



Swords and Secrets

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: a king, a queen, a prince, a princess, a sword, a throne, a robber, a butler

Verbs: to steal, to chop off, to groan, to whisper, to scream, to frighten, to sword-fight, to skate

Adjectives: expensive, secret, quiet, loud, cool, proud, brave, horrid

Key structures

To pull a face

To be in big trouble

To get away with something

To take revenge

Tips and ideas

Before reading

- Use photos of swords (ancient and modern) to spark learner's interest. (Google images, Flickr, etc.)
- Encourage higher level thinking by applying students' knowledge of history to the monarchy, battles and sword-fights. (e.g. from films – *Braveheart*, *RobRoy*, etc.)

During reading

- Reinforce your students' pronunciation and intonation skills: Whispering (robbers planning) / Shouting

(Petunia and Jake fighting) / Groaning (Ned and Jake as Petunia flirts with Mr Pearce) / Screaming (Queen of Coltavia when she beat King Samuel the Great at chess and he cut off her head.)

After reading

- Apply the knowledge of new vocabulary and structures by retelling the story orally in small groups.
- Encourage higher level thinking by synthesising students' understanding into imagining the newspaper story written about the foiled robbery.



Teacher support activities

Great Games: How to Fence

"I will teach you the noble art of sword-fighting. Attack, parry, counterattack, feint!" Mr Pearce was a champion swordsman who came to the castle to teach Jake, Ned and Petunia how to sword-fight. Jake was not happy that they were fighting with *that silly, long, thin, metal thing*.

In fact, they were using foils, and not sword-fighting but **fencing**.

- This is a sport which began in Spain and is one of the five original sports in the modern Olympic Games (the others are Athletics, Cycling, Gymnastics and Swimming.)
- In the following video from YouTube, two Olympic champions teach us the basic steps in fencing – *en garde*; Advance and Retreat; and The Lunge.
- Watch Race Imboden and his teammate Miles Chamley-Watson and follow their instructions. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8ldfA5fXJs>
- Can you draw a picture of a fencer fencing?

CLIL LINK: Physical Education

History

Prince Jake learned about the incredible sword, Deathblade, which belonged to King Samuel the Great.

"History tells how he cut off both the arms of the King of Vulcrania in the Battle of Bayley. And how he chopped off the Queen of Coltavia's head when she beat him at chess."

There have been other **famous swords** in history, for example Tizona and Excalibur.

Ask your students to investigate the stories of one of these swords. Maybe the following questions will help them:

- What do you know about these swords?
- Who did they belong to?
- When and where did these people live?
- What are the legends and stories connected to these swords?

English theatre

The tour guide at the exhibition is showing a group of guests around the Royal Gallery.

Practise this short play in small groups (the tour guide and three exhibition guests).

Then your students could write another short play about the Deathblade!

Tour Guide: This is the famous painting, the Moaning Lisa. It comes from Italy and it was painted by Leonard de Vidi.

Exhibition Guest 1: When was it painted?

Tour Guide: In 1606, many years ago.

Exhibition Guest 2: Is it an expensive painting?

Tour Guide: Yes it is. It's worth millions!

Exhibition Guest 3: Was Lisa a real person?

Tour Guide: There is an interesting story behind this painting. Nobody really knows who Lisa was or why she was moaning. In fact, history tells that maybe she was really a man!

Exhibition Guests 1, 2 & 3: Wow!