

## SECONDARY GRADES 7–10

### Group Discussion

What is literary merit? What do you think makes 'a good book'? Do you ever re-read books and if so, why?

### Judge a Book by its Cover

Have a look at the cover art for *The Prison Healer* series or *The Medoran Chronicles* series. Without reading the blurbs, what do you think these books are about?

Now read the blurbs and some reviews so you get an idea of the plot and themes of the series. Create your own alternative cover for one or all of the books. Think about the target audience and how you might entice readers, then explain the reasons for your design.

### Creating and Character

"With dark hair braided over her shoulder, eyes the colour of liquid gold mixed with honey—their father's eyes—and moon-pale skin, she looked so similar to when Kiva had last seen her ten years ago. But Zuleeka was no longer an innocent, wide-eyed eleven-year-old child. There was a harshness about her now, her angular features set, her hands resting on weapons belted to her leather-clad waist. Her stance was both casual and threatening, the latter becoming more evident when a slow, dangerous smile stretched across her hawkish face."

—P. 29, *The Gilded Cage*

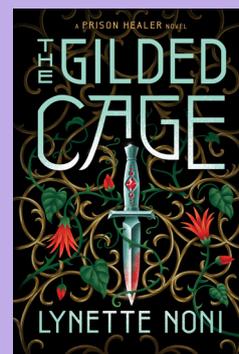
Lynette Noni uses vivid descriptions to introduce her characters to the reader. Choose someone you know and describe them in just a few sentences. You might mention the way they look, their personality, or the way they walk or talk. Use descriptive language, metaphor, and other language features to paint a picture of who the person is in only a few words.

### Research and Reflect

Lynette Noni has written several dystopian novels where the characters don't have the same rights and freedoms as Australians today. Can you describe these terms: 'a resilient democracy' and 'freedom of speech'? Do some research into what these mean in an Australian context.



Jared Thomas



#### KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, civics and citizenship

Capabilities: critical and creative thinking, ethical understanding, personal and social

## About the Author

Australian author Lynette Noni studied journalism, academic writing and human behaviour at university before venturing into the world of fiction. She is now a full-time writer and the #1 bestselling and award-winning author of The Medoran Chronicles, the Whisper duology and The Prison Healer series.