

TITLE of Book

The Evil Overlord

Teacher's Notes by Rowena Cory Daniells

Short Description of Book One paragraph

The Evil Overlord is a Quest Book with a mystery. Sam and Lincoln must save the injured trapped wizard, but first they must find him. When no one knows about a wizard they don't know where to start looking.

Discussion points on Book Setting and Characters.

The story is told from Sam's point of view. Why did the author choose Sam and not Lincoln?

When the story opens Sam and Lincoln have a fight. Why do you think they fight?

By the end of the book Sam and Lincoln are friends. What have they learnt about each other that helps them to make peace?

Sam and Lincoln find a lost, injured puppy. What should you do if you find an injured cat or dog?

What if you found an injured possum or koala? Is there an animal refuge near where you live?

Essy talks a lot about food. Why is she always hungry?

Essy can't read or write. She's very impressed because Sam and Lincoln can. Essy has to earn her living or go hungry. In Australia children can't go out to work at 11 years of age. They have to go to school, instead. When young children have to work it is called child Exploitation. When was the law made that protected children from Child Exploitation? Is this the same all over the world?

Did your grandparents go to school until they were fifteen, or did they leave school at twelve and go out to work? If you don't know ask your grandparents? Ask them how old their parents were when they went out to work.

Student Activities

Lake Amethyst is a Crater Lake caused by a ship landing. Crater lakes can be caused by other things. Are there any Crater Lakes in Australia?

The Shimmaron is lonely without the other Shimmaron. If you have been separated from your family while you were out shopping, at an amusement park, at the beach, what would you do?

Who is your favourite character and why?

Draw a portrait of them.

Pretend that you are that character and write your favourite scene from their point of view.

Pretend you are them and write what you think happens to them after the book ends.

Does anyone in your class do gymnastics or tumbling, like Essy?

Can the class have a lesson in basic circus tricks?

If you were like Essy and wanted to become the Castle Entertainer for a year, what would you do? Can you draw, paint, sing, play a musical instrument, juggle, tell jokes or make up funny rhymes about people?

Lincoln is as tall as a grown man. Everyone expects him to act grown up. How would that make you feel?

Some clues are given in the text on the layout of Essy's town. Can you draw a map including the lake and Temple Island?

A caricature is a drawing of a person that doesn't have to be realistic. The artist exaggerates their features to say something about that person. Can you do a caricature of your favourite person in the book?

The blurb on the back cover is very brief. Can you write a longer blurb that sounds interesting but doesn't give too much of the plot away?

Pretend that you are a film maker and you are going to film the most exciting scene in the book. Draw Story Boards for this scene. Write dialogue for this scene.

Pretend that you are the cover artist. Which scene would you choose to illustrate and why?

Draw this scene.

Every book contains a theme. What is the theme of this book? What do Sam and Lincoln learn about each other during the course of the book?

Essy is a performer, a juggler and trickster like a travelling Minstrel. Minstrels had an important place in olden times before there were newspapers, books and TV. What did they do?

The Wise Woman is blind and cannot see the children but she guesses how many of them there are. How does she do this?

Blind people have talking books or use Brail to read and write. What is Brail? Who invented Brail?

The story takes place over 24 hours. Draw a vertical time line of events.

Have you ever been to a castle? Is there one near you? Can you find a castle on the internet? Why did people build castles? What defences did castles have?