



Classroom Lesson Plan for *Sir Kaye the Boy Knight Book Three: Legend of the Forest Beast* by Don M. Winn

Part One • Chapters 1-5

Theme: Character Creation

Reading Comprehension Game

Split the class into two teams and keep score on the board, or don't have teams and offer individual students a prize (piece of candy, sticker, etc.) when he or she gets a trivia question right.

- What do Kaye and Reggie call Alfred? *Old Stone Face*
- Who is Vianne? *The Queen of Knox*
- Who is Beau? *The Duke, Queen Vianne's nephew*
- Who is Alchir? *Reggie, Kaye, and Beau's tutor*
- What was he doing when he went missing? *Going to meet his daughter*
- Why is one of the kitchen boys called Tom Spot? *He has freckles*
- How many boys work in the kitchen? *Three*
- Who is Dworford? *A former knight who escaped from prison, suspected of killing the old king*
- Who is Layla? *Alchir's daughter*
- What kind of mood is Layla in when she arrives at the castle? *Angry, upset, stubborn, etc.*
- What is Layla happy to see when she wakes up? *Her shoes*
- How does Layla describe the man who took her father? *No beard, shield with a hammer design*
- What does Queen Vianne give Reggie? *A blank book to write in*
- What is Reggie's job at Castle Forte? *The Royal Chronicler*
- What does it mean to be the Royal Chronicler? *May vary. He writes down the boys' adventures*
- Why does Reggie think he is wrong for the job? *He's not good at reading and writing*
- What did Layla take with her when he left? *Kaye's horse, Kadar*
- What horse does Reggie ride? *Parsnip*
- What does Kaye end up riding? *A donkey*
- What is the donkey's name? *Grumble*
- Why can't Reggie ride Grumble? *Grumble doesn't like him*
- What shape are the gingerbread treats Reggie has from the kitchen? *Pig-shaped*

Introduction to a Main Theme: Character Creation

In all of the Sir Kaye books, we are introduced to complex and realistic characters. Now the children have a chance to create their own characters. Pass out the character creation sheets, and give the students time to fill in all of the blanks and even draw and color a sketch of their characters. When everyone has had time to complete the worksheet, allow any volunteers to share their work. The character creation sheet can be found at the end of this lesson plan.

Introduce Vocabulary for Entire Book

Either in class or for homework while reading the book, have each student find one word they do not know in the story and look it up in the dictionary. Use the words and definitions found by the students to create a vocabulary list for all the kids to reference and study as they finish reading the book. OR provide the following list of words for students to define using a dictionary.

Landscape: (n.) an area of land that has a particular quality or appearance

Legend: (n.) a story from the past that is believed by many people but cannot be proved to be true

Shrewd: (adj.) being able to understand things and make good judgments : mentally sharp or clever

Steward: (n.) a person whose job is to manage the land and property of another person

Courtly: (adj.) polite and graceful in a formal way

Bridle: (n.) a device that fits on a horse's head and that is used for guiding and controlling the horse

Sneer: (v.) to laugh at someone with an expression on your face that shows dislike and a lack of respect

Flattery: (n.) praise that is not sincere

Attentive: (adj.) thinking about or watching something carefully, paying careful attention to something

Defiance: (n.) a refusal to obey something or someone, the act of defying someone or something

Reading Comprehension Game

Like lesson one, create a game to test students on reading comprehension by asking trivia questions.

- What did the villagers call Kaye? *Sir Donkey*
- What did they call Reggie? *Barleyhead*
- Why did they call him Barleyhead? *Because of his blonde hair, similar in color to ripe barley.*
- What made Grumble like Reggie? *Gingerbread*
- Who did they meet at Dworford's manor? *Jake*
- What is Jake's job? *Steward*
- Who is Matilda Glass? *May vary. Woman who lost her husband and daughter to the forest beast*
- What is Matilda's husband's name? *Timothy*
- What is Matilda's daughter's name? *Alys*
- Why is their last name Glass? *Timothy Glass knew how to make glass bottles*
- Who is Bartolemeus/Tolly? *A traveling performer*
- What is his bear's name? *Marigold*
- Why do Kaye and Beau dye Reggie's hair? *So he won't be recognized as Barleyhead*
- What is Reggie's nickname in the kitchen? *Ugly*
- What name does Reggie want to be called by his fellow kitchen workers? *Ben*
- What job had Layla been given by the time Reggie arrived? *A lady's maid for Lady Bragwayne*
- What job does Reggie do for Sir Bragwayne? *Page*

Introduction to a Main Theme: Humility

- Throughout the story, there are many times when the characters have to do embarrassing things or things that make them seem smaller or less important in order to accomplish their goals.
- Ask the class if they can think of any examples of this:
 - Kaye riding a donkey instead of Kadar*
 - Kaye being called Sir Donkey*
 - Kaye having to deal with the villagers making up mean songs about him*
 - Reggie having to dye his hair*
 - Reggie being called Ugly*
 - Reggie working in the kitchen and as a page for Sir Bragwayne*
- Ask the class if they know what is it called when you lower your own importance to get the job done.
- Introduce class to the word and definition:

