

Grade 5

Unit 4: *Don Quixote: A Hopeful Knight's Tale*



Use the Interactive Read-Aloud lesson and text on the following page to kick off this unit with your students.

Unit-level Essential Question

How can people with various personalities work alongside each other to solve problems they see in the world?

Lessons 1–5

Guiding Question: What qualities does a chivalrous person have, and how might these qualities help an individual contribute to society?

Writing Prompt: Does Don Quixote exhibit the qualities of a “fantastic” knight? Use evidence from *Adventures of Don Quixote* and “Gloomy Castles and Jousting Knights” to support your answer.

Lessons 6–10

Guiding Question: How can people with different personalities and goals get along?

Writing Prompt: Compare and contrast Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. Who is more idealistic, responsible, outgoing, etc.?

Lessons 11–15

Guiding Question: How can people fundamentally change over time?

Writing Prompt: How does Don Quixote change throughout the novel?

Unit 4 Culminating Activity

Pair up with a classmate and assign one partner to think about Don Quixote at the beginning of the novel and one partner to think about Don Quixote at the end of the novel. Then work together to draft a scene where the two Don Quixotes meet. What advice would Future Don Quixote give to his past self? How would Past Don Quixote react to his future self’s decision to give up adventuring? Make sure to include references to events from the novel. When your teacher instructs, perform your scene for classmates.

GRADE 5 UNIT 4

Read-Aloud

Use the following Read-Aloud to introduce **Grade 5 Unit 4**.

Tell students that throughout this unit, they will think about the following **Essential Question**: How can people with various personalities work alongside each other to solve problems they see in the world?

Explain that over the next few weeks students will read *Adventures of Don Quixote*, a book about a knight who has big, grand ideas but isn't always able to live up to them. Today, they will hear a story from a book about another group of knights, the Knights of the Round Table.

Read the Read-Aloud, pausing after each section to discuss the text-based questions.

Excerpt from *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* by Thomas Malory and Rupert S. Holland, editors

Merlin went to Brice, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and advised him to require all the earls and barons of the realm and all knights and gentlemen-at-arms to come to him at London, before Christmas, under pain of cursing, that they might learn the will of Heaven who should be king. This, therefore, the archbishop did, and upon Christmas Eve were met together in London all the greatest princes, lords, and barons; and long before day they prayed in St. Paul's Church, and the archbishop besought Heaven for a sign who should be lawful king of all the realm.

And as they prayed, there was seen in the churchyard, set straight before the doorways of the church, a huge square stone having a sword stuck in the midst of it. And on the sword was written in letters of gold, "Whoso pulleth out the sword from this stone is born the rightful King of England."

At this all the people wondered greatly; and, when Mass was over, the nobles, knights, and princes ran out eagerly from the church to see the stone and sword; and a law was forthwith made that whoso should pull out the sword should be acknowledged straightway King of Britain.

Then many knights and barons pulled at the sword with all their might, and some of them tried many times, but none could stir or move it.

When all had tried in vain, the archbishop declared the man whom Heaven had chosen was not yet there. "But God," said he, "will doubtless make him known ere many days."

Literal. What are the people trying to learn when they seek the will of Heaven?

- » who should be king

Literal. What happened when the men were praying?

- » A stone with a sword inside it appeared in the yard. The sword said that whoever pulled the sword from the stone would become king.

Inferential. The archbishop was seeking the will of Heaven, and the noblemen all attended church. What does this reveal about the qualities a nobleman needed to have in these days?

- » Religion was important, and noblemen were expected to follow “the will of Heaven” in major decisions.

So ten knights were chosen, being men of high renown, to watch and keep the sword; and there was proclamation made through all the land that whosoever would, had leave and liberty to try and pull it from the stone. But though great multitudes of people came, both gentle and simple, for many days, no man could ever move the sword a hair’s breadth from its place.

Now, at the New Year’s Eve a great tournament was to be held in London, which the archbishop had devised to keep together lords and commons, lest they should grow estranged in the troublous and unsettled times. To the which tournament there came, with many other knights, Sir Ector, Arthur’s foster-father, who had great possessions near to London; and with him came his son, Sir Key, but recently made knight, to take his part in the jousting, and young Arthur also to witness all the sports and fighting.

