you must experience on your own to fully comprehend?

What did Jack and Rapunzel discover about themselves and each other when the stalker appeared? How might it serve them on their journey?

What is significant about Tess's game that they begin to play? What does it reveal about both characters?

In your own words, explain the story of Rapunzel's long hair. Is it magical? Why or why not?

"I know. I've read about towns," Rapunzel tells Jack before they approach one. "They're full of diseased peasants who will want to sell me into slavery." After this, Jack wonders what kind of books she has been reading. Have you ever been told a "truth" that you have later discovered was more of a fiction? Do you think Rapunzel will begin to question if Witch is rewriting the truth with fiction as she begins to experience the world on her own? Do we see that happen at any point in Chapter 9?

Jack has always dreamed of visiting places all over the world, while Rapunzel is desperate to return to the one place she knows and is comfortable in—her tower. Which character can you relate to more?

Why do two young people take pity on Rapunzel and give her money? Would you have helped her? Have you ever been helped by someone you didn't know during a hard time?

Why is the fact that she was from Yellow seem important to the story? How did she not know where she was really from?

Explain "the Bargaining" in your own words. What does it seem to mean to the people in the village?

Describe a time when you discovered that you or someone close to you had a skill or talent that was somewhat of a surprise to others, like Rapunzel with the jacks.

Chapters 11-14

Why do the officials in Yellow Country decide to let Rapunzel go? What does she learn about herself at this moment from Calabaza? Why do you think everyone appears afraid of her?

If you could design a Ubiquitous acorn that could have magical powers for a day or a week, what would it do before it disappeared? *Explore this question on the activity sheet available in the Grounded Book Club Kit & Novel Study at CuriousCityDPW.com.*

Explain the importance of Serge the Blue Fairy to the story. What is the new information about Rapunzel that Serge brings to the story? Is it critical to her understanding of who she is? Why is Jack surprised by Rapunzel's reaction to the news?

Rapunzel allows herself to imagine her life if she had grown up in Yellow, with her parents and other children. Have you ever imagined your life if it had been different? What would your different be? Would you live somewhere else? Would you have more or fewer siblings? Would you have a different skill or speak a different language?

Why did Jack chase down the bandits? What did he want to save for Rapunzel? Was he successful?

Did you think Greve was to be trusted or feared? Why? Why didn't Jack trust his own instinct?

What was your first thought when Jack and Rapunzel were kidnapped? Were you taken by surprise when they arrived at her grandmother's house?

Chapters 15-18

Why do you think one of the first things Rapunzel notices when she enters her grandmother's house is the book "Fairies, Willcrafters, and Witches: A Mortal's Guide to Magic?" What does Rapunzel wonder right away after reading a few pages?

Rapunzel says that she "felt at home" almost instantly. Have you ever felt at home in a new place? Explain.

Rapunzel learns that she had a different name as a baby. What was the name, and what does Rapunzel think of it? Have you ever imagined yourself having a different name?

What did Greve try to do when he learned about the bargain with Envearia? Why couldn't he save her?

Rapunzel seems confused about the trade when Purl explains it to her. Why is it hard to understand that what Witch did was wrong? What is beginning to happen to Rapunzel's understanding of who Witch really is? Point to a moment where you think this really begins to shift.

Do you think Rapunzel will honor her promise to return to Purl? Why or why not? Would you make the same promise?

For Jack, his sister Tess is the most precious thing to him, and that which he will lose if he cannot give the White Fairy what she wants. What is most precious to you? What is your "Tess"?

When Rapunzel meets Prince Mick and Nexus Keene, she learns more about her past and the enormity of the Witch's powers over the entire land. Why were so many of these royal leaders concerned with trying to rescue Rapunzel over time? Why is she so important to them?

Rapunzel receives more evidence that Witch has taken her memories from her and hears a voice inside her telling her she knew how this had happened all along. She finds it harder and harder to ignore this voice of truth. Have you ever had an experience where you knew something was true, or wasn't true, but you just tried to ignore your own voice?

Rapunzel becomes aware that the books Witch gave her were missing something. What is it? What is the impact of the missing information on her development? Recall something that you discovered about yourself or the world in a book that you didn't know before. What would have happened if you hadn't been allowed to read that book?

At the end of chapter 18, Jack tells her that he can no longer be her friend. Why? Do you agree with his choice? Do you think that he will be able to honor it? Could you make the same ultimatum?

