



Teaching Notes & Resources

Key Stage 2 - 3

Themes: Dreams & Nightmares | Magic & Fantasy |
Finding Your Strength | Scottish Myths & Folktales

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Introduction

About the Book

Prepare for the magical adventure of your dreams, in the first in a brand-new series by L.D. Lapinski, author of *The Strangeworlds Travel Agency*.

For the last 400 years, magic has been fading ...

Edward Crane has always feared he won't have any magic at all. Sure, he's part of a powerful magic Artezan family, but he's adopted. His twin sister, Elodie, isn't so worried, but then everything always seems to work out perfectly for her.

So when Ed discovers he does have an Artezan power after all, he's relieved. And it's more than he ever could have imagined – in fact, it's a dream come true.

But the problem with dreams is that sometimes they twist themselves into nightmares. And with Ed's new abilities growing by the day, there's a chance that this nightmare will become all too real ...

A stupendous, witty, humane fantasy. Lapinski's done it again – an inventive, compelling world and characters I would die for. LD Lapinski is a genius!' - Louie Stowell, author of *Loki: A Bad God's Guide* series



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Contents

Theme 1 - The Land of Dreams

Objectives: Write an imaginative description of a visit to the Land of Dreams taking inspiration from the text and using descriptive language

Theme 2 - Scottish Myths & Folktales

Objectives: Carry out research and analyse findings; present information clearly to an audience

Theme 3 - Finding Your Strength

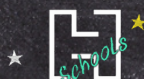
Objectives: Recognise your strengths and develop a positive sense of self

Reading Group Questions



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Theme 1 - The Land of Dreams

Read Chapter 9 from *Artezans: The Forgotten Magic*, in which Ed arrives in Tìr Aislingean, the Land of Dreams.

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IMPOSSIBLE AND INCREDIBLE

Ed landed with a *FLUMP* onto something pliable and soft. It felt like a slightly deflated bouncy castle. He rolled over a few times before catching himself. Then he lay there, eyes squeezed shut, heart hammering, fist still tight around the piece of sea-glass.

Slowly, he opened his eyes, but quickly closed them again. What he was looking at couldn't possibly be real.

The sky above him was the bright blue of a September morning, but it was streaked with coils and swirls of pink, yellow, white and purple clouds. There were birds as large as cars flapping steadily through them, being chased by butterflies so big you could have ridden them. Their wingbeats blew a cookie-dough smell right into Ed's face.

Ed got carefully his feet. The ground beneath his socks wasn't stable, and it certainly wasn't the laundry-covered carpet he had been standing on a moment ago. It was creamy-coloured and squishy. Ed poked a toe into it to see if it had any give, and the whole ground began to shake. A rumbling noise filled Ed's ears – a loud roar that seemed to be coming from . . .

Ed turned around to see a face – a head – complete with antennae and eyes on stalks and a gaping mouth big enough to swallow a bus . . . and realised he wasn't standing on ground at all. He was standing on a soft neck part of a gigantic SNAIL.

And it was LAUGHING.

Ed gawped in horror as the snail laughed *HO HO HO!* It actually seemed to be . . . smiling? 'THAT TICKLES!' the snail boomed. One of its eyes on stalks peered down at Ed. 'DO IT AGAIN?'

Ed screamed. There was no way he could ever have held it in. The scream unbalanced him and he slipped down the soft (though not at all slimy) body of the giant snail to the ground. He landed on luminous green grass with a thud, skidding on all fours before scrambling upright and running for his life.

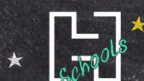
Where in the name of Bel *was* he?

Discussion Questions

- How is the sky in the Land of Dreams different to the sky in the real world?
- Of all the things Ed sees in the Land of Dreams, which is your favourite?
- How does Ed feel about the giant snail? Do you think you would feel the same or differently?
- What would you do if you were in the Land of Dreams?
- Does the Land of Dreams remind you of any other fantastical places you have read about in books or seen in films?
- By the end of the chapter, Ed has only explored a small part of the Land of Dreams. What else do you think he might find as he explores the Land of Dreams further?



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Theme 1 - The Land of Dreams

Activity 1: Visit the Land of Dreams

You are going to visit the Land of Dreams, just as Ed does! In each of the boxes below, write down one thing you would love to find when you get there. Think about your favourite foods, drinks, smells, sounds, animals, toys and hobbies then use your imagination to add surreal or fantastical details. For example, instead of a mug of hot chocolate, you might imagine finding a giant lake of hot chocolate with floating islands made of cookies!

