

A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

WOLF NOTES AND OTHER MUSICAL MISHAPS

by Lari Don



www.florisbooks.co.uk

Themes/issues addressed in this book

Music, friendship, trust, deception, doing the right thing, family, self-sacrifice, justice, independence, keeping your word

Book Summary

When Helen wins a place at a prestigious music school in the Highlands, she has no idea that she is about to be thrust into another thrilling adventure with her fantastical friends, the fabled beasts. A human child has been abducted by the Faeries, and Helen must make a bargain with the perilous Faery Queen in order to save the child's life. Helen and her friends attempt to steal the MacLeod's Fairy Flag, and strike a deal with Ossian, in order to counter the Queen's deceptions, but not even that is enough. Eventually Helen learns that she must trust her own abilities, and gain her friends' complete trust in order to outwit the Faeries. This is the sequel to *First Aid for Fairies and other Fabled Beasts* by Lari Don.

BEFORE READING

Group Activities

- Discussion: where are the Highlands? Where do they begin? Why do you think this part of Scotland is called the Highlands? Have you ever been there?
- Discussion: do you know what a wolf note is? Have you ever heard one? Why do you think it's called a wolf note?
- Discussion: what does the term 'Celtic' mean? Who were the Celts? Who are the modern day Celts?

AFTER READING (note, includes spoilers!)

Individual Work

- Write a paragraph on the thoughts and feelings you had when:
 - a) You learn that James has been taken by the faeries (chapter 3)
 - b) Zoe tries to bully Helen (chapter 5)
 - c) The Fairy Flag quest fails (chapter 12)
 - d) Sylvie doesn't kill the hind (chapter 16)
 - e) You learn Professor Greenhill is the Faery Queen (chapter 23)
- Using your library and the Internet, try to find out when the MacLeod's Fairy Flag was used previously to summon a fairy army. Write three paragraphs on what you have found out about the Flag, saying whether or not you believe in its properties, and why.
- Lee's proper name is Lily – quite an unusual name for a boy in our world! Think of any names you know that are used both for girls and boys, and compile a list of these names. Are they spelled differently for males and females? Which is which?

Group Activities

- Group activity: Celtic mythology. In groups, find out all you can about one of the following characters from Celtic mythology: The Dagda, The Morrigan, Lugh, Brigid, Áine, Macha, Goibniu. What were they famed for? Where did they come from? Were they good or bad? Write a report on what you have found and present it to your class. You may use your library and the Internet to help with your research.
- Class discussion: Doing the right thing. Helen is prepared to sacrifice herself to save little James. Do you think this is the right thing to do? Do you think this is a brave or foolish thing to do? Could you do it? Back up your responses with reasons.
- Class project: The Ancient Celts. Find out all you can about the ancient Celts. When did they live? Where did they live? Where did they come from? What kind of homes did they have? What kind of art work did they produce? How do we know about

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 added to the series with a range of successful new Scottish novels for children. Of these, *Chill* by Alex Nye won a Royal Mail Award in 2007 and *First Aid for Fairies* by Lari Don was shortlisted for a Royal Mail Award in 2009.

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

them? What has archaeology told us? Create a wall display for your class on what you have discovered. Perhaps you could ask an archaeologist to come to your class and talk to you about their work and how it helps us to understand the past?

Note for teachers: *Celtic Scotland* by Ian Armit, and *The Ancient Celts* by Barry Cunliffe, are both superb, readable books for background on this subject.

Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean (example page numbers in brackets, but word may also appear elsewhere in the book):

alternative (90)	ancestral (133)	andante (115)	antiseptic (13)
audition (58)	bleary (263)	changeling (22, 32)	crib (22)
bard (56)	declaim (222)	dignified (70)	djembe (12)
dominance (253)	elaborate (195)	encore (224)	erratic (229)
flautist (53)	flinch (13)	folklore (37)	forfeit (42)
fortress (127)	fragrant (233)	frustrate (46)	glisten (9)
haunch (133)	homage (194)	humiliate (155)	improvise (256)
labyrinth (14)	lithe (198)	malicious (25)	manoeuvre (103)
nurture (238)	parry (217)	pristine (119)	prodigy (53)
prospect (42)	provocative (71)	pursuit (45)	rendezvous (67)
revel (84)	reverberate (56)	savannah (61)	sceptical (92)
solstice (25)	symmetrical (148)	tempo (120, 256)	treachery (157)
underestimate (161)	vantage (230)	velcro (112)	virtuoso (63)