**Discussion Questions**

**Time out of Time: Beyond the Door**

How does the prologue establish the tone of the story? Which details interested you the most? Why?

Timothy often thinks about Scrabble words and how many points a specific word is worth. What does this behavior tell you about him?

Sarah and Timothy are siblings, but they are also best friends. What are some qualities they admire in each other? What qualities do you admire in your friends?

Timothy has a lot of questions, and he uses a number of different methods to find the answers. Name some of the ways he searches for information or solves problems, and list the advantages of each strategy.

When Mr. Twig explains who Balor is, he says that “evil is never true.” What do you think this means? How does this theme appear later in the story?

Why did Timothy take Jessica’s place as Herne’s prey? What made the decision so difficult?

Julian holds the position of Storyteller in the Market, and the Filidh—the keeper of memory and stories—is the true Master of the Market. Why is storytelling so important to the Light?

Sarah develops the ability to understand the language of crows. If you could talk to any type of animal, which animal would it be? What would you say to your chosen animal?

Use the Ogham alphabet key at the back of the book to crack the code at the bottom of your favorite chapter. What does it say? How does this extra information add to your experience of the story?

**Time out of Time: The Telling Stone**

*The Telling Stone* picks up right where *Beyond the Door* finished. How does the author refresh the reader’s memory of what happened in the first book?

When his glass leaf from the Greenman is stolen, Timothy doesn’t know whom to trust. In what way does this uncertainty affect his quest? In your own life, how do you figure out who is trustworthy and who is not?

Timothy and Sarah try to avoid going to Scotland by saying they are sad about missing their favorite Christmas traditions. What are some of your holiday traditions? Would you take the opportunity to make new ones?

While driving to Edinburgh, Timothy’s father says that “the Scots are a superstitious people.” What are some of the superstitions or rituals that Timothy, Sarah, and Jessica learn about? Can you think of other superstitions you’ve heard of? Do you believe in any of them?

Some of the people Timothy, Sarah, and Jessica encounter change shape to disguise themselves or have the power to change the shapes of others. What effect does “shapeshifting” have on the story? Think particularly about character development, plot, and the mood of specific scenes when you answer.

The Daoine sídhe, Finula, says, “Once you know the true nature of something, you know its weakness.” In what ways does this statement prove true for Timothy, Sarah, and Jessica?

Characters who are good, who are on the side of the Light, sometimes betray their ideals and work for the Dark. Can these characters be redeemed, and if so, how do they redeem themselves?

Electra the Star Girl is supposed to only watch human events, not interfere in them. Why does she ultimately break this rule?

Do any parts of this series remind you of other books? Why do you think these stories might have similar themes or ideas?

The map Mr. Twig gives Timothy contains a cipher that protects the location of the Telling Stone. Draw a map of a place that is special to you, and use the tree code or make up your own code to write something secret on the map.