

READING GROUP GUIDE

The Wide-Awake Princess

by E. D. Baker

1. Fairy godmothers give many of the characters in the story magical gifts. Gwendolyn is “the most beautiful princess in all the kingdoms;” magic cannot touch Annie; and Liam can whistle any tune, whittle just about anything, and has “very attractive feet.” If you were a prince or princess in this fairy-tale world, what gifts would you want from your fairy godmothers? Why?
2. E. D. Baker incorporates her own version of several well-known fairy tales into *The Wide-Awake Princess*, starting with Sleeping Beauty. How many other fairy tales can you find? Which of these fairy-tale twists did you like the most?
3. What are some of your favorite fairy tales? Why do you find them so enjoyable? If you were to retell them, what would you change about them?
4. In Chapter 10, when Liam and Annie are in the fairy garden, Liam says, “I feel like I’m in one of those tales nursemaids tell to small children. I always hated stories like that.” Were there any fairy tales you did not like when you were younger? Which ones, and why didn’t you enjoy them?
5. The author uses humor wordplay throughout *The Wide-Awake Princess*. For example, the “babbling brook” in the fairy garden talks nonstop about anything and everything. What are some other ways that the author plays with words and uses humor?

6. What do you think makes Liam different from some of the other princes Annie meets during her journey? What characteristics and personality traits does he have that make him perfect for Annie?
7. Who was your favorite character in the story? Why did you like him or her so much? Were there any characters that you liked more or less as the story progressed?
8. The way that Annie thinks of herself throughout the course of the story changes, as does the way other people think of her. What about her experiences do you think brought about these changes?
9. Magic plays a big part in the lives of many of the characters in *The Wide-Awake Princess*, but not always in a good way. Do you think that magic is more helpful or hurtful to Annie? To Gwendolyn? To Liam? To Digby and the other princes? How do you think each of these characters feels about the magic in their lives by the end of the book?
10. If you were making a movie of *The Wide-Awake Princess*, what actors would you cast in each role?