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In a career spanning four decades, award-winning author Diana Wynne Jones wrote more than forty books of fantasy for young readers. Characterized by magic, multiple universes, witches and wizards—and a charismatic nine-lived enchanter—her books were filled with unlimited imagination, dazzling plots, and an effervescent sense of humor that earned her legendary status in the world of fantasy. From the very beginning, Diana Wynne Jones's books garnered literary accolades: her novel Dogsbody was a runner-up for the 1975 Carnegie Medal, and Charmed Life won the esteemed Guardian children's fiction prize in 1977. Since then, in addition to being translated into more than twenty languages, her books have earned a wide array of honors—including two Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honors—and appeared on countless best-of-the-year lists. Her work also found commercial success: in 1992 the BBC adapted her novel Archer's Goon into a six-part miniseries, and her best-selling Howl's Moving Castle was made into an animated film by Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki in 2004. The film was nominated for an Academy Award in 2006, and became one of the most financially successful Japanese films in history. The author herself has also been honored with many prestigious awards for the body of her work. She was given the British Fantasy Society's Karl Edward Wagner Award in 1999 for having made a significant impact on fantasy, received a D.Lit from Bristol University in 2006, and won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the World Fantasy Convention in 2007. Born just outside London in 1934, Diana Wynne Jones had a childhood that was "very vivid and often very distressing"—one that became the fertile ground where her tremendous imagination took root. When the raids of World War II reached London in 1939, the five-year-old girl and her two younger sisters were torn from their suburban life and sent to Wales to live with their grandparents. This was to be the first of many migrations, one of which brought her family to Lane Head, a large manor in the author-populated Lake District and former residence of John Ruskin's secretary, W.G. Collingwood. This time marked an important moment in Diana Wynne Jones's life, where her writing ambitions were magnified by, in her own words, "early marginal contacts with the Great." She confesses to having "offending Arthur Ransome by making a noise on the shore beside his houseboat," erasing a stack of drawings by the late Ruskin himself in order to reuse the paper, and causing Beatrix Potter (who also lived nearby) to complain about her and her sister's behavior. "It struck me," Jones said, "that the Great were remarkably touchy and unpleasant, and I thought I would like to be the same, without the unpleasantness." Prompted by her penny-pinching father's refusal to buy the children any books, Diana Wynne Jones wrote her first novel at age twelve and entertained her sisters with readings of her stories. Those early stories—and much of her future work—were inspired by a limited but crucial foundation of classics: Malory's Morte D'Arthur, The Arabian Nights, and Epics and Romances of the Middle Ages. Fantasy was Jones's passion from the start, despite receiving little support from her often neglectful parents. This passion was fueled further during her tenure at St. Anne's College in Oxford, where lectures by J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis increased her fascination with myth and legend. She married Medievalist John Burrow in 1956; the couple have three sons and six grandchildren. After a decade of rejections, Diana Wynne Jones's first novel, Changeover, was published in 1970. In 1973, she joined forces with her lifelong literary agent, Laura Cecil, and in the four decades to follow, Diana Wynne Jones wrote prodigiously, sometimes completing three titles in a single year. Along the way she gained a fiercely loyal following; many of her admirers became successful authors themselves, including Newbery Award winners Robin McKinley and Neil Gaiman, and Newbery Honor Book author Megan Whalen Turner. A conference dedicated solely to her work was held at the University of West England, Bristol, in 2009. Diana Wynne Jones continued to write during her battle with lung cancer, which ultimately took her life in March 2011. Her last book, Earwig and the Witch, will be published by Greenwillow Books in 2012. Sophie Hatter is our heroine, the daughter of a well-to-do hat shop owner in the village of Market Chipping in the fantasy land of Ingary. As the eldest of three sisters, Sophie is sure that she is...The one big, strange fact about Howl is that almost every young woman who reads about him wants to marry him […]. Yesterday I was doing a question-and-answer session in a London theatre and a tee...We know from the