*The Magicians* Episode 1 Study Guide

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Syfy’s new show [*The Magicians*](http://www.syfy.com/themagicians), which can be described as “Harry Potter goes to college,” might seem like just another story about young heroes with supernatural powers. But over the course of its first season the show slowly reveals itself as something strange and unexpected. Fantasy author Melinda Snodgrass calls the show, based on a series of novels by Lev Grossman, a master class in adaptation.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Based on Lev Grossman’s best-selling novels, the Syfy series *The Magicians* centers on Quentin Coldwater (Jason Ralph), a brilliant grad student chosen to attend Brakebills College for Magical Pedagogy, a secret upstate New York university specializing in magic. He and his friends/classmates soon discover that the magical fantasy world they read about as children is all too real, and the dark and dangerous side of magic poses a grave danger to humanity.

If you could live in any imaginary world, where would it be and why?

Characters: Write down characteristics of each.

Dean Fogg

Quentin (Q)

Julia

Eliot

Jane

Penny

Margo

Alice

Kady

1. In many ways *The Magicians*depicts and amplifies the quintessential adolescent experience: depression, ennui, emotional carelessness. Would magic be a gift or a curse for the typical teenager?
2. What is the setting of Brakebills like? How would you describe the mood it sets?
3. Which similarities of other fantasy did you find? What was different?

1. <https://www.wired.com/2016/04/geeks-guide-the-magicians/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)