

### **Discussion Questions for *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones**

1. Has anyone read the book before? Did you like it more or less this time around?
2. Did the author do a good job of world building? Why or why not?
3. One of the castle doors opens to modern Wales. Did this surprise you? How does this change your perception of the fantasy world?
4. Is there a main character? If so, who?
5. Did the author do a good job of character development?
6. Many of the characters are not quite themselves, or not quite honest about who they are, including Sophie, Howl, Calcifer, the Witch of the Waste, Lettie, Martha, Prince Justin, and Wizard Suliman? Is the author making a point here, and if so, what?
7. How was Howl, a man in his twenties, affected by the fact that Calcifer has had his heart for a number of years?
8. Were there parts of the book you especially enjoyed, or parts you did not like?
9. Did the plot take turns you did not expect, or did you find it predictable? What surprised you most?
10. If you read a lot of fantasy, which parts of this book seemed original?
11. Who has seen the movie? How does it compare?
12. If you could talk to the author, is there a question you would ask her
13. Are there any questions you would like to ask, or other issues or elements you would like to discuss?