first chapter of Howl's Moving Castle that the Witch of the Waste is going to be the Big Bad of this novel. We only get about seven paragraphs in when the narrator announces that,...In our analysis of the Witch of the Waste elsewhere in this section, we said that the Witch is the showy villain of this novel. We know that she's a baddie from the outset, and she remains one of o...When you think of the word demon, what usually comes to mind? Chances are decent if you've ever watched anything like Buffy the Vampire Slayer or The Last Exorcism, it's nothing good. In a lot of w...Michael is Howl's trusty apprentice, a nice fifteen-year-old kid who seems well-meaning and eager to learn. He's also secretly engaged to Sophie's youngest sister Martha, whom he visits regularly a...Lettie Hatter is Sophie's middle sister. She's super-smart and very beautiful, and unlike Sophie, she's not willing to lie down and just admit that she's doomed to failure because she isn't the you...Martha is Sophie's youngest sister, and she's at least as opinionated as Lettie. However, unlike Lettie, her ambition is not to become rich and powerful—instead she wants to marry, settle down, a...Fanny is Mr. Hatter's second wife. She is stepmother to Sophie and Lettie, and she gives birth to Martha. When Mr. Hatter dies suddenly, leaving the shop in debt, Fanny does her best to place her t...We don't actually find out much about Mr. Hatter since he passes away ten paragraphs into the novel, except that he is deeply proud of his three daughters and sending them to an expensive school le...Mrs. Pentstemmon is Howl's old tutor. Our main impression of her is that she is grand. Her home is incredibly rich looking, and she lives in the wealthy capital town of Kingsbury. She is tall and e...Megan is Howl's older sister. She lives in our regular old world (where castles don't move), in Wales. She clearly thinks that Howl is a no-good rotten loser who mainly exists to embarrass her and...Megan's husband, whom we never actually meet—but if Megan's anything to go by, he's probably very serious and very judgmental. Mari is Howl's little niece. Unlike her mother, Mari seems to adore Howl—as soon as she sees him, she throws herself at him. And Howl in turn seems to love her a lot; the two of them speak Welsh...Neil is Howl's teenage nephew. Like his little sister, Mari, he seems to share a bond with Howl, though he is initially pretty rude and unpleasant when Howl stops by to ask him about his English te...We don't really see much of the Wizard Suliman since he disappears long before the novel starts. He's the Royal Magician before Howl gets stuck with the job, and by the time the book begins he has...When Howl finally notices that Sophie's dog is actually a dog-man under a curse, he insists on attempting to remove the enchantment. Unfortunately the enchantment is in layers though, and Howl and...When the man we later know as Percival accompanies the Witch into Sophie's shop the day that she gets cursed with old age, the Witch calls him Gaston. Prince Justin appears in Howl's Moving Castle even less than the Wizard Suliman does. Even before Sophie's enchantment, the narrator reports "a new piece of gossip [that] came into the shop. The Ki...These characters appear so briefly that they're barely even characters, but we're throwing in a summary of their situation here because their story is pretty charming. When Sophie is still working...Mrs. Fairfax is the extremely talkative witch friend of Fanny's with whom Lettie studies witchcraft. Of course Martha was originally supposed to apprentice with her, but when Lettie and Martha swit...The very young daughter of the King of Ingary. Countries, areas, and other various places found throughout the Howl's Moving Castle movie and book series. All items (18) edit descriptions of this character edit descriptions of this character Markl is Howl's apprentice in the movie. Not much of his background or past is revealed, except for his first name and that he is training under Howl to become a wizard. He manages Howl's affairs while he is away, dealing with customers in the different towns linked to by the portal. The only notable magic he ever does is put on a cloak and take on the appearance of a short, old wizard with a large beard. His voice gets huskier and deeper in this form. Markl in disguise as an old wizard Initially, he is suspicious of Sophie's presence in the castle, addressing her as 'Grandma', but he eventually forms a close bond with her as they are together every day. Most of his time is spent on shopping for food with Sophie, cooking, and other chores such as laundry. I can't remember the last time we had a real breakfast! Markl putting on his 'magic disguise' cape Old Sophie and Markl eating together Howl's Moving Castle (Novel)[] Howl's apprentice in the book is Michael Fisher, a 15-year-old orphan from Porthaven who willingly stays with