#10145
RINGS, KINGS & THINGS: PROGRAM 1

CEREBELLUM CORPORATION, 2001
Grade: 8-13+
26 mins.
1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

DESCRIPTION

Introduces fantasy as an important and popular literary genre. Discusses what it is, and identifies three of its common elements: magic, always an important part of the story; myths, these usually form its basic structure; and medievalism, the general time period and setting of most fantasies. Examines *The Lord of the Rings* for illustrations of these three elements. Looks at the qualities of fantasy's hero-types, using King Arthur and Beowulf as heroic examples.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Language Arts Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts

  - Benchmark: Knows the defining characteristics of a variety of literary forms and genres (e.g., fiction, nonfiction, myths, poems, fantasies, biographies, autobiographies, science fiction, tall tales, supernatural tales) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To examine the defining characteristics of fantasy literature.
2. To illustrate classic examples of fantasy literature.

VOCABULARY

1. chronicle
2. epic
3. genre
4. knight
5. legend
6. maiden
7. medievalism
8. myth
9. origin
10. powers (magical)
11. religious overtones
12. sorcerer/sorceress
13. spells (magic)

1. List examples of fantasy literature. Discuss what these literary works have in common.
2. Describe a hero. List examples of heroes. Consider literary and real-life heroes.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What is the definition of the word "fantasy"? What is the literary genre of fantasy?
2. Discuss the traits of fantasy literature in *The Lord of the Rings*, *Beowulf*, and *Le Morte d'Arthur*. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC.)
   a. What kind of magic is found in fantasy literature?
   b. What is a *myth*? What was the purpose of myths in ancient cultures? How does the myth of Persephone explain why the seasons change?
   c. On what time period of history is medievalism based? What traits of medievalism are typically in fantasy literature?
3. Discuss fantasy heroes.
   a. Who are heroes? What purpose do heroes have in fantasy literature?
   b. What are typical qualities of epic heroes? Why may they be called "larger-than-life"? How are Arthur and Beowulf epic heroes? How is Frodo different?
4. When did Tolkien write *The Lord of the Rings*? Why is it not a true trilogy?
5. When was *Beowulf* written? What is its format? What three challenges did Beowulf face?
6. When was *Le Morte d'Arthur* written? What is unusual about King Arthur's childhood? What is the legend of the sword in the stone?

Applications and Activities

1. View the CMP video #10146 *Rings, Kings & Things: Program 2*. Compare larger-than-life heroes with small-but-spunky heroes.
2. Read or watch the entire story of *The Lord of the Rings, Le Morte d'Arthur*, or *Beowulf*. Dramatize or artistically depict portions of the story to show magic, myth, medievalism, and epic heroism.
3. Evaluate literary or cinematic works of fantasy using the "three Ms" of fantasy and the traits of an epic hero. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC.)
4. Research myths. Consider Greek, Norse, and Celtic myths. Examine how these myths have resurfaced in modern works of fantasy.
5. Create a list of "what if . . ." questions. Choose one of the questions to write your own fantasy story or poem. Include the "three Ms" of fantasy and an epic hero.
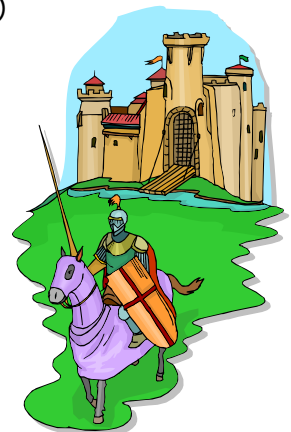
CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- *Mythology in Literary Culture* #9315
- *What is a Genre? Introduction to Genres* #9938
- *Rings, Kings & Things: Program 2* #10146

World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **FANTASY: A WINDOW INTO LITERATURE**

http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/edis771/webquest2000/student/skarenmattson/home.html

A Web quest for secondary students that includes book reviews to encourage diverse reading of fantasy literature. Assignments include aesthetic and critical responses. Also includes an evaluation guideline and a teacher page.

- **BEOWULF IN HYPERTEXT**   http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~beowulf/

This site has the complete Beowulf poem in both modern and original old English forms. It also includes sections for background information, characters, history, a quiz, links, and a very sophisticated internal search feature.

- **THE LORD OF THE RINGS FANATICS NETWORK**

http://www.lordotrings.com/

Available in Flash and HTML this site includes Tolkien information plus movies, books, art, media, guided tours, and a 111-question quiz.

- **KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE**

http://www.kingarthursknights.com/

This searchable site provides comprehensive information regarding the history and legend of Camelot including online help and related links.

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC

- TRAITS OF FANTASY LITERATURE

Traits of Fantasy Literature

Directions: Briefly describe the components of the fantasy genre for each literary work listed. Research two additional examples of the fantasy genre and add them to your chart. *Indicate in the hero column whether or not the hero of the literary work is an epic hero.

Author		Literary Work	The 3 "Ms" of Fantasy			Setting	Hero (Epic?*)	Hero's Mission/ Challenge	Villain
			Magic	Myth	Medievalism				
J.R.R. Tolkien		The Lord of the Rings							
Unknown		Beowulf							
Sir Thomas Malory		Le Morte d'Arthur							