**False Prince**

Author: Neilsen, Jennifer  
Publisher: Scholastic  
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Genre: Fantasy adventure

Setting: Medieval times in the country of Carthya

**SUMMARY:** When the royal family is murdered, Sage, a street-smart orphan finds himself unwillingly involved in a plot to take the place of Carthya’s long-lost prince Jaron. Recruited by Bevin Connor, one of the country’s regents, Sage finds himself in competition with two other candidates, Tobias and Roden. Living by his wits and skill in thievery and deceit, he battles to stay alive. This first book in a planned trilogy is fast-paced with plenty of twists and turns with a suspenseful and satisfying ending that will leave readers ready for the second book in the Ascendance Trilogy.

**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:** Jennifer always loved reading and began writing in elementary school. Her favorite book in junior high was the *Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. She became involved in school speech and debate competitions and performed in the local theater. These experiences filled her head with characters and she completed her first book in her early 20’s. It was pretty bad as were her second and third books. By her fourth book, she decided she was writing for the wrong age group. The characters in her head were now young adult and children’s fantasy characters. Jennifer lives in Northern Utah with her husband and three children. For more information about author go to [http://www.jennielsen.com](http://www.jennielsen.com/)

**Other books written by the author:** The Underworld Chronicles: Elliot and the Goblin War, Elliot and the Pixie Plot, and Elliot and the Las Underworld War; The Runaway King.

**SIMILAR BOOKS/BOOKS WITH A SIMILAR THEME:** The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain; The Secret Prince by D. Anne Love; The Thief by Megan Whelan Turner.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
1. Discuss foreshadowing (p. 65…”It stirred up memories of how I used to be). At what point did you begin to suspect the truth about Sage and what were the clues the author gave you that led to your conclusion?
2. What characteristics did you find appealing about Sage? What characteristics did you find annoying?
3. How do you think Jaron changed since he was first sent away? How do you think this prepared him to become king?
4. Discuss how the author’s use of the first-person narrative in telling this story contributed to the story’s drama and suspense. What would have been different if the author had used a second or third-person narrative?

**LITERARY LINKS or ACTIVITIES:**


**Language Arts**
There are many points of conflict (a problem or struggle between a character and himself and/or an outside force) in *The False Prince* by Jennifer Neilsen. Identify examples of each: 1) character vs.
EL.6.3.2 2006
Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Literary Text:
Analyze the effect of the qualities of the character on the plot and the resolution of the conflict.
Example: Analyze how a character's qualities impact the plot's resolution of conflict, such as in *Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne, when the character Professor Lidenbrock deals with a psychological as well as physical quest as he faces the unknown.

EL.7.3.2 2006
Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Literary Text:
Identify events that advance the plot and determine how each event explains past or present action or foreshadows (provides clues to) future action.
Example: While reading the short story "Charles" by Shirley Jackson, recognize the foreshadowing of events to come as the behavior of the character Charles begins to change.

EL.8.3.2 2006
Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Literary Text:
Evaluate the structural elements of the plot, such as subplots, parallel episodes, and climax; the plot's development; and the way in which conflicts are (or are not) addressed and resolved.
Example: Read a book, such as *Holes* by Louis Sachar, and discuss how the plot is developed, including the climax and its resolution and how different subplots are incorporated into the story.

http://citt.ufl.edu/tools/oral-presentations/
Preferential
Vigil
Balustrade
Cesspool
Mercenary
Façade
Boisterously
Slacking
Tedious
Indentured
Fraudulent