



THE
Storyteller
EVAN TURK

HIDITH O MAGHZEL
A Weaving Activity &
Discussion Questions

"Teaching youth is like carving in stone."
—Moroccan Proverb

HDITH O MAGHZEL A Weaving Activity

Hdith o maghzel is a phrase in Moroccan Arabic that translates roughly as “talking and doing at the same time.” It is a phrase that encourages people to keep working *while* they talk, and it has its origins with the woman weavers of North Africa. Weavers often sit side-by-side talking as they work at a loom. It is said that the stories the women tell each other find their way into the woven patterns.



For the purpose of this activity, you might consider the phrase as an opening for a conversation about the colors and themes of the book and how those colors and themes might influence an individual's weaving.

Cardboard Loom

Can you weave on small looms with your readers? Explore the step-by-step guide on “how to weave on a cardboard loom” at Instructables.com:

<http://www.instructables.com/id/how-to-weave-on-a-cardboard-loom/>

Choosing Colors

If you choose to make cardboard looms, consider discussing the colors your readers choose for their weaving. You could choose to explore **a)** color theory, **b)** the meanings of the colors in the book, and/or **c)** the concept of weaving a kingdom.

a) A lesson on the color wheel and color theory could feature complementary colors, warm and cool colors, and the cultural meaning of colors.

b) Illustrator Evan Turk chose his colors and patterns for the book very carefully. What can your readers discover about the story by looking at the context of the colors in the illustration, the font colors, and the frames around the stories? Some discussion points:

- **Gold:** Both the sandstorm and the storyteller are golden. Why do you think that is?
- **Blue:** Water, storytelling, and hope are all depicted in blue. Why do you think Evan chose that color, and how are these three things related?
- **Green:** The story of the family who owned the Glorious Blue Water Bird is told on the page with a green font and bordered with green. What could the green stand for? Notice that there is blue mixed in with the green border. Why is blue a part of that story?
- **Black:** The story of the princess starts with a black font and a black border. Watch how it changes. What is happening to the border and why? Why did her story move from black to blue?

c) The escaped princess “birthed an entire kingdom” with the loom and pile of yarn she discovered in the desert. Could your readers choose colors based on what they find essential to their survival or happiness? What colors would be in *their* kingdom?