

A Wizard of EarthSea

A Book Review

by Asher Lowrey



A brilliant and classic display of the heart of the fantasy genre, Ursula K.

Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea* is a timeless and life changing novel.

Published in 1968, only 14 years after J.R.R. Tolken's famed *Lord of the Rings* series was released, *A Wizard of Earthsea* soon claimed the same astonishing and memorable praise.

The novel is set in the ancient world of Earthsea where a young islander boy known as Ged soon finds himself mastering the brilliant art of magic.

After nearly killing himself while defending his home island of Gont from

savage invaders, Ged catches the attention of Ogion the Silent. Ogion is a wizard of tremendous power and wisdom.

Ogion soon takes young Ged under his wing to teach him all he knows. Ged learns a lot about the world of magic while studying with Ogion and eventually sees him as a father figure, but all good things must come to an end.

Ged soon gets bored of his studies and, to satisfy his hunger for knowledge, opens a forbidden book while his master is away. The balance of good and evil is greatly disturbed as Ged unknowingly releases an ancient darkness. Luckily for Ged, Ogion shows up just in time to fend off the ancient being, but Ged's life will never be the same.

Throughout the rest of the novel, the reader accompanies Ged as he

embarks on a treacherous journey to defeat the archaic evil he released.

Le Guin weaves a stunning world of pure amazement and constantly reminds the reader that, "To light a candle is to cast a shadow."

A thrilling story of honor and sorcery, *A Wizard of Earthsea* expertly captures the transition from childhood to adulthood. Just like anybody else, young Ged is ravished by flaws of hubris, but as he ventures island to island, and eventually to the farthest reaches known to man, he matures into one of the most powerful and wise sorcerers to ever walk the plains of Earthsea.

For younger readers the novel may seem bland at first, but as the novel continues the reader is sure to find themselves spiraling into the whimsical, yet shockingly realistic, story spun by Le Guin.