Name: Lord Asriel

Who is he?: World-renowned explorer

Dæmon: Stelmaria

Dæmon form: Snow leopard – fixed.

**Background**

Lord Asriel is the stern, brutally handsome uncle in charge of Lyra Belacqua’s upbringing. An eminent fellow of Jordan College, Asriel placed Lyra in the care of the Jordan College scholars when she was just a baby. Asriel is too busy with his research and explorations to play a large part in Lyra’s life.

Asriel has little time for the people around him. He hides his emotions and doesn’t appear very grateful when Lyra saves his life. In fact, Lyra appears to be a disappointment to him. and he is frustrated when she can’t understand everything he tells her about his research and battles with the Magisterium.

Undeterred by the attempt on his life, Lord Asriel heads to the North Pole to continue his experiments with Dust – strange particles from space that surround human beings. He strongly believes that he can punch a hole in the fabric of the universe and travel to other worlds to find the source of Dust. But, as Lyra finds out, Asriel is ruthless – and there can often be casualties in the name of scientific research...

Despite this, Lyra has great respect for him. She is even prepared to risk punishment when she saves Asriel from drinking wine that has been poisoned by an agent of the Magisterium – the ruling organisation in Lyra’s world. The Magisterium wants to stop Asriel’s research, and he is accused of heresy when he uses Jordan College funding for his Arctic expedition.