

## THE SILVER BOWL

### Book Club Discussion Questions

1. We learn something about the childhoods of the three major characters: Molly, Tobias, and Prince Alaric. Though they led very different lives, they were all sent out into the world to face difficult challenges at an early age. For each of the characters, how did his or her upbringing help form the person he or she became?
2. Molly breaks rules and Tobias follows them, yet they become best friends. What does each offer that the other one needs and admires? Molly and Prince Alaric are both rule-breakers, yet they rarely seem to get along. What do you think is happening between them—in the beginning, and then at the end?
3. How much of what Molly accomplishes is due to her magical powers, and how much can be ascribed to her courage and determination?
4. What does Alaric mean by a moral victory? Do you think he achieved one? Were his views unusual for a prince in the Middle Ages?
5. What does it mean to be a villain? There are several characters in the story that do evil things. In the case of Thomas, Gertrude, Reynard, and Molly's grandfather, William, did they do those things for a reason (whether good or bad), or were they just naturally evil? Is *anyone* naturally evil?