Humility: lowering your own importance to get the job done, not proud : not thinking of yourself as better than other people
- Ask the class if they can think of any examples of what might have happened if the characters hadn't practiced humility:
 - Kaye would have never made it out of Castle Forte without riding Grumble*
 - Reggie wouldn't have gotten into Bragwayne's manor without dyeing his hair and working in the kitchen*
- Ask students for examples of times they have practiced humility or could in the future:
 - When their little sister wants to play dress up and put crazy makeup all over their faces*
 - When they are playing sports and have to play a different position than what they want*

Activity: Royal Chronicler

At Castle Forte, Reggie has been given the job of the Royal Chronicler, which means he has to write about everything that happens so no one will forget the adventures of Kaye, Reggie, and Beau. Today, give students the chance to document the goings-on of the class. Have the kids go out to playground to play, or even just do activities in the room for ten to fifteen minutes. Then have them write a few sentences about what happened. Don't forget to ask if anyone would like to share their work with the class when everyone is finished.

Vocabulary Activity

Have students select 1-3 words (depending on time restraints) from the vocabulary list, and ask them to write original sentences using the words. Then, ask students to share their sentences (preferably one for each vocabulary word) with the rest of the class, either by writing it on the board or reading it out loud.

Reading Comprehension Questions

- Who first made up the legend of the forest beast? *Bragwayne*
- What did Layla embroider onto Reggie's tunic? *Trout and gnats*
- What did Layla trade for Melchor's help? *Her mother's pearl necklace*
- Where did Kaye hide the treasure? *The cave in the forest*
- What did Reggie THINK he was burning in front of Bragwayne? *The ancient Greek papers*
- Where had Timothy Glass been all along? *In prison*
- Who is Peter Atwood? *Charles's father*
- Whom do they learn is in trouble at the end of the story? *Kaye's father*

Introduction to a Main Theme: Character Analysis

- To begin, ask students to describe Layla in as many adjectives as possible.
Answers will vary but will mostly likely be along the lines of *pushy, loud, mean, angry, etc.*
- Ask the students to give examples from the story of when she acted in the ways they described.
When she yelled at the queen, when she called Reggie names, when she stole Kaye's horse, etc.
- Ask students the following questions:
Would you ever think of yelling at a Queen?
How did Layla taking Kadar impact Kaye and his dreams?
Is Layla someone you would like to have as a friend?
- Why do you think Layla acts the way she does?
Answers will vary, but try to steer the class away from the idea that "she is mean."
- Delve deeper into Layla's character. For example consider these facts:
Layla grew up without a mother, around her father only. How would that have been different from what you have experienced? Would Layla have been different if she had had a mother? Sometimes people cry when they get scared or frustrated. Instead, Layla gets angry. Why? Did Layla feel or act like she felt helpless when her father was taken away? Why do you so answer? Do you think Layla was someone who wanted to jump right in and fix things? Why do you so answer?
- Whenever someone's behavior puzzles us, saddens us, or makes us frustrated, we need to ask a powerful question: **"What was that person feeling or thinking to make acting like they did seem like the right thing to do?"**
- In closing, present Layla's character in this way, then see if the class changes their minds about her. In reality, Layla is a girl with a keen, logical mind, who seeks speedy solutions to her problems, rather than helplessly waiting on others to rescue her or those she cares for. In fact, she makes such quick decisions that she gets frustrated when other people don't come to the same conclusion quickly enough to suit her sense of urgency. However, getting frustrated doesn't help her get the help she needs.
- She needs to work on her communication skills and to be more respectful of people's feelings and possessions, but she is a very strong and loyal character. Even Matty, the kitchen boy, reminds Reggie that when Layla embroidered trout and gnats on Reggie's tunic, she was thinking of them. She even sacrifices the only connection she has with her mother—her precious pearl necklace—to try and save

Kaye. She is not afraid of confrontation, boldly speaking up to the queen, Melchor, Jowls, Dworfurd, seeking employment in Bragwayne's manor to help her father, and more. She is a person of action.

- Now how would you answer: **Is Layla someone you would like to have for a friend?**

Vocabulary Activity

Use the vocabulary sentences created by students in the previous class to create a fill-in-the-blank game, by either reading the sentence out loud while leaving out the vocabulary word, or by creating a worksheet. Be sure to include a word bank of the vocabulary words either on the board or on the worksheet.

Character Creation Worksheet

Create your own character! Fill in the blanks below and include any other important information about the character you invent. Then draw your character in the space below. Tell about your character's...

Name and age:

Job:

Friends:

Family:

Where do they live?

Favorite food:

Favorite animal:

Favorite thing to do:

What do they want more than anything?

What are they afraid of?

What else do you want to tell about your character?