

Fantasy: 3rd-5th Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Fantasy, Magic, Fiction

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with fantasy books at the 3rd-5th Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what is this book about? What sorts of magical or fantastical things will happen in this book?

Prior Knowledge: What is the genre of fantasy? Have you read any other fantasy books? Name some common characteristics of a fantasy book.

Vocabulary: Identify 8-10 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to understand how an author creates mood, or the feelings you have when reading a text. As we read, pay attention to words the author uses that bring up particular feelings, or that appeal to your senses and help you to envision the world of the story.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- Is this book based on another fable, folktale, fairy tale, or myth? If so, compare and contrast this book with other stories it is based on.
- Is this book part of a series? If so, compare and contrast this book with other books in the same series.
- Summarize the story, using key details.
- Fantasy books often feature a hero and a villain. Compare and contrast these two characters, using specific details.
- Fantasy books often use figurative language like metaphor and simile to describe characters, settings, and events. Choose one or more of these examples of figurative language and explain their meaning.

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: Which specific words or descriptions made you feel the way the characters feel? Which specific words or descriptions helped you to envision the world of the story? Give several examples and explain how they helped you identify the mood of the story.

Extending Our Thinking: Have each student choose the character they most relate to or would most like to be. Give students Venn diagram pages they can use to compare and contrast their own characteristics with those of the character they chose. At the bottom of the page, have students write a few sentences about what they would do if they were faced with the same situation as their character.