

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. **To Shift or Not to Shift.** With your reading group, discuss the physical, psychological, and moral implications of Nya's ability to shift pain from one person to another. Consider whether shifting should or should not be allowed in Geveg. Divide into two groups—the pros and the cons—and debate the legitimacy of shifting and the rules that should govern it.
2. **Healer Manual.** Review the information on Healers and healing in *The Shifter*, including the specifics on taking and shifting. Using the information you've collected, craft a comprehensive, illustrated Healer manual—the sort that Nya or Tali might long for while training to become Healers.
3. **Proverbs to Live By.** Nya often thinks of her grandmother's proverbs and sayings while trying to decide the best course of action. Taking inspiration from the power of these maxims, research the meaning and origin of several proverbs that you have heard your family members say. Create a proverb blog with other members of your reading group. Each week, add an entry to the blog that includes a proverb, any notable facts or trivia about it, and your reading group's comments on its usefulness or importance.
4. **Gone Graphic.** Brainstorm with your reading group various techniques for adapting prose stories into graphic novels or comics stories. Then select your favorite series of scenes from *The Shifter* and create a comics adaptation of those scenes. Ask other members of your reading group to graphically illustrate their own favorite scenes, making sure that everyone chooses different parts of the novel to represent. Compile your own edition of *Gone Graphic: The Shifter*.
5. **Predicting the Future.** Thinking back to your answer to discussion question 14, imagine how the next book in The Healing Wars series might begin. Write your own first chapter for book two, and when Janice Hardy's next book is published, compare and contrast its first chapter with your version of it.



Karen Nickel Photography

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Janice Hardy, a longtime fantasy reader, always wondered about the darker side of healing. In her first novel, *The Shifter*, she tapped into her own dark side to create a world where healing was dangerous and those with the best intentions often made the worst choices. She lives in Georgia with her husband, four cats, and one nervous freshwater eel. You can visit Janice Hardy online at www.janicehardy.com.

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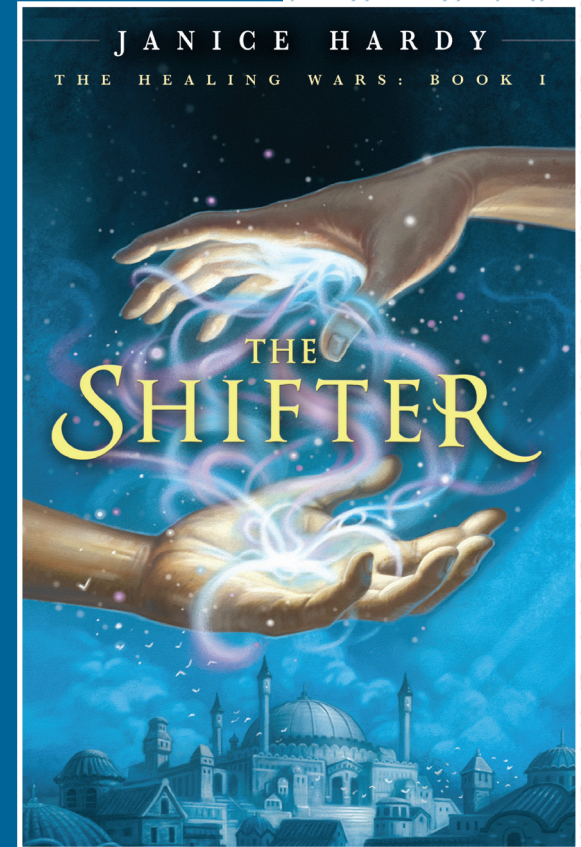
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READING GROUP GUIDE



THE HEALING WARS,
BOOK ONE:

THE SHIFTER

BY JANICE HARDY