Howl and eventually becomes his apprentice, unlike Markl whose background information is unknown. These notes were contributed by members of the GradeSaver community. We are thankful for their contributions and encourage you to make your own. Written by Callie Labrador, Percival Ruth Sophie is the protagonist of the novel and has lots of ambitious ideas that she puts to the back of her mind because she is the eldest of the three Hatter sisters and knows the eldest is always destined for...nothing at all. She is defiant though, and sets out to seek her fortune not as a pretty young girl but as a creaky old crone after the Witch of the Waste has cursed her. She is essentially very nice, sweetly helping the trapped dog and the broken scarecrow, but her niceness also causes a problem if not-niceness is actually required, such as when she lets Miss Angorian into the house in an effort to prove she is too nice to be jealous of Howl's interest in her. Sophie is in love with Howl even if she won't admit it. She is a loyal family member and loves her sisters although she has judged her stepmother harshly and tried to make amends for that. Sophie is a character whose happy ending is well-deserved and appreciated by the reader. Welshman Howell Jenkins (also known by the more magical last name of Pendragon) comes from a pleasant and normal family on the Wales-England border and in the earthly world is a good uncle and frustrating brother. He graduated from university with a good degree in witchcraft and went on to become a wizard working in a magical land from which he could still come and go. As Wizard Howl he is rather timid and not entirely happy about becoming the King's Magician but he is an honorable person and does what he has been paid for. He is a womanizer and tends to like the chase more than the capture of the female in question's heart. Sophie being the only girl he remains interested in. Howl is aware that his magic can be used for. Ad as well as good and does not want that to happen which is why he is anxious for the contract between himself and Calcifer to be broken. He puts his own life in jeopardy for Calcifer and turns out to be a thoroughly decent man at the end of the day. The Witch of the Waste has been largely dormant for fifty years which is why it is such a shock to find her evil active again, although it seems likely that she is now under the control of her fire demon. She is ancient but continues to make herself appear younger. She also seems to out-maneuver Howl alarmingly often and is generally one step ahead of the game. Although she cursed Sophie and turned her into an old woman, she did not intend to as it was Sophie's sister Lettie whom she was jealous of and angry with. Despite a fierce battle the Witch is killed at the close of the novel. Calcifer is a fire demon and he is bound by contract to work for Howl. He is a well-intentioned demon as he has no desire to become Howl's master as the Witch's fire demon has become over her, and this is why he wants the contract to be broken. Although he feels he is kept in the grate against his will, once he is released he finds that he actually likes living with Howl, he just wants it to be his choice to do so and not his contractual obligation. Calcifer is a courageous demon and protects Howl and his group. He is the main example of the fire theme that goes throughput the book and also the best example of its symbolic nature as when his life starts to ebb away there is barely a flicker of flame from him, but when life is strong in him so are the flames. Michael is Howl's apprentice wizard and became this by accident simply by turning up one day and then never really leaving. He is in love with Sophie's sister Martha who is pretending to be her sister Lettie. He is a decent wizard but is becoming more confused by the more complicated spells and often gets them wrong. He is loyal to Howl and grows to like Sophie over time although he finds her a nuisance when she first moves in. He also finds her a useful ally in convincing Howl to stay in the area as he does not want to move far away from his Lettie. Most of the truly disastrous spells are Michael's, such as the spell to make things bigger that grows Howl's blue suit to the size of the house. Miss Angorian appears to be a school teacher who accidentally get hold of one of Howl's spells instead of his nephew's poetry homework. She is strikingly pretty and he likes her immediately; she becomes more attractive to him the more she is immune to his advances. She seems to always be looking for him and this turns out to be because she is the Witch's fire demon in pleasant-looking human form and has found Howl's own family in an effort to draw him out of his castle and into her trap. She has a stone heart and is truly evil. The real Lettie Hatter is the second of the sisters and not content with her apprenticeship at Cesari's bakery because