Now, cut out the boxes so you have six slips of paper with one idea written on each of them. Keep three of your slips of paper and swap three with other people in your class.



Theme 1 - The Land of Dreams

Activity 1: Visit the Land of Dreams

Once you have swapped some of your paper with other people in your class, read the ideas on your final six slips of paper. These are the things that you will find as you explore the Land of Dreams! There will be some things that you will love... and there might be one or two things you are not sure of, just as Ed is not sure about the giant snail!

Write a description of your trip describing what you see, smell, hear, taste and touch as you journey through this strange land. How do you feel? Do you meet any interesting characters? When you have finished, share your writing with your class and compare your experiences.



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Theme 2 - Scottish Myths & Folklore

Read the below extract from Chapter 10 of *Artezans: The Forgotten Magic*, in which Estha explains how the dream characters are kept alive.

‘Belief keeps us alive,’ Estha repeated solemnly. ‘Since we lost the Dream Laird, we have also lost dream-characters. Some went to visit sleepers and never returned. Others simply faded away, never to be seen again.’ She gave her sealskin a stroke. ‘Some of us are lucky, we’ve become legends and folk tales and people believe in us outside of dreaming. We won’t vanish because we won’t be forgotten.’

‘Of course! You’re a selkie,’ Ed realised, remembering the story from his Artezan book. ‘You transform into a seal when you put the skin on.’

Estha beamed, please to have her story recognised. ‘That’s right. I have existed for a long time, and probably will continue to do so – so long as my stories are still told.’

There was an undercurrent of agreement and conversation from the assembled dream-characters. Ed felt a sudden weight of responsibility – he couldn’t let any of them fade or be forgotten. Not even the giant snail deserved that, even if an enormous gastropod wasn’t exactly his idea of a peaceful dream.

Discussion Questions

- What kind of dream-character is Estha and what magical abilities does she have?
- What are legends and folktales?
- Do you know of any mythical creatures from legends or folktales?
- Why is it important that stories about legends to continue to be told?



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Theme 2 - Scottish Myths & Folklore

Activity 1: Research a Mythical Creature from Scottish Folktales

Selkies are creatures that exist in Scottish legends and folktales. Other mythical creatures from Scottish legends and folktales include Kelpies, the Blue Men of the Minch, the Wulver, the Loch Ness Monster, Gillie Dhu and Redcap. Working with a partner or small group, choose one of these mythical creatures. Carry out some research into this creature and complete the table below.

Appearance	
Temperament	
Magical Powers	
Habitat	
Other Interesting Facts	

When you have completed your research, present your findings to your class. As you listen to the other groups' presentations, think about what might happen if Ed met each mythical creature in the novel. Would the creature help him or hinder him? How might they use their magical powers?



Theme 3 - Finding Strength

Read Chapter 23 of *Artezans: The Forgotten Magic*. In this chapter, Ed tells his parents that Elodie is trapped in the Land of Nightmares.

Dad turned back to Ed, putting his hands on his shoulders. 'Go and find her,' he said, giving him a little shake. 'You will find her, I know you will. You'll know where she is, what she'd do if she was you. You've always been so alike. And don't start with saying you're no. Because y'are. You're both stubborn and determined and excellent at hiding how you really feel. You always have been. Twins through and through, cut from the same cloth. You know how to find her. And you know she'd come for you.'

Ed did know it, right down in his bones. Elodie would walk to the edge of the world for him, if she had to. And at that moment, something seemed to make sense at last: all those years of wishing he could be more like her . . . he'd labelled it as jealousy when really it was admiration. That, and the fear that if he looked for those qualities in himself, they might not be there. Just because Elodie's bravery was loud didn't

mean Ed was a coward. Just because Elodie's magic was bright didn't mean his was dark. They weren't opposites. They weren't two halves of a whole. They were the same, just written in different ways.

Ed looked up. 'Why have I always thought we were different?'

'Because differences are easier to see,' Baba said kindly. 'Easier to be scared of, easier to focus on. Plus, being a twin makes it extra hard – there's always someone around to compare yourself to.'

'Yeah,' Ed admitted, 'but you've always got a friend, too. She's my best friend *and* my sister.'

His dad smiled. 'So go and find her.' He kissed Ed on the forehead.

Ed gave a wobbly smile back and nodded at Baba, who was still holding his arms tight around himself as if he might blow away in the wind if he let go. Baba nodded back, and Ed took off, heading towards the skittery wee path that had been carved into the cliff-side by endless boots.

