

Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel: Discussion Questions

About the Book

Grounded:

The Adventures of Rapunzel

Book #1 in the Tyme Series

By Megan Morrison

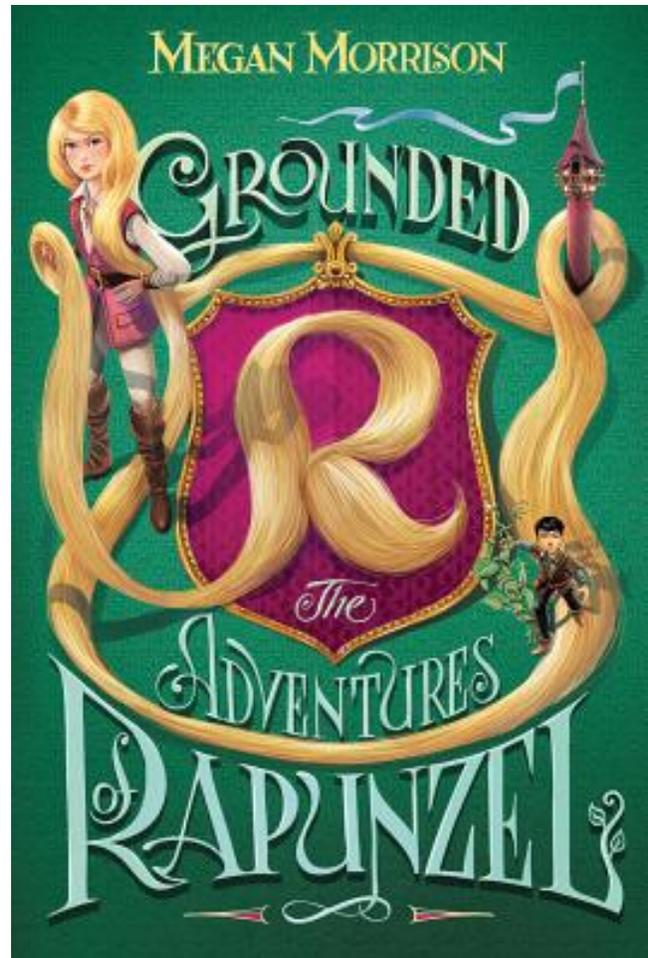
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Ages 8+

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.



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](https://twitter.com/megtyme).

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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 cuttngly 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... a full-bodied world worth revisiting.”

—*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*

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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?

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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?

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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?

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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?

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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?

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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?

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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?