she wants to learn magic, so she changes identities with her youngest sister, Martha, and learns some basic spells. She is phenomenally pretty and has a myriad of suitors. She worries about Sophie and tries to find a way of protecting her while trying to break the enchantment the Witch has put on her. Martha is the youngest Hatter sister and therefore the one who is predestined to make a success out of her life. She does not want to learn magic and lives working in the bakery where she catches the eye of apprentice Michael and they fall in love quickly. Despite being Fanny's natural daughter she is harsh on her mother and misreads her intentions. Martha reveals to Michael that Sophie is her sister and is really the catalyst for the whole story of the enchanting coming out. The King has lost his brother, Prince Justin, and wants Howl to find him because he knows he is a talented wizard and also that he is a good man. He is also a sharp judge of character and this enables him to rule successfully. Percival is a hybrid constructed by the Witch of the Waste and comprises parts of both Prince Justin and Wizard Suliman. He first meets Sophie in the form of a dog who is trapped in a hedge. He also takes on the form of several other breeds of dog. Prince Justin is the King's brother and was kidnapped by the Witch after he went to search for Suliman and turned into Percival and the wooden scarecrow. He is important to the novel because it is the search for him that enables Howl and Sophie to vanquish the Witch once and for all. Fanny is Sophie and Lettie's step-mother, and Martha's real mother, but to her credit treats all the girls the same and does not play favorites. She works hard in the hat shop but after Mr Hatter dies she has trouble making ends meet so sends the younger two girls into apprenticeships, training Sophie to inherit the ship one day. After Sophie disappears, Fanny has no reason to keep the shop and sells it. She falls on her feet and marries a very wealthy and very kind man but never stops searching for Sophie and even puts up a reward for informs about her. The scarecrow is able to move at will and is made from parts of Suliman and parts of the Prince. Although he scares Sophie initially he manages to appear far less frightening at his second attempt to get in the castle. Mrs Pentstemmon is the woman from whom Howl and Suliman both learned magic; both were apprentices under her tutelage. She was killed by the Witch of the Waste. You can help us out by revising, improving and updating this section. Update this section After you claim a section you'll have 24 hours to send in a draft. An editor will review the submission and either publish your submission or provide feedback. Next Section Glossary Previous Section Howl's Moving Castle Summary Labrador, Callie, Percival Ruth. "Howl's Moving Castle Characters". GradeSaver, 9 September 2019 Web. Cite this page The store will not work correctly in the case when cookies are disabled. Melicot was the creator and owner of the House Of Many Ways, before William Norland. He was a great wizard, and certainly the Royal Wizard of High Norland of his time. Moreover, he was the one who enchanted the time tilings of the Royal Mansion's roof in order to make them look like gold. Below, you will find the list of the differents works of Wizard Melicot : Creating of the House of Many Ways Enchanting of the Royal Mansion's roof Hiding the Royal Treasury under the Royal Mansion's roof These notes were contributed by members of the GradeSaver community. We are thankful for their contributions and encourage you to make your own. 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Sophie is anxious to show she is not jealous about his feelings for her and so let's her in,both courses of action setting off the trail of events that end in the Witch's demise, but both courses of action caused by love. The relationships of Michael and Lettie, and also Fanny and her new husband, also play into the theme of love. Magic is one of the main themes of the book. Magic is seen to be something that is pursued as a career choice rather than something that's comes from within, but there are also those in whom the gift lies unbeknownst to them, and Sophie is one of these people. The book shows that magic is magic and only becomes good magic or black magic according to the intentions of the person practicing it. Family is a positive theme throughout the novel and although Sophie stays away from her beloved sisters because she can't bear for them to know she has been turned into a crone, they in fact already know and are doing everything they can in order to protect her. She in turn is trying to protect them from the broken hearts she knows Howl will cause them. Similarly Howl will do anything to protect his family from the Witch and does not need magic to do so as his love for them is more powerful than any magic he possesses. You can help us out by revising, improving and updating this section. Update this section After you claim a section you'll have 24 hours to send in a draft. An editor will review the submission and either publish your submission or provide feedback. Next Section Previous Section Glossary Labrador, Callie. "Howl's Moving Castle Themes". GradeSaver, 6 June 2017 Web. Cite this page Sophie Hatter: Sophie is the eldest of her two other sisters, and because of this, it is her 'fate' to never be happy in life. Sophie realizes this and decides to have a dull and boring life working at her fathers hat shop. The Witch of The Waste comes into her shop one day, mistaking Sophie for her sister, and turns her into an old women. 