

A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

THE WINGS OF RUKSH by Anne Forbes



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Themes/issues addressed in this book

Scotland, magic, Scottish Parliament, international relations, Turkey, France, going back in time, seventeenth century, friends, Clan Campbell, Bonnie Prince Charlie

Book Summary

Edinburgh has gone tartan daft, haggis daft, and bagpipes daft, and the whole of Scotland is swiftly following. The MacArthurs and their young friends, Clara and Neil, begin to suspect that there may be magic afoot when someone who looks suspiciously like Prince Kalman becomes an MSP, in the guise of Ned Stuart. Before long he begins to claim that he's Bonnie Prince Charlie's direct descendant and the rightful king of Scotland. However, Sultan Sulaiman the Red arrives from Turkey to look for his missing crown, and he's none too impressed that Kalman is using its power for his own good, so he joins forces with the MacArthurs, and of course, Arthur, the dragon, to thwart Kalman's plans. What follows is a thrilling adventure on fabulous winged horses, which amongst other things, takes the gang back in time to the seventeenth century. This is the second book in the 'Dragonfire' series, written with the same fast-pace and humour.

BEFORE READING

Group Activities

- Discussion: what do you think life was like in the seventeenth century for a child like you? Do you think you would have gone to school? Do you think you would have been able to read a book like *The Wings of Ruksh*?
- Discussion: what is an MSP? What do they do? Who is your MSP?

AFTER READING (note, contains spoilers!)

Individual Work

- Write a paragraph on the thoughts and feelings you had when
 - a) Sir James, the Ranger, Clara and Neil disappear through the mirror (chapter 3)
 - b) The French authorities authenticate Ned Stuart's claim to be Bonnie Prince Charlie's heir (chapter 15)
 - c) Prince Kalman sends a thunderbolt to kill Kitor (chapter 30)
 - d) Jaikie locks Kalman behind the mirror (chapter 38)
- In the book, The MacArthurs travel back in time to reach Ardray safely. If you could travel back in time, which era would you travel to? Why? Who would you like to meet there? What would you like to do there? Write about five hundred words on this topic.

Group Activities

- Group activity: using the Internet and your library, each group should research a different Scottish clan, for example, MacLeod, MacArthur, MacDonald, Fraser, etc. Try to find out: 1) where they originally came from, 2) what the name means, 3) what their tartan looks like, 4) who the current clan chief is, 5) whether they have an ancestral home, 6) what the clan motto is, and 7) what their coat of arms looks like. Create a display for your classroom wall on your findings. You may draw or paint each clan's tartan and coat of arms.
- Class activity: Class Parliament. Create your own parliament. Look at the Scottish Parliament's website and find out what positions there are to be filled. Choose one person to be First Minister, one person to be Depute First Minister, and so on. Fill about five VIP positions, then the rest can be MCPs (Member of the Class Parliament). Discuss five important laws that you think ought to be in place, then vote on them democratically – each person should have an equal vote.

(continued overleaf)

KELPIES

Series Summary

The award-winning Kelpies series is Scotland's favourite collection of children's fiction. Floris Books took over the list in 2001, republishing classic works by authors such as Kathleen Fidler and Allan Campbell McLean. Since then, we have continued to add to the series with a range of highly successful new Scottish novels for children. Of these, *Chill* by Alex Nye won a Royal Mail Award in 2007 and *Hox* by Annemarie Allan was nominated for a Royal Mail Award in 2008.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED

5-14 Curriculum (Scotland)

Years: P4-P7

Listening:

Listening in Groups

Listening for Information, including instructions and directions

Reading:

Reading for Information

Reading to Reflect

Awareness of Genre

Talking:

Talking in Groups

Talking about Texts

Talking about Experiences, including feelings and opinions

Writing:

Functional

Imaginative

National Curriculum (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)

Key Stage 2

English: Reading

Reading Strategies

Response to Texts, including analysing and evaluating

Reading for Information

National Literacy Strategy:

Text-Level Reading

Text-Level Writing

Vocabulary

- Class activity: discussion on Bonnie Prince Charlie. First of all use your library and the Internet to find out all you can about Bonnie Prince Charlie, then discuss: 1) who he was, 2) what he was trying to do, 3) why he failed in his task, and 4) what you think would have happened to Scotland if he had been successful.

Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean (page numbers of example words in brackets):

abruptly (10)	accursed (114)	affirmed (12)	ambassador (239)	anniversary (20)
apprehension (22)	archivist (33)	aura (58)	barbaric (26)	bereft (231)
brocade (68)	bygone (93)	calibre (239)	coincidence (15)	composure (221)
concourse (51)	crescendo (27)	dais (47)	demeanour (85)	despondent (78)
discordant (26)	disparagingly (203)	disquiet (21)	dissent (77)	entourage (230)
exhilaration (24)	expostulate (97)	garish (27)	gimmick (86)	gnarled (228)
hallucination (13)	haphazard (166)	inopportune (226)	insidiously (27)	mediaeval (62)
meteorology (197)	mitigated (144)	monotony (187)	notorious (59)	ornate (73)
pertinent (85)	reconcile (89)	reconnaissance (199)	regalia (60)	reprieve (124)
revel (155)	rueful (126)	scimitar (230)	smidgeon (147)	solicitous (24)
tactful (9)	tawdry (24)	tentative (141)	theoretically (199)	tinge (149)
veritable (55)	zither (26)			