



## Classroom Lesson Plan for

# *Sir Kaye the Boy Knight Book Four: The Eldridge Conspiracy*

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Part One • Chapters 1–8

Theme: Future Aspirations

## 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 is the name of Reggie's horse? *Parsnip*
- What country do the boys follow Kaye to? *Eldridge*
- What nickname have the people given Kaye? *Sir Donkey*
- Is this a good nickname? *No*
- What had the boys stolen from the baron before the beginning of this book? *Gems*
- Where do the boys find Kaye? *In a churchyard*
- Who lives at an abbey? *Monks*
- What is the name of the abbey the boys visit? *Wislett Abbey*
- What is the name of the man the boys are looking for? *Azam*
- What country are the boys from? *Knox*
- What is the name of Kaye's horse? *Kadar*
- When the boys find Kaye, what has he found at the church? *A letter nailed to the door*
- Under what kind of tree do the boys find Kaye? *An apple tree*
- Who is the first monk the boys meet at the abbey? *Brother Antony*
- What kind of jobs did the monks have at the abbey? *Many were artists and copyists, but they also gardened, cleaned, cooked, and had other jobs, like beekeeping*
- Who is trying to steal the throne from King Aldric? *Baron Thomas*
- How does Baron Thomas plan to ruin King Aldric's good name? *By distributing the placards filled with lies about King Aldric and Sir Henry to all of the cities in Eldridge*
- Where do the monks throw Kaye and Beau? *The abbey cesspit*
- How does Reggie get them out? *He pulls them out with a rope*
- Where does Kaye have a scar? *On his forehead*
- How did he get the scar? *By hitting his head on a rock while training to become a knight*
- How does Kaye plan to help Azam? *By rescuing his wife and daughter*
- What feature makes Azam easy to identify? *He has only one hand*

## Introduction to a Main Theme: Future Aspirations

In the first section of *Kaye 4*, the boys talk about the fact that they can be anything they want to be in life. Take this time to talk to your students about what they might like to be one day. Begin the conversation by asking the following questions, then allow your students to start a discussion:

- Do you believe you can be anything you want to be?
- What do you want to be?
- What do you have to do or learn to accomplish that goal?

Give the class some time to draw a picture of who and what they would like to be in the future.

## Introduce Vocabulary for Entire Book:

Either for homework while reading the story, or in class, 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 student 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 look up the definitions of. The following definitions are from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

**Pessimistic:** (adj.) seeing the worst, or expecting the worst to happen

**Clammy:** (adj.) unpleasantly cool and humid

**Scowl:** (n.) a facial expression of dislike or displeasure

**Cowl:** (n.) a loose hood or hooded robe

**Smother:** (v.) extinguish (a fire) by covering it and depriving it of air

**Manuscript:** (n.) a book, document, or piece of music written by hand rather than typed or printed

**Adorn:** (v.) to make more beautiful or attractive; to decorate

**Treason:** (n.) the crime of betraying one's country

**Cringe:** (v.) to shrink, bend, or crouch, especially in fear

**Sickly:** (adj.) often ill; in poor health

Part Two • Chapters 9–17

Theme: Friendship

## Reading Comprehension Game

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

- What is the name of the captain who holds Azam's family captive? *Captain Claymore*
- What is the name of the ship? *The Triumph*
- Who tells Reggie about Captain Claymore? *Theo, a boy Reggie meets on the dock*
- Where does Captain Claymore like to go after being away at sea? *The Swann bathhouse*
- Where does Captain Claymore typically go after his bath? *The alehouse*
- Does the bathhouse owner allow Kaye to buy a bath? *No*
- How often does Captain Claymore take a bath? *Once a month*
- How do Reggie and Kaye manage to sneak around in the bathhouse? *By pretending to work there*
- Where does Captain Claymore keep the key to the ship's cabin? *Around his neck*
- How does Kaye steal the captain's key without him noticing? *Kaye lulls him to sleep, then replaces it with another key*
- How does Reggie distract everyone while Beau and Kaye save Azam's family? *He sets a fire*
- How does Beau signal to Reggie that it is time to start the fire? *He wipes his brow*
- Does Kaye leave Reggie behind on purpose? Why? *Yes, in order to save Azam's wife and child*
- How does Reggie get away from the man chasing him? *Reggie bit him*
- Who is Odessa? *The widow who shelters Azam's family, then houses the boys*
- Where do the boys end up staying the night? *A bakery*
- What do the boys find among the placards? *Two edicts*
- What is peculiar about the edicts? *They contradict each other*
- What do the boys learn that Sir Henry will be doing at the festival? *Jousting against the king*
- What is the king drugged with during the joust? *Poppy syrup*
- Who ends up saving the king's life? *Reggie*

## Introduction to a Main Theme: Friendship

The importance of friendship is prevalent throughout the series, but especially in this story. Use this time to discuss what friendship means with your students.