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In the end he chooses to settle down with Sophie and they have a child named Morgan. Michael Fisher: Michael is Howl's 15 year old apprentice. He is an orphan who originally lived in Porthaven until both of his parent died, leaving him alone with no where to go. He ended up on Howl's doorstep, where he stayed until Calcifer finally let him in. Michael started talking to Calcifer, which seemed to impress Howl. Howl never really agreed to let Michael say, but he also never told him to leave, so Michael did anything he cold to help out around the castle. After awhile Howl and Michael ended up growing quite found of each other and stayed great friends. The Witch of the Waster: The witch of the waste is one of the most powerful magicians in all of Ingary. She was banished by the late King to The Waste fifty years before the story starts for causing havoc in the country. She and Howl had a brief relationship before the book started, but once Howl realized that it was really the which, he ran away from her and is still trying to get away from her till this day. Angered by this, the Witch cursed Howl, so that upon falling in love he would have to return to the Witch. She also puts a spell on Sophie at the start of the story, turning her into an old crone. Lettie & Martha Hatter: Lettie and Martha are Sophie's seventeen-year-old and fifteen-year-old sisters. Lettie is considered the most beautiful of the three Hatter sisters, and has dark hair. Initially, she is an apprentice at Cesari's, a pastry shop in Market Chipping, but because she wishes to learn magic, she and Martha switch places using a temporary appearance altering spell. Howl tries to woo Lettie, but upon discovering that Lettie is Sophie's sister, he begins approaching Lettie in order to ask questions about Sophie instead. Martha is slender and fair with big grey eyes. Martha happily works as an apprentice at Cesari's, a renowned pastry shop, and her ambition is to get married and have ten children. She loves Michael Fisher and there is a hint at marriage by the end of the book. Calcifer: Calcifer is a fire demon who is bound to the hearth of the moving castle. He is 'forced' to heat, move, and power the moving castle because of some mysterious deal he made with Howl a few years ago. He is very powerful, but like Howl, runs away from the Witch of the Wast because he does not like confrontation. Calcifer was the first one to realize that Sophie has a special power that allows her to talk life into things, which is the reason why he let her into the castle in the first place.

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Michael Fisher: Howl's young apprentice who assists in his magical endeavors. Lettie Hatter: Sophie's sister, known for her beauty and charm. Her contrasting personality to Sophie emphasizes Sophie's initial lack of confidence. Lettie's subplot explores themes of identity and self-acceptance. Fanny Hatter: Fanny is portrayed as a pragmatic and somewhat self-centered stepmother. Her concerns about the family's financial stability drive her actions, though her intentions are not entirely malicious. Prince JustinPrince Justin's character is intertwined with the resolution of the plot. His eventual revelation adds complexity to the narrative and ties together various storylines. Madame SulimanMadame Suliman's character is intertwined with the resolution of the plot. His eventual revelation adds complexity to the narrative and ties together various storylines. Madame SulimanMadame Suliman's character is intertwined with the resolution of the plot. 