Chapters 19-20

A flashback is something an author uses to help the audience learn more about a character's life before the time frame of the story. How did the flashbacks help Rapunzel learn more about her own life? Who else did she learn about? In your opinion, what is the most important information she learned about someone else? Is there anything else you were curious about that the Woodmother did not reveal to her?

Why do you think it is included that Prince Dash resembles Prince Phillip in the story?

Do you think Rapunzel does have the power or courage to stop Witch? Why or why not? Could you face Witch if you were her?

What might be the significance of the ring that Woodmother gave Rapunzel? Have you ever been given a gift that seemed magical from the beginning? Or one that you knew was very special for some reason, even if you weren't sure why?

What happened when Rapunzel called out to Witch for help in the woods? Why didn't Rune kill her like he threatened he would as soon as she did?

What do you think of the bargain that Rapunzel made with Witch at the end of Chapter 20? What might you have come up with as a bargain at that moment?

Will Jack go against his word and decide to come back for Rapunzel again, even though he said earlier that he would not? What is your evidence? If you were Jack's friend, what would you advise him to do?

Chapters 21-22

What answers from Witch surprised you during the Bargaining question and answer session? What is one question you would have asked if you were in Rapunzel's place?

What started to happen to Witch as she answered the questions? Why? What did this make Rapunzel finally begin to realize?

What was the significance of Rapunzel's final question to Witch? Was it a good choice? Why or why not?

Rapunzel explains that knowing all the bad things Witch has done, she can love her with a real love. Why was Rapunzel's love of Witch not real before the journey? Discuss the difference between these two loves.

Why didn't Witch erase her memories? Was it a choice she made or a result of Rapunzel's journey outside of the tower? Explain.

Why was Witch spared from eternity with White? What was Rapunzel's role in this? What was Witch's?

Did Witch love Rapunzel in the end? Did Rapunzel love her? Explain your feelings toward Witch now compared to the beginning and middle of the story. Have you ever changed the way you felt about someone as you learned more and more about their past or present?

Epilogue

Now that Jack and Tess and his mother are safe, what do you think of the suggestion for his family's relocation?

Draw a picture of Rapunzel one year from now. Who else will be in the picture? Prince Frog? Purl? Jack? What is their next adventure?

Of all the characters in the story, who are you most like and why? List three to five character traits that you have in common. Who in the story are you least like? What is a character trait that they possess that you do not?



JOURNEY THROUGH TYME WITH UBIQUITOUS!

Choose a Location

Like Rapunzel did with Jack, open your book to the map of Tyme, close your eyes, and drop your finger on a random location on the map. Do this twice to select the start and finish of your journey. Want to travel in your own world? Grab a printed map, atlas, or spin Google Earth to choose where your journey will take you.



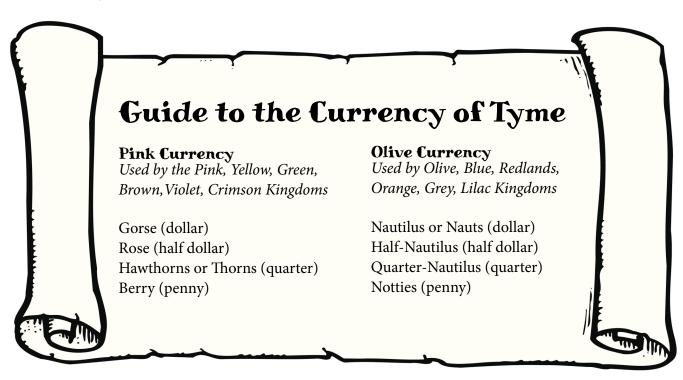
Stock up on Ubiquitous

Head to the *Adventure* and *Edible* sections of the Ubiquitous store and secure enough supplies for your journey. Consider the distance, the days to travel, the weather you might encounter, territory you will cross, and any unexpected detours or incidents. Write what acorns you think you will need on the attached blank Ubiquitous.

