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YA Lit

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Unit on Fantasy

As a child develops into an adult, his or her imagination acts as the key to their many adventures. It is their way of making sense of the many questions that they formulate within their developing minds. It may also act as their escape into an imaginary world where there are no problems to face or obstacles to overcome. As a child, my imaginative world of Azkaban was where I spent my many terror filled nights fighting for the hand of the prince against the sapphire eyed dragon king, Brent Sanders. Alongside my imaginary friend Horsey, we dominated kingdoms of faraway lands and undersea escapades. My imagination was the key to how I was able to understand why the world was full of terror and pain.

I chose to base my unit of study on fantasy because I believe it acts as the starting point of the writing process for some. A great writer has to have a starting point in formulating what he or she wants the plot of the story to become, especially in fantasy. There are many ideas that a writer may draw from in order to create an interesting story after he or she has brainstormed about what type of story should be written. Fantasy is one of the best selling genres in the world as it caters to the needs of a reader. Fantasy has branched out into many forms, such the classic romance novel of having Fabio caress their body sensually and fulfill their needs. As I have stated prior, fantasy acts as an escape for someone to unwind after a long day at school or work. It has been around for centuries for many to enjoy and the classic tales that we grow up listening to.

As my canonical work, I decided to use the classical Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone because it was the first book that got me involved in reading. Following the journey of a young man as he grows up and faces the peril of not just the dark arts but of puberty can relate to teenagers of all ages. Growing up is not the easiest thing to handle as a young adult faces the production of hormones and the changing of his or her body. Their interests begin to widen from just playing sports or doing your nails to noticing the opposite sex. Furthermore, Harry, alongside his friends, is faced with the issue of being bullied by Draco and his mates every time they come face to face. Teens are bullied by others everywhere in the world and some have taken the drastic measure of committing suicide. Although Harry and his friends face the terror of Draco, they confide in one another to get through the obstacles they face. Friendship plays a big part in how the story is allowed to progress throughout the series. It acts as a tie to one another that allow us to confide in someone we trust to get through our troubles.

Launching the Unit

- Ask the students to define: what is fantasy?
 - The literal definition of fantasy is “ an imagined or conjured up sequence fulfilling a psychological need; daydream”
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geNIXmmlp7w>. I would use this trailer as a comparison between the definition he or she created and ask the students to tell me if their definition fits what they saw

During the Unit

- Have the students keep a journal to document their SSW's.

- After each chapter, the students will then dive into answering the SSW question of the day.
- Following the response session, I'll have the students do a pair share or a class discussion of what he or she wrote as an answer.

Extending the Unit

Firethorn: a passionate tale of love and war in which the gods grant a common girl uncommon gifts...

Before she was Firethorn, she was Luck, named for her red hair and favored by the goddess of Chance. A lowborn orphan, Luck is destined to a life of servitude. But when her mistress dies, Luck flees to the forest, where she discovers the sacred firethorn tree, whose berries bring her fevered dreams, a new name...and strange gifts. When she emerges from the woods, Firethorn is a new woman, with mysterious powers.

Percy Jackson's The Lightning Thief: Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. With the help of a satyr and a daughter of Athena, Percy must journey across the United States to catch the thief who has stolen the original weapon of mass destruction- Zeus' master bolt. Along the way, he must face a host of mythological enemies determined to stop him. Most of all, he must come to terms with a father he has never known, and an Oracle that has warned him of betrayal by a friend.

The Red Pyramid: Since their mother's death, Carter and Sadie have become near strangers. While Sadie has lived with her grandparents in London, her brother has traveled the world with their father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane. One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their

lives. Soon, Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them--Set--has his sights on the Kanes. To stop him, the siblings embark on a dangerous journey across the globe--a quest that brings them ever closer to the truth about their family and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

Magician: At Crydee, a frontier outpost in the tranquil Kingdom of the Isles, an orphan boy, Pug, is apprenticed to a master magician -- and the destinies of two worlds are changed forever. Suddenly the peace of the Kingdom is destroyed as mysterious alien invaders swarm the land. Pug is swept up into the conflict but for him and his warrior friend, Tomas, an odyssey into the unknown has only just begun. Tomas will inherit a legacy of savage power from an ancient civilization. Pug's destiny is to lead him through a rift in the fabric of space and time to the mastery of the unimaginable powers of a strange new magic.