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His flamboyant lifestyle and mysterious reputation precede him. His past is shrouded in mystery, revealing layers of complexity as the story unfolds.CalciferCalcifer's origins as a fire demon are rooted in his binding contract with Howl. His role as both a servant and a friend to Howl and Sophie reveals the nuances of his character. His desire for freedom drives much of the plot.The Witch of the WasteThe Witch's background is intertwined with her quest for power and revenge. Her history with Howl is a crucial element of the narrative, explaining her motivations and eventual downfall.Michael FisherMichael's background as an orphan later in by Howl shapes his character. His loyalty and dedication to magic are products of his admiration for Howl and desire for belonging.Lettie HatterLettie's background as the middle sister impacts her self-perception and choices. Her decision to work at a bakery instead of the family business reflects her desire for independence and a life beyond the constraints of her family.Fanny HatterFanny's background as a stepmother influences her actions and decisions. Her concern for her own daughter, Martha, and her desire to secure a stable future for her family reflect her complex relationship with her stepdaughters and her own insecurities.Prince JustinPrince Justin's background as the King's brother and his kidnapping by the Witch after he went to search for Suliman and turned into Percival and the wooden scarecrow. He is important to the novel because it is the search for him that enables Howl and Sophie to vanquish the Witch once and for all. Fanny is Sophie and Lettie's step-mother, and Martha's real mother, but to her credit treats all the girls the same and does not play favorites. 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In the end he chooses to settle down with Sophie and they have a child named Morgan. Michael Fisher: Michael is Howl's 15 year old apprentice. He is an orphan who originally lived in Porthaven until both of his parent died, leaving him alone with no where to go. He ended up on Howl's doorstep, where he stayed until Calcifer finally let him in. Michael started talking to Calcifer, which seemed to impress Howl. Howl never really agreed to let Michael say, but he also never told him to leave, so Michael did anything he cold to help out around the castle. After awhile Howl and Michael ended up growing quite found of each other and stayed great friends. The Witch of the Waster: The witch of the waste is one of the most powerful magicians in all of Ingary. She was banished by the late King to The Waste fifty years before the story starts for causing havoc in the country. She and Howl had a brief relationship before the book started, but once Howl realized that it was really the which, he ran away from her and is still trying to get away from her till this day. Angered by this, the Witch cursed Howl, so that upon falling in love he would have to return to the Witch. She also puts a spell on Sophie at the start of the story, turning her into an old crone. Lettie & Martha Hatter: Lettie and Martha are Sophie's seventeen-year-old and fifteen-year-old sisters. Lettie is considered the most beautiful of the three Hatter sisters, and has dark hair. Initially, she is an apprentice at Cesari's, a pastry shop in Market Chipping, but because she wishes to learn magic, she and Martha switch places using a temporary appearance altering spell. Howl tries to woo Lettie, but upon discovering that Lettie is Sophie's sister, he begins approaching Lettie in order to ask questions about Sophie instead. Martha is slender and fair with big grey eyes. Martha happily works as an apprentice at Cesari's, a renowned pastry shop, and her ambition is to get married and have ten children. She loves Michael Fisher and there is a hint at marriage by the end of the book. Calcifer: Calcifer is a fire demon who is bound to the hearth of the moving castle. He is 'forced' to heat, move, and power the moving castle because of some mysterious deal he made with Howl a few years ago. He is very powerful, but like Howl, runs away from the Witch of the Wast because he does not like confrontation. Calcifer was the first one to realize that Sophie has a special power that allows her to talk life into things, which is the reason why he let her into the castle in the first place.

In an interview with Diana Wynne Jones, she said that the Witch is the showy villain of this novel. We know that she's a baddie from the outset, and she remains one of o...When you think of the word demon, what usually comes to mind? Chances are decent if you've ever watched anything like Buffy the Vampire Slayer or The Last Exorcism, it's nothing good. In a lot of w...Michael is Howl's trusty apprentice, a nice fifteen-year-old kid who seems well-meaning and eager to learn. He's also secretly engaged to Sophie's youngest sister Martha, whom he visits regularly a...Lettie Hatter is Sophie's middle sister. She's super-smart and very beautiful, and unlike Sophie, she's not willing to lie down and just admit that she's doomed to failure because she isn't the you...Martha is Sophie's youngest sister, and she's at least as opinionated as Lettie. However, unlike Lettie, her ambition is not to become rich and powerful—instead she wants to marry, settle down, a...Fanny is Mr. Hatter's second wife. She is stepmother to Sophie and Lettie, and she gives birth to Martha. When