Howl's Moving Castle By Author, Dianna Wynne Jones Reviewed by: Jake 17 Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity www.bethestaryouare.org

In the land of Ingary, Sophie Hatter is the eldest of three – which is a misfortune in those parts. An ordinary girl in a land full of magic, she runs afoul of the Witch of the Waste who places an aging curse on her. Scared to run into the witch again and afraid her family won't recognize her; Sophie runs to the only person she thinks can help: the Wizard Howl. But Howl can't figure out how to break her curse and has created a moving castle to run away from his own curse. Together they form a motley crew with Howl's apprentice and the magical being that runs his moving house, as they try to help each other break their respective curses. Along the way they encounter Sophie's family, royalty, and other magical beings. And somehow the magic of Ingary spills over into our world.

This novel is meant for a wide audience, ideally children nine years and older. This book would make a perfect gift for anyone interested in fantasy and adventure with a touch of romance. The book looks at how your beliefs shape your life and is ultimately a coming-of-age story.

Recommended Titles:

Castle in the Air by Dianna Wynne Jones The Lives of Christopher Chant by Dianna Wynne Jones Dealing with Dragons by Patricia C. Wrede Tuesdays at the Castle by Jessica Day George Goose Chase by Patrice Kindl