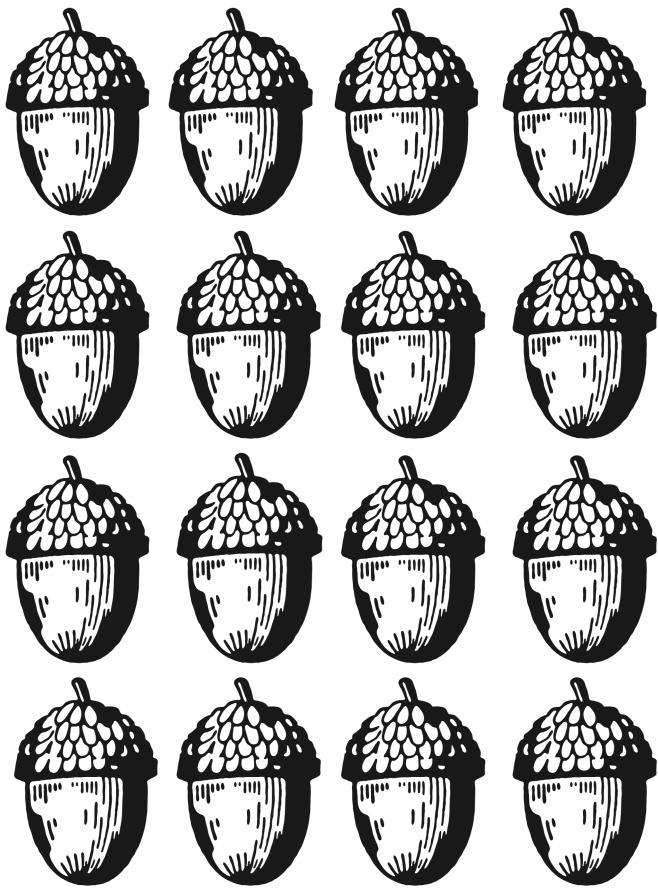
Count Your Thorns

Can you afford all those acorns? Cut out your collection of acorns and show them to fellow readers. Looking at each other's collections of Ubiquitous, imagine them as the contents of a Ubiquitous store. Set a pricing structure for the acorns using the Tyme currency chart below.

Set a common budget for all the travelers. Do you need to rethink your journey based on the budget? If all the acorns you need will not fit into the budget, can you work along the way? Sell something?







Created for the novel **Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel** (Book #1 of Tyme) by Megan Morrison (Scholastic Inc.) MeganMorrison.net

PLAY JACKS LIKE AN ALL-TYME CHAMPION

After Rapunzel's surprise upset of the Capital Champion of Cornucopia, there has been a resurgance of the game amongst the common people of Tyme. The damsel (in not much distress) proved that anyone could come from behind and be a Champion!

Caught on her way through Commonwealth Green, Rapunzel revealed how she plays the greatest game in Tyme!

PLAY JACKS LIKE AN ALL-TYME CHAMPION

Game Preparation

The game is played outdoors on a smooth surface or indoors on an uncarpeted floor by two players. *Rapunzel notes that ceilings can keep you from going beyond 14 jacks!* Equipment includes up to 15 jacks and one small ball. The two players sit face to face.

Player One

To decide who goes first, throw the jacks up in the air and try to catch as many as possible with both hands together, thumb to thumb, palms down. Whoever catches the most jacks goes first. *Of course, poor Rapunzel was always Player One as she was forced to play alone in her lonely tower!*

Game Play

Player One gathers all of the jacks in one hand, gives them a gentle toss and scatters them onto the ground, anywhere inside the space encircled by her and her opponent. Following that, she tosses the ball into the air.

The object of the game is to pick up the designated number of jacks with one hand and catch the ball on the first bounce in that same hand. It starts with one jack at a time (onesies), then two jacks (twosies), right on up till the player misses. She continues at that number on her next turn. *Rapunzel famously reached fifteensies!*

Then Player Two goes. The game continues until someone succeeds at picking up the ball and all of the jacks at once on a single bounce.

Keep practicing and one day you could compete beside the fairest of them all at the All-Tyme Championships!

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Thanks to Mick Greene and Mark Pesner at StreetPlay.com for the bulk of this description.



Author Megan Morrison has built the world of Tyme as the setting for her novels. What characters has she used from traditional fairy tales? Make a list of the characters you recognize. What did Megan Morrison keep from the traditional stories and what did she add? Why do you think she made those changes? Use the form below to chart youtr responses.

Tyme Character	Characteristics from Traditional Fairy Tales	New Characteristics in Tyme

Create & Share a New Tyme Character

If author Megan Morrison can twist fairy takes to create new characters for Tyme, so can you! Select a character or creature from a fairy tale and decide how you will transform them. Write a paragraph about your character.

Share that paragraph with Megan Morrison on the Contact page at MeganMorrison.net and she may share it (with your privacy protected) with other Tyme fans on her blog!