Mr. Hatter dies suddenly, leaving the shop in debt, Fanny does her best to place her t...We don't actually find out much about Mr. Hatter since he passes away ten paragraphs into the novel, except that he is deeply proud of his three daughters and sending them to an expensive school le...Mrs. Pentstemmon is Howl's old tutor. Our main impression of her is that she is grand. Her home is incredibly rich looking, and she lives in the wealthy capital town of Kingsbury. She is tall and e...Megan is Howl's older sister. She lives in our regular old world (where castles don't move), in Wales. She clearly thinks that Howl is a no-good rotten loser who mainly exists to embarrass her and...Megan's husband, whom we never actually meet—but if Megan's anything to go by, he's probably very serious and very judgmental. Mari is Howl's little niece. Unlike her mother, Mari seems to adore Howl—as soon as she sees him, she throws herself at him. And Howl in turn seems to love her a lot; the two of them speak Welsh...Neil is Howl's teenage nephew. Like his little sister, Mari, he seems to share a bond with Howl, though he is initially pretty rude and unpleasant when Howl stops by to ask him about his English te...We don't really see much of the Wizard Suliman since he disappears long before the novel starts. He's the Royal Magician before Howl gets stuck with the job, and by the time the book begins he has...When Howl finally notices that Sophie's dog is actually a dog-man under a curse, he insists on attempting to remove the enchantment. Unfortunately the enchantment is in layers though, and Howl and...When the man we later know as Percival accompanies the Witch into Sophie's shop the day that she gets cursed with old age, the Witch calls him Gaston. Prince Justin appears in Howl's Moving Castle even less than the Wizard Suliman does. Even before Sophie's enchantment, the narrator reports "a new piece of gossip [that] came into the shop. The Ki...These characters appear so briefly that they're barely even characters, but we're throwing in a summary of their situation here because their story is pretty charming. When Sophie is still working...Mrs. Fairfax is the extremely talkative witch friend of Fanny's with whom Lettie studies witchcraft. Of course Martha was originally supposed to apprentice with her, but when Lettie and Martha swit...The very young daughter of the King of Ingary. Countries, areas, and other various places found throughout the Howl's Moving Castle movie and book series. All items (18) edit descriptions of this character edit descriptions of this character Markl is Howl's apprentice in the movie. Not much of his background or past is revealed, except for his first name and that he is training under Howl to become a wizard. He manages Howl's affairs while he is away, dealing with customers in the different towns linked to by the portal. The only notable magic he ever does is put on a cloak and take on the appearance of a short, old wizard with a large beard. His voice gets huskier and deeper in this form. Markl in disguise as an old wizard Initially, he is suspicious of Sophie's presence in the castle, addressing her as 'Grandma', but he eventually forms a close bond with her as they are together every day. Most of his time is spent on shopping for food with Sophie, cooking, and other chores such as laundry. I can't remember the last time we had a real breakfast! Markl putting on his 'magic disguise' cape Old Sophie and Markl eating together Howl's Moving Castle (Novel)[] Howl's apprentice in the book is Michael Fisher, a 15-year-old orphan from Porthaven who willingly stays with Howl and eventually becomes his apprentice, unlike Markl whose background information is unknown. These notes were contributed by members of the GradeSaver community. We are thankful for their contributions and encourage you to make your own. Written by Callie Labrador, Percival Ruth Sophie is the protagonist of the novel and has lots of ambitious ideas that she puts to the back of her mind because she is the eldest of the three Hatter sisters and knows the eldest is always destined for...nothing at all. She is defiant though, and sets out to seek her fortune not as a pretty young girl but as a creaky old crone after the Witch of the Waste has cursed her. She is essentially very nice, sweetly helping the trapped dog and the broken scarecrow, but her niceness also causes a problem if not-niceness is actually required, such as when she lets Miss Angorian into the house in an effort to prove she is too nice to be jealous of Howl's interest in her. Sophie is in love with Howl even if she won't admit it. She is a loyal family member and loves her sisters although she has judged her stepmother harshly and tried to make amends for that. Sophie is a character whose happy ending is well-deserved and appreciated by the reader. Welshman Howell Jenkins (also known by the more