



The Black Knight

Author **Sue Mongredien** / Illustrations **Mark Beech** / 64 pages / Book Series **Prince Jake**

Objectives

- To enjoy listening to and understanding the main ideas of a story in English.
- To demonstrate understanding of a variety of words and expressions used throughout the story by using them in related activities.
- To practice pronunciation and intonation skills by acting out short conversations.
- To be able to read and understand parts of the story at both the word level and the sentence level of the text.
- To be able to write short sentences and simple conversation exchanges to demonstrate understanding of the story.

Word bank

Key vocabulary

Nouns: knight, armour, costume, peasant, bet

Verbs: joust, bet, challenge, to be under pressure

Adjectives: rude, drunk

Key structures

Zero conditional - If Jessie started to trot, the king turned white.

First conditional - If you win, I'll give you my new holiday home.

Second conditional - If the king lost, they would lose their castle.

Tips and ideas

Before reading

- Encourage higher level thinking by getting students to predict the theme of the book from the cover picture and title.
- Use images of Medieval times to spark learner's interest. (Google images, Flickr, etc.) Brainstorm what things were different – clothes, food, sports, etc.

During reading

- Quick and frequent concept checking questions
- Eliciting mini summaries from volunteers – different students each time – after each chapter. Give a structure for students to follow: "First..., then..., and in the end...".

- Lower order thinking skills – application. Ask students to suggest ways to solve the problem of what to do at the jousting competition (if the king loses, the family will lose their home).

After reading

- Apply the knowledge of new vocabulary and structures by getting small groups to re-write the story – one chapter each – and then collate and illustrate a class version of the book.
- Plan specific higher level thinking skills – evaluation. Students compare their own ideas with the plans the Queen and Prince Jake had to save the King and the castle.

Teacher support activities

Great Games: Lateral Thinking Puzzles

Try some of these stories with your students – tell them the story and then tell them they have to find out the answer and they can ask you questions, but you can only answer “Yes” or “No”.

Puzzles:

- Prince Jake is alone on an island with no food and no water, but he does not worry. Why not?
- William wins the race but he doesn't get a trophy. Why not?
- A man rides into town on Friday, stays for three days and leaves on Friday. How?
- The Black Knight, dressed all in black, wearing a black helmet, stands at a crossroads in a town where everything is painted black. All of the streetlights in town are broken. There is no moon. A black horse gallops straight toward him, but the rider turns in time and doesn't hit him. How did the horse-rider know to turn?

Answers:

- It's a traffic island.
- William is a horse.
- Friday is his horse.

CLIL LINK: Physical Education

History

Your students can do a little research about medieval times. Ask them a few questions:

- What do you know about knights?
- How did they become knights?
- What did knights have to do?
- Where did they live?

- Do they still exist?

Divide up into groups and investigate a knight or a group of knights from the past or the present, from history or folklore. The groups will present their findings to their classmates.

You could ask for more specific research: Knights Templars, Sir Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, 21st Century knights (Sir Elton John, Lady Judi Dench).

English theatre

Jake's mum had told him the costume of the Black Prince was not suitable for the Medieval Gala. When she sees he is wearing it she is angry. Students will imagine how the conversation might have developed, write Jake's part and act out the scene. The result could be something like this:

Betsy: Welcome to Betsy's Place!

Queen: Jake, where did you get that costume from?

Jake: Erm...I ordered it myself...

Queen: I thought I said no to the Black Knight?

Jake: But I really didn't want to be a peasant. I really wanted to be a knight.

Queen: The Black Knight was a bad character.

Jake: Yes, he was. He did lots of funny things!

Queen: He did lots of terrible things!

Jake: Well he is my hero.

Queen: He wasn't a hero. And I told you the costume would shock our guests.

Jake: They thought I was the real Black Knight!

Queen: They didn't know what was happening! It might have been a disaster!

Jake: But it was all OK in the end – the Black Knight saved the day!

Queen: Well, I suppose we both broke the rules. But next time, do what I say!

Jake: Yes, Mum. I promise!