Ask the class what friendship means to them.

Ask the class why friendship is so important.

Ask the class what makes a good friend:

- Someone who likes the same things you do, someone who is honest, someone who sticks up for you and supports you, et cetera.

Ask the class if they can think of examples of when the boys showed they were good friends to each other:

- When Reggie and Beau rode through the night to find Kaye.
- When Reggie pulled the boys out of the pit.

Ask the class if they can think of any examples of what might have happened if the boys were not good friends to each other:

- They would not have chased after Kaye to help him.
- Reggie would have not pulled the others out of the pit.
- They would have not worked together to save Sir Henry.

Ask students for examples of how they can be good friends:

- Invite others to join them at lunch or in a game if they are feeling left out.
- Share their games with others and take turns.
- Be there for their friends if someone is upset.

### Activity:

Throughout the book, Reggie often uses similes to explain how he and his friends feel. Introduce your class to similes, and encourage them to write their own. Below is the definition of a simile, along with some examples and writing prompts to get them started.

**Simile:** a figure of speech that compares one thing with another of a different kind. The simile is usually in a phrase that begins with “as” or “like.”

#### Examples from the text:

- “I froze, every muscle paralyzed. Sir Henry’s words seemed to swirl in the air and drift slowly downward over us, like fat snowflakes falling on a silent graveyard.” *Expresses surprise and shock at Sir Henry’s words.*
- “He looked disgusted, like he had just stepped on a slimy slug in his bare feet.” *Expresses disgust.*
- “Kaye curled his lip like he had seen a repulsive centipede wriggling in his porridge.” *Shows disgust.*

#### Writing Prompts:

- Create a simile that expresses happiness.
- Create a simile that expresses sadness.
- Create a simile that expresses excitement.
- Create a simile that expresses embarrassment.

### 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:

- Why is Kaye upset when Sir Henry is proud of Reggie? *Kaye wanted his father to be proud of him*
- Who sits next to Sir Henry during the meal? *Reggie*
- How long does Reggie sleep when he is knocked out? *Fifteen hours*
- Where does Reggie wake up? *In the high tower of King Aethelfred’s old castle on the mountain*
- How does Reggie know only Kaye will read his letter? *No one else can read his handwriting*
- Who is Baron Thomas dressed as when he comes to see Reggie? *King Aethelfred*
- What does Reggie find in the throne room? *A trap door*
- Reggie’s plan is for Baron Thomas to fall through the trapdoor and get stuck in the stone room. Does it work? *No, he’s too big and gets stuck halfway through the trapdoor and he eventually gets out*
- When Kaye comes to rescue Reggie, who is he dressed as? *Sir Donkey*
- What does Reggie use to wake Kaye up when Kaye is knocked out? *Smelly cheese*
- Where does Kaye say the edicts are when he takes Reggie’s place? *In his armor*
- What does everyone do when Baron Thomas drags Kaye away? *They throw rocks at him*
- Who started the rock throwing? *Beau*
- What is Reggie’s idea to clear Kaye’s reputation? *Pretend Sir Donkey was killed in the battle*

## **Introduction to a Main Theme: Loyalty**

Throughout the story, the boys show loyalty in many different ways. Use this time to discuss what loyalty means with your students.

Ask the class what they think loyalty means.

- **Loyalty:** having or showing complete and constant support for someone or something.

Ask the class if they can think of any examples of loyalty from the story:

- When Reggie, Beau and Kaye work so hard to try to save Sir Henry and King Aldric.
- When Kaye comes to save Reggie, even though he was mad at him.
- When the boys stay loyal to the king.

Ask the class if they can think of any examples of characters who were not loyal:

- Baron Tomas, who tries to overthrow the king.
- The monks who abuse their power at the church.

Ask the class for some examples of what might have happened if the boys hadn't practiced loyalty:

- The king and Sir Henry would not have been warned.
- Kaye would not have rescued Reggie.

Ask students for examples of what they are loyal to:

- Family, friends, their school, sports teams, et cetera

Ask students how they show loyalty in their own lives:

- Answers may vary.

## **Activity:**

Now that your students have finished reading the book, it is a good time to ask them how they felt about the story. Use some questions to get them started.

- Did they find it interesting?
- Who was their favorite character, and why?
- What was their favorite part of the story?
- What was their least favorite part?

Either as a class or as an individual assignment, give your class time to write reviews of the book. This could even be a typing activity if your students need computer time.

## **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 and leaving out the vocab word, or by creating a worksheet. Be sure to include a word bank of the vocabulary words on either the board or the worksheet.