I Am Legend: Robert Neville may well be the last living man on Earth . . . but he is not alone. An incurable plague has mutated every other man, woman, and child into bloodthirsty, nocturnal creatures who are determined to destroy him. By day, he is a hunter, stalking the infected monstrosities through the abandoned ruins of civilization. By night, he barricades himself in his home and prays for dawn....

Twilight: Bella Swan's move to Forks, a small, perpetually rainy town in Washington, could have been the most boring move she ever made. But once she meets the mysterious and alluring Edward Cullen, Bella's life takes a thrilling and terrifying turn. Up until now, Edward has managed to keep his vampire identity a secret in the small community he lives in, but now nobody is safe, especially Bella, the person Edward holds most dear.

Harry Potter series: For twelve long years, the dread fortress of Azkaban held an infamous prisoner named Sirius Black. Convicted of killing thirteen people with a single curse, he was said to be the heir apparent to the Dark Lord, Voldemort. Now he has escaped, leaving only two clues as to where he might be headed: Harry Potter's defeat of You-Know-Who was Black's downfall as well. And the Azkaban guards heard Black muttering in his sleep, "He's at Hogwarts...he's at Hogwarts." Harry Potter isn't safe,

not even within the walls of his magical school, surrounded by his friends. Because on top of it all, there may well be a traitor in their midst.

Concluding the Unit

- As a final exam, the students will be given the choice to either do a comparison between the movie version of the book and the book, a character between the centerpiece and one of the others, or to examine one particular character closer.
- In the case they choose to do the movie comparison, I would have them answer the following questions:
 - Did the movie make your imagined image of a character come to life?
 - Did the movie stick closely to what the book entailed?
 - Now having seen the movie version, which one is better? Why?
 - Did the movie fulfill you as much as the book did?
- In the case they were to choose the character comparison, I would have them answer the following questions:
 - What are the similarities between the two characters? What are the differences?
 - Examine both character's and explain how he or she could have overcome the obstacles he or she is faced with.
- In the case they were to choose the character analysis, I would have them answer the following questions:
 - Examine the character in the form of the hero's journey. Provide specific examples, with detail, of what the character must undergo
 - What part does this character play in the plot of the storyline?



Fantasy

Andre Matau

Why a unit on Fantasy?

- Growing up, the human imagination may create a temporary friend for one to confide in. Children are known to come up with their own adventures and carry on into the peril of the volcano or the dragons lair.

