

Chrysalid Quotes Dreams/House Analysis

QUOTE	ANALYSIS OF DREAMS/FREEDOM	WAKNUK SOCIETY
<p>When I was quite small I would sometimes dream of a city—which was strange because it began before I even knew what a city was. But this city, clustered on the curve of a big blue bay, would come into my mind. I could see the streets, and the buildings that lined them, the waterfront, even boats in the harbour; yet, waking, I had never seen the sea, or a boat... “ Chapter 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● David’s recurring dreams of a beautiful city by the sea represent a utopian world of freedom and endless possibilities, starkly contrasting with the oppressive environment of Waknuk. ● The sea symbolizes endless possibilities and the unknown, while the boats represent opportunities and journeys that could lead to new discoveries. This vision shows David's inherent longing for a world beyond the rigid constraints of his own society and his subconscious rebellion against its limitations. ● The image of the sea contrasts sharply with Waknuk’s isolationist mentality, where anything outside the norm is feared and shunned. The sea’s openness is a metaphor for the openness of thought and the embrace of the unknown. ● The boats in the harbor symbolize journeys, opportunities, and exploration. They represent the potential to venture beyond the familiar confines of Waknuk and discover new worlds and ideas. ● In Waknuk, such opportunities are non-existent, as the society strictly controls and limits any form of deviation or exploration. The boats, therefore, highlight David’s subconscious desire to break free from societal constraints and explore new horizons <p>David’s Subconscious Rebellion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● David’s dreams reflect his inherent longing for a world beyond the rigid constraints of Waknuk. Even before he fully understands what a city or the sea is, his mind conjures these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Waknuk is an oppressive environment that stifles individuality and progress. It is a society obsessed with maintaining purity and conformity, often resorting to violence and exclusion to uphold its rigid norms.

	<p>images as symbols of a freer, more open world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This subconscious rebellion against Waknuk's limitations highlights David's dissatisfaction with the society he is born into. His dreams serve as an early indication of his divergence from Waknuk's oppressive norms and foreshadow his eventual quest for a more accepting and enlightened world. 	
<p>"Carts running with no horses" and "shiny fish-shaped things":</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "Carts running with no horses" and "shiny fish-shaped things": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These descriptions suggest a society that has harnessed advanced technology, implying a level of scientific understanding and innovation far beyond that of Waknuk. ○ Symbolically, these elements represent freedom from the constraints of the past. The lack of horses signifies a break from traditional means of transport, while the shiny objects in the sky suggest exploration and discovery, akin to modern-day aircraft or even spaceships. 	<p>Waknuk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Waknuk's reliance on manual labor and primitive farming methods highlights its stagnation. The society's fear of anything new or different leads to the destruction of "Offenses" and "Blasphemies." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This destruction is not only literal but also metaphorical, representing the society's fear of progress and change. By clinging to outdated norms, Waknuk isolates itself from potential advancements. <p>The technological disparity underscores Waknuk's regressive nature, highlighting its refusal to embrace progress and change. The dream city's advanced state symbolizes a potential future that Waknuk actively shuns.</p>

Significance of David's dreams in the novel

Foreshadowing and Premonitions

1. Dream of the Great City: David's recurring dream of a futuristic city serves as a premonition of the Sealand society he later encounters. This city is unlike anything David knows in his post-apocalyptic world, indicating an intuitive understanding or a latent desire for progress and enlightenment beyond the rigid confines of Waknuk.

- **Descriptive Contrast:** The dream city's wide streets, tall buildings, and horseless carts contrast sharply with the rudimentary and puritanical environment of Waknuk. This stark contrast emphasizes the backwardness and the limitations of David's current society, hinting at a possible future where such limitations do not exist.
- **Symbol of Hope:** The city symbolizes hope and the possibility of an inclusive society. It reflects David's subconscious rebellion against the oppressive norms of Waknuk and his yearning for a world that embraces diversity.
- **Psychic Connection:** The dream can be seen as a psychic connection to Sealand, indicating the telepaths' ability to sense and connect with each other across great distances. This foreshadows the telepaths' eventual rescue by the Sealanders, suggesting an inherent destiny or connection among them.

2. Nightmare of Sophie: David's nightmare about Sophie being captured and punished for her mutation underscores the brutal reality faced by deviations in Waknuk.

- **Emotional Impact:** The nightmare is vivid and emotionally charged, mirroring David's inner turmoil and guilt. It serves to humanize the deviants and elicit sympathy from the reader, challenging the societal norms that classify deviations as evil.
- **Foreshadowing Persecution:** This nightmare foreshadows the potential dangers that David and his telepathic friends will face. It creates a sense of impending doom and highlights the constant threat under which they live.

Dreams as a Reflection of Telepathy

Initial Innocence and Pleasure:

At the beginning of the novel, David's dreams are a source of joy and wonder, untainted by the oppressive beliefs of Waknuk. They represent a realm of freedom and possibility, much like his early experiences with telepathy.

