**Themes: culture, faith, history, identity, religion**

**Summary:** A fictionalized account of a biblical story in which an Egyptian princess rescues a Hebrew infant who becomes a prophet of his people while his sister finds her true self as a priestess to the Egyptian gods.

**Background for Teacher:** From the authors’ note at the end of the book: “This novel developed far differently than I had anticipated. This was due primarily to the extensive research I did about ancient Egypt. What I learned was that the negative picture of Egypt given in the book of Exodus is not historically accurate. While it may reflect how the ancient Hebrews felt about the Egyptians, it distorts Egyptian civilization and culture. As I read and watched videos about ancient Egypt, I knew that I did not want to write a novel in which the Jews were the good guys and the Egyptians the bad. Human experience is more complex than that…. My concern here is not sacred truths but human and psychological ones. And human and psychological truths can illuminate sacred truth, revealing dimensions and facets that cannot be seen in any other way.”

**Initiating Activities**
1. Ask students to share what they already know about the story of Moses.
2. Discuss the difference between monotheism and polytheism.
3. Locate Egypt on a map.

**Critical and Creative Thinking**
1. Why did the Habiru women hide their baby boys?
2. Who found Moses where he had been hidden by his mother?
3. Who was Almah in the story? Ramesses? Princess Meryetamun?
4. What was the main difference between the Habiru and the Khemetian?
5. What are the similarities and differences between the story of Moses as told in Exodus and the story as presented in Pharaoh’s Daughter?

**Responses:**

1. Write the Ten Commandments in language with which a 21st century teenager can identify.

2. Create hieroglyphics or a picture story to convey the finding of Moses.

3. View the first part of the movie The Ten Commandments (available at any video store) and discuss how the book and movie are alike and how they are different.