Discussion Questions

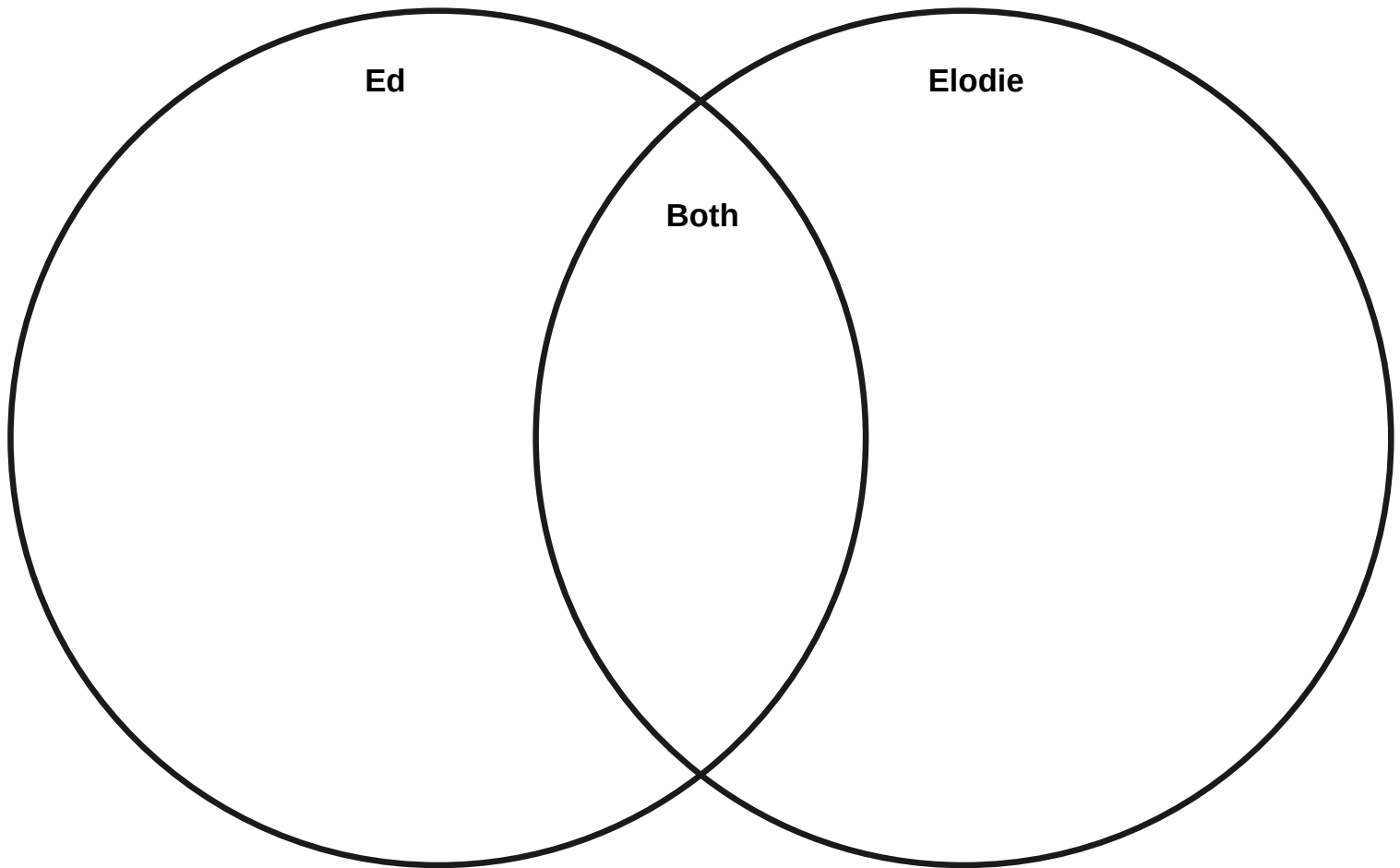
- Can you remember how Ed felt when he compared himself to Elodie at the start of the book?
- How do Ed's feelings change in the above extract?
- What is the difference between jealousy and admiration?
- Have you ever compared yourself to someone and felt jealous of them? Can you describe how it feels?
- Dad helps Ed feel confident and capable rather than jealous and fearful. Who helps you to feel strong and positive about yourself?
- What advice would you give to someone who was comparing themselves to others and feeling that they weren't good enough?



Theme 3 - Finding Strength

Activity 1: Identify Ed and Elodie's strengths

Create a Venn diagram showing Ed and Elodie's strengths and qualities. On one side, add Ed's strengths and on the other add Elodie's. Add any strengths and qualities they have in common in the centre, where the two circles overlap.



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