- **Quote and Analysis:**

- "Dreams were funny things and there was no accounting for them; so it might be that what I was seeing was a bit of the world as it had been once upon a time—the wonderful world that the Old People had lived in; as it had been before God sent Tribulation."

- This passage illustrates David's early fascination with dreams and the world of the Old People. His dreams serve as an escape from the rigid and harsh reality of Waknuk, allowing him to imagine a world that existed before the Tribulation. His curiosity and openness to these dreams highlight his inherent difference from the conformist mindset of his society.

Increasing Burden and Violence:

As David becomes more aware of the dangers posed by his telepathic abilities and the oppressive nature of Waknukian society, his dreams take on a darker tone. They begin to reflect his fears and the violence he witnesses and experiences.

- **Analysis:**

- David's dreams become increasingly violent after he realizes the true extent of the persecution faced by those who are different, such as Sophie. His nightmares mirror the burden of his telepathic ability, which now brings him fear and anxiety rather than pleasure. The shift in his dreams underscores the growing tension and danger in his life.

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- The protagonist of the novel, David Storm, is immediately depicted as a dreamer--he has vivid dreams about a faraway (whether in time or in physical distance) place. He's something of an audience stand-in, because unlike the majority of the people in his community, he's curious about the outside world, and refuses to accept what he can see and touch as the be-all, end-all.
- The novel establishes a clear contrast between the Old and New worlds. The Old People, we're told, were evil-- that's why they were punished by God. Clearly, David lives in a severe, religious society that hypocritically contrasts its own virtue with the evils of the past--a society not unlike Hitler's Germany or even the American South during the years of segregation.

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WAKNUK SETTING (HOUSE)

QUOTE	ANALYSIS OF DREAMS/FREEDOM
“Within the house, life centred, as was the local custom, upon the large living-room which was also the kitchen. As the house	The House as a Symbol of Moral Superiority

<p>was the largest and best in Waknuk, so was the room. The great fireplace there was an object of pride - not vain pride, of course; more a matter of being conscious of having given worthy treatment to the excellent materials that the Lord had provided: a kind of testament, really.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David’s parents consider their well-built house a testament to their moral superiority and adherence to religious principles. <u>The house is described as the largest and best in Waknuk, symbolizing the Storm family's high status and their strict observance of the societal norms.</u> • The pride in the house’s construction is portrayed as a reflection of divine providence and moral rectitude. This association of physical structures with moral values underlines the community's belief in the importance of outward appearances and material success as indicators of inner purity and righteousness.
<p>“Several burnished pans, too big to go in the cupboards, hung against them. The nearest approach to decoration was a number of wooden panels with sayings, mostly from Repentances, artistically burnt into them. The one on the left of the fireplace read: ONLY THE IMAGE OF GOD IS MAN. The one on the right: KEEP PURE THE STOCK OF THE LORD. On the opposite wall two more said: BLESSED IS THE NORM, and IN PURITY OUR SALVATION. The largest was the one on the back wall, hung to face the door which led to the yard. It reminded everyone who came in: WATCH THOU FOR THE MUTANT!”</p>	<p>Decorations as Enforcers of Conformity</p> <p>The walls of the Waknuk house are covered with proverbs from the book of Repentances, which emphasize the importance of purity and conformity. These sayings are strategically placed to constantly remind the inhabitants of the societal expectations and the dangers of deviation.</p> <p>These sayings serve as both moral guidelines and warnings against deviations, reinforcing the community's strict adherence to the norm. The pervasive presence of these proverbs indicates how deeply ingrained these beliefs are in the daily lives of the Waknukians. They are not merely decorative but are meant to be internalized and followed rigorously</p>
<p>“Then, in the evening, he would call us all together,</p>	<p>The Hearth and Rituals of Purity</p>

<p>including everyone who worked on the farm. We would all kneel while he proclaimed our repentance and led prayers for forgiveness. The next morning we would all be up before daylight and gather in the yard. As the sun rose we would sing a hymn while my father ceremonially slaughtered the two-headed calf, four-legged chicken, or whatever other kind of Offense it happened to be.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The hearth in the Waknuk house is described as a significant and prideful construction, symbolizing the warmth and centrality of traditional values. The rituals performed around it, particularly the destruction of Offenses, highlight the community's obsession with purity and the lengths to which they will go to maintain it.• These rituals, conducted with religious fervor, illustrate the severe consequences of deviation in Waknuk. The community's fear of mutation and impurity is so profound that they perform these acts publicly to reaffirm their commitment to the prescribed norms. The hearth thus becomes a site of both familial unity and moral enforcement.
<p>"Frequent references to these texts had made me familiar with the words long before I was able to read, in fact, I am not sure that they did not give me my first reading lessons." The fact that these texts may have constituted his first reading lessons shows how deeply ingrained the religious doctrine is in his upbringing, shaping his understanding of the world from the very beginning.</p>	<p>Early Literacy Through Doctrine: David’s early exposure to religious texts indicates that his moral education began at a very young age, ensuring that he internalized the community's values and beliefs.</p>