

# Discussion Questions

## for *Merlin's Blade* by Robert Treskillard

1. The book is named “Merlin’s Blade”. Think about the story from the blade’s perspective ... what happens to it throughout the book? In what ways is the blade used for purposes that Owain and Merlin didn’t intend? Is there anything in your own life that is sometimes used for wrong purposes? How about for good purposes in a way that surprised you?
2. Merlin struggles with his blindness throughout the novel. How would that affect you to have his limitations? How do you overcome your own limitations? How has that shaped your character? How have your weaknesses made you strong?
3. In chapter 10, Merlin has a vision of Crom Cruach (p. 111), and in chapter 23 of Kernunnos (p. 250)—both ancient Celtic deities. What purposes do these visions serve? In what ways have frightening things served a purpose in your own life?
4. In chapter 11, Merlin meets Muscarvel and receives the gift of a torc made from pure gold (p. 130). How does the torc help Merlin throughout the book? How does it hinder him? In what ways do your possessions help you? Hinder you?
5. Natalenya has a tough time dealing with the uncaring expectations of her father, and doesn’t always make perfect decisions in response to that (chapters 17 and 18). What would you have done in her circumstance? How do you handle the expectations of others?
6. Many characters in the novel experience the death of loved ones. How do they react to their loss? How does that fuel their actions later in the book?

7. Garth's main goal in life is food. Where does this lead him? How does he grow by the end of the novel? What is the main goal of your life? How has that been a bane to you? What have you learned from your experiences?
8. Owain begins to break free from his enslavement to the Stone in chapter 16. Have you known someone who came out of an addiction? How did they do it? Did trust in God play a role?
9. Abbot Prontwon hid his druid scars under his sleeves (p. 125). Do you agree with his reasons for doing this? Is it ever right to hide things from our past?
10. The monks spend a lot of their time copying scripture, yet it appears those efforts have been wasted (p. 226). How is that true? How is that not true? How valuable is the Bible in your own life? If you could only have your own copy by making one by hand, would it be worth it to you?
11. Dybris and Owain spar over whether or not to kill the druids and warriors that are attacking them (p. 372). Which side are you on? How would you have handled their situation?
12. Uther and Owain both deal with anger and pride. How has this shaped their relationship with each other? Their relationship with others? How could things have been resolved differently?
13. What parallels do you see in the many father/son relationships in the novel? How does each father's decisions affect their son? How have your own parents affected you?
14. Merlin found that there was a call on his life to do great things, yet it came in the midst of loss (p. 404). How have you responded to losses in your own life? Have you found a purpose for your life? How do you think Merlin will handle these losses in book two?