

A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

FIRST AID FOR FAIRIES AND OTHER FABLED BEASTS by Lari Don

Shortlisted for the Royal Mail Awards 2009



www.florisbooks.co.uk

Themes/issues addressed in this book

Mythical creatures, music, friendship, responsibility, pride, family, telling the truth

Book Summary

Helen cannot believe her eyes when Yann, a young centaur, appears one night to ask for her help in healing his leg. She does her best with the little knowledge she has picked up from her mum, who is a vet, and she is drawn into a fantastical adventure. Yann and his friends have lost the Book that has all the answers, and they must find it before the evil Master of the Maze finds it and uses its knowledge to enslave fabled beasts and humankind alike. This fast-paced adventure draws on mythology, fantasy and the Scottish landscape to spin a tale of friendship, responsibility, and good overcoming evil.

BEFORE READING

Group Activities

- Discussion: have you ever told a lie to anybody? Why did you do it? How did it make you feel afterwards? Why is it sometimes easier to tell a lie than to tell the truth? Do you think it is better to tell the truth?
- Discussion: how many mythical or fabled beasts can you name? What do they look like? What stories do you know about them?
- Discussion: do you enjoy music? What is your favourite kind of music? How does it make you feel?

AFTER READING (note, contains spoilers!)

Individual Work

- Write a paragraph on the thoughts and feelings you had when:
 - a) Helen lets Nicola take the blame for wrecking her mum's surgery (ch. 2)
 - b) Helen heals the Master of the Maze's ear (ch. 16)
 - c) Yann stands up to his father over Helen's presence at the Gathering (ch. 21)
- Look through the book again and find two examples of Yann's pride. Write a couple of paragraphs about each example saying why you think Yann acted out of pride, or spoke because his pride was hurt.

Group Activities

- Class discussion: in chapter 19 Helen says: "Parents are harder to deal with than monsters. You have to love them as well as fight with them." What do you think this means? Do you think this is true? Why?
- Class project: create your own 'Book that has all the answers' for your class. Everybody should think about two important questions whose answers would benefit the entire class. Write the questions and answers down on individual pages. Make sure the answers are correct! You may like to decorate, colour or paint the pages of the book with some of the fabled beasts you have read about and design a cover for it. Perhaps you could add two or three new questions every week.
- Class activity: visit your local library and see if you can find any information about stone circles in Scotland, such as the Ring of Brodgar on Orkney, or the Callanish Stones on Lewis. How old are they? Do we know what they were they used for? Write a report on what you have found out when you return to class.

Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| antiseptic (13) | bard (53) | chaos (146) | debris (182) |
| aerial (214) | betray (192) | consequence (33, 114) | delegation (211) |

(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

Vocabulary, cont'd

- Check you know what the following words mean:

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| exotic (41) | irregular (174) | methodically (142) | sculpture (174) | suture (42) | tincture (217) | veterinary (21) |
| frustration (10) | laden (168) | millenia (209) | shrewd (167) | sympathetic (163) | traitor (166) | writhing (108, 175) |
| incinerate (25) | lair (59) | parchment (147) | solstice (195) | syringe (24) | tribe (51) | |
| incredulously (165) | manoeuvre (189) | quest (195) | splint (151) | technique (203) | ungainly (180) | |