magical last name of Pendragon) comes from a pleasant and normal family on the Wales-England border and in the earthly world is a good uncle and frustrating brother. He graduated from university with a good degree in witchcraft and went on to become a wizard working in a magical land from which he could still come and go. As Wizard Howl he is rather timid and not entirely happy about becoming the King's Magician but he is an honorable person and does what he has been paid for. He is a womanizer and tends to like the chase more than the capture of the female in question's heart. Sophie being the only girl he remains interested in. Howl is aware that his magic can be used for. Ad as well as good and does not want that to happen which is why he is anxious for the contract between himself and Calcifer to be broken. He puts his own life in jeopardy for Calcifer and turns out to be a thoroughly decent man at the end of the day. The Witch of the Waste has been largely dormant for fifty years which is why it is such a shock to find her evil active again, although it seems likely that she is now under the control of her fire demon. She is ancient but continues to make herself appear younger. She also seems to out-maneuver Howl alarmingly often and is generally one step ahead of the game. Although she cursed Sophie and turned her into an old woman, she did not intend to as it was Sophie's sister Lettie whom she was jealous of and angry with. Despite a fierce battle the Witch is killed at the close of the novel. Calcifer is a fire demon and he is bound by contract to work for Howl. He is a well-intentioned demon as he has no desire to become Howl's master as the Witch's fire demon has become over her, and this is why he wants the contract to be broken. Although he feels he is kept in the grate against his will, once he is released he finds that he actually likes living with Howl, he just wants it to be his choice to do so and not his contractual obligation. Calcifer is a courageous demon and protects Howl and his group. He is the main example of the fire theme that goes throughput the book and also the best example of its symbolic nature as when his life starts to ebb away there is barely a flicker of flame from him, but when life is strong in him so are the flames. Michael is Howl's apprentice wizard and became this by accident simply by turning up one day and then never really leaving. He is in love with Sophie's sister Martha who is pretending to be her sister Lettie. He is a decent wizard but is becoming more confused by the more complicated spells and often gets them wrong. He is loyal to Howl and grows to like Sophie over time although he finds her a nuisance when she first moves in. He also finds her a useful ally in convincing Howl to stay in the area as he does not want to move far away from his Lettie. Most of the truly disastrous spells are Michael's, such as the spell to make things bigger that grows Howl's blue suit to the size of the house. Miss Angorian appears to be a school teacher who accidentally get hold of one of Howl's spells instead of his nephew's poetry homework. She is strikingly pretty and he likes her immediately; she becomes more attractive to him the more she is immune to his advances. She seems to always be looking for him and this turns out to be because she is the Witch's fire demon in pleasant-looking human form and has found Howl's own family in an effort to draw him out of his castle and into her trap. She has a stone heart and is truly evil. The real Lettie Hatter is the second of the sisters and not content with her apprenticeship at Cesari's bakery because she wants to learn magic, so she changes identities with her youngest sister, Martha, and learns some basic spells. She is phenomenally pretty and has a myriad of suitors. She worries about Sophie and tries to find a way of protecting her while trying to break the enchantment the Witch has put on her. Martha is the youngest Hatter sister and therefore the one who is predestined to make a success out of her life. She does not want to learn magic and lives working in the bakery where she catches the eye of apprentice Michael and they fall in love quickly. Despite being Fanny's natural daughter she is harsh on her mother and misreads her intentions. Martha reveals to Michael that Sophie is her sister and is really the catalyst for the whole story of the enchanting coming out. The King has lost his brother, Prince Justin, and wants Howl to find him because he knows he is a talented wizard and also that he is a good man. He is also a sharp judge of character and this enables him to rule successfully. Percival is a hybrid constructed by the Witch of the Waste and comprises parts of both Prince Justin and Wizard Suliman. He first meets Sophie in the form of a dog who is trapped in a hedge. He also takes on the form of several other breeds of dog. Prince Justin is the King