Launching the Unit

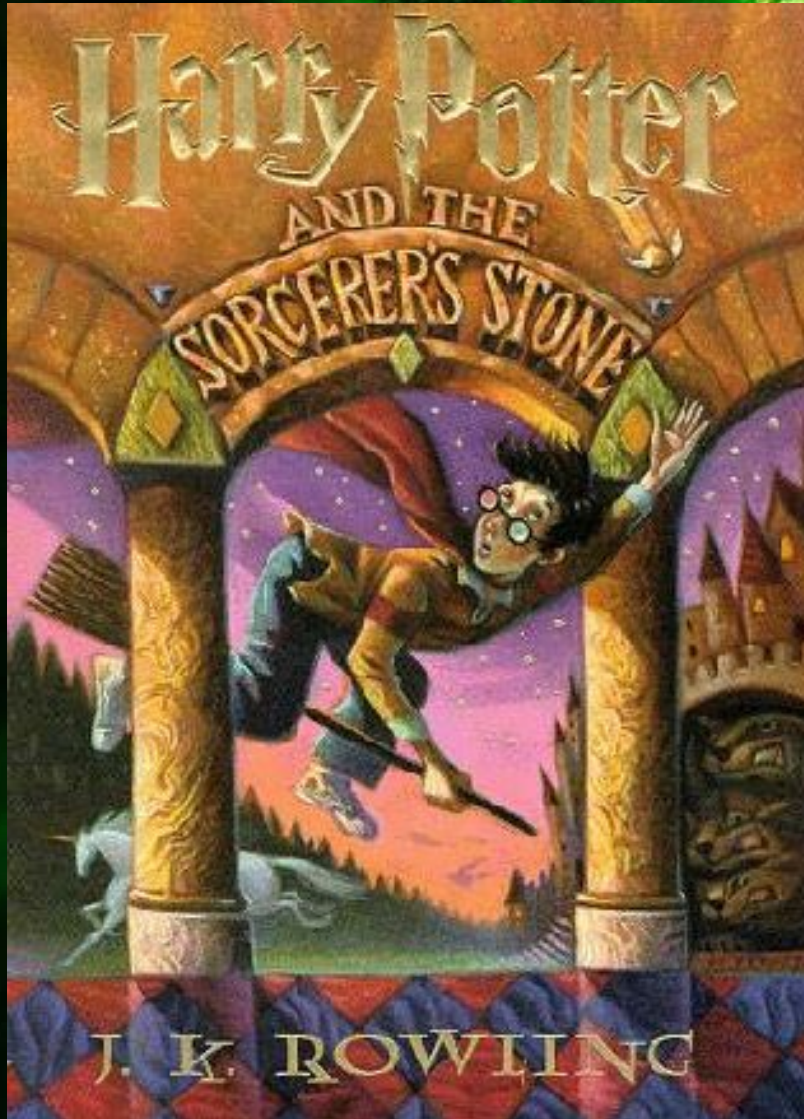
- Definition of Fantasy

- the creation of a make believe scenario that one may venture into and become the hero.

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geNlXmmlp7w>

- Have the students create their definition of fantasy after watching the trailer

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

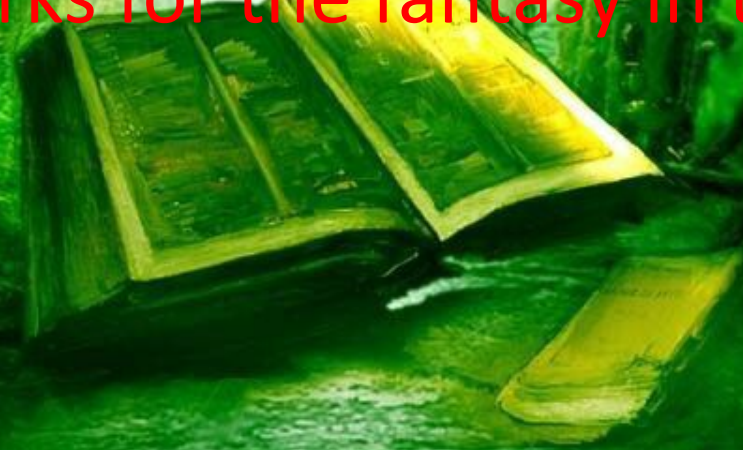


- As one of the classical fairy tales that I read since elementary, I believe this novel is relatable to teens of all ages. We follow the journey that Harry must embark on to become the most famous wizard known in history as he faces obstacles that threaten his well being.



During the Unit

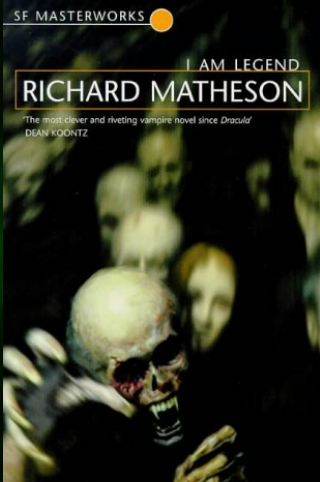
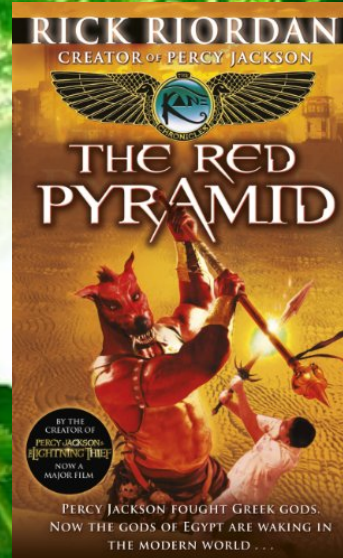
- Sustained Silent Writing
 - Answer a proposed question
 - What works for the fantasy in the chapter?



A large, open book lies on the forest floor, its pages glowing with a bright, golden light. The book is positioned in the lower center of the frame. The surrounding forest is dark and dense, with tall, moss-covered trees and thick foliage. A bright beam of light emanates from the book, illuminating the immediate area and creating a strong contrast with the dark surroundings. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and magical.

Extending the Unit

Suggestions for further reading



Concluding the Unit

- Have students create their own fantasy play to share in class
- Have the students compare and contrast the movie version with the book.
 - Does the film follow the story closely?
 - Was there anything surprising?
 - Which was better?
 - Did the imagined characters fit the film?
 - C/C a certain character between the books