

# the GLOSS

## THE TEN THOUSAND DOORS OF JANUARY

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1. Did you enjoy the book? Rate it from 1 - 5.
2. Do you normally read fantasy? Is this a book you would you have chosen yourself?
3. *The Ten Thousand Doors of January* could be described as a coming-of-age novel. How does January change over the course of the novel? What does she learn?
4. In what way does Cornelius Locke treat January as one of his specimens?
5. The main events of the plot take place in 1911. Why do you think the book is set in this time period? How would the story change if it was set earlier or later?
6. *The Ten Thousand Doors of January* is written as a book within a book. Why do you think the author decided to frame the story this way? How does it relate to the themes surrounding doors?
7. January and her friends read a lot of early-twentieth-century fiction: boys' adventure stories, serialized novels, and story papers. How do those stories influence the way she sees the world and the way she sees herself?
8. Some of the characters in the novel long for escape, while others long to return home. How do these two desires overlap and compete? Do you think this is a book about finding ways out or about finding ways back home?
9. "The will to be polite, to maintain civility and normalcy, is fearfully strong. I wonder sometimes how much evil is permitted to run unchecked simply because it would be rude to interrupt." Do you think this sentiment is true today? What contemporary political and social parallels can be found within the novel?
10. If you came upon a magical door that opened to a different world, what would you like that world to be like?