But as they rode towards the jousts, Sir Key found suddenly he had no sword, for he had left it at his father’s house; and turning to young Arthur, he prayed him to ride back and fetch it for him. “I will with a good will,” said Arthur; and rode fast back after the sword.

But when he came to the house he found it locked and empty, for all were gone forth to see the tournament. Whereat, being angry and impatient, he said within himself, “I will ride to the churchyard and take with me the sword that sticketh in the stone, for my brother shall not go without a sword this day.”

Literal. Why does the archbishop call a tournament?

- » He wants to bring men together so they do not argue over who should be king.

Inferential. What kind of person could become king in these days?

- » anyone strong enough to pull out the sword; “gentle and simple people” tried

Literal. What problem did Sir Key have?

- » He did not have his sword.

Inferential. How does Arthur feel about Sir Key?

- » He likes him and wants to serve him well. He wants to make sure that Sir Key has a sword for the tournament.

So he rode and came to the churchyard, and alighting from his horse he tied him to the gate, and went to the pavilion, which was pitched near the stone, wherein abode the ten knights who watched and kept it; but he found no knights there, for all were gone to see the jousting.

Then he took the sword by its handle, and lightly and fiercely he pulled it out of the stone, and took his horse and rode until he came to Sir Key and delivered him the sword. But as soon as Sir Key saw it he knew well it was the sword of the stone, and, riding swiftly to his father, he cried out, "Lo! here, sir, is the sword of the stone, wherefore it is I who must be king of all this land."

When Sir Ector saw the sword, he turned back straight with Arthur and Sir Key and came to the churchyard, and there alighting, they went all three into the church, and Sir Key was sworn to tell truly how he came by the sword. Then he confessed it was his brother Arthur who had brought it to him.

Literal. What happens when Arthur tries to get Sir Key a sword?

- » He pulls the sword from the stone.

Inferential. Does Sir Key react honorably when he receives the sword from Arthur?

- » No, because he acts like he should become king, though he did not pull the sword from the stone.

Evaluative. Based on what has happened to Arthur and Sir Key, which one should become king?

- » Sir Key does not deserve to be king, because he did not pull the sword from the stone. Arthur did, so he deserves to be king.

Whereat Sir Ector, turning to young Arthur, asked him—"How gottest thou the sword?"

"Sir," said he, "I will tell you. When I went home to fetch my brother's sword, I found nobody to deliver it to me, for all were abroad to the jousts. Yet was I loth to leave my brother swordless, and, bethinking me of this one, I came hither eagerly to fetch it for him, and pulled it out of the stone without any pain."

Then said Sir Ector, much amazed and looking steadfastly on Arthur, "If this indeed be thus, 'tis thou who shalt be king of all this land—and God will have it so—for none but he who should be rightful Lord of Britain might ever draw this sword forth from that stone. But let me now with mine own eyes see thee put back the sword into its place and draw it forth again."

"That is no mastery," said Arthur; and straightway set it in the stone. And then Sir Ector pulled at it himself, and after him Sir Key, with all his might, but both of them in vain: then Arthur, reaching forth his hand and grasping at the pommel, pulled it out easily, and at once.

Then fell Sir Ector down upon his knees upon the ground before young Arthur, and Sir Key also with him, and straightway did him homage as their sovereign lord.

Inferential. How does Arthur act honorably or nobly in this scene?

- » He eagerly tried to help Sir Key get a sword. After getting the sword, he did not keep it but delivered it to Sir Key.

Literal. Why do the men kneel down before Arthur?

- » They realize he is the king.

Use the following prompts to extend student understanding of the Read-Aloud.

Guiding Question: What sort of characteristics are important for a ruler or leader, such as a knight, to have?

Writing Prompt: Think about how you would try to help people work together if they disagreed about something. What would you have planned if you were the archbishop and wanted to keep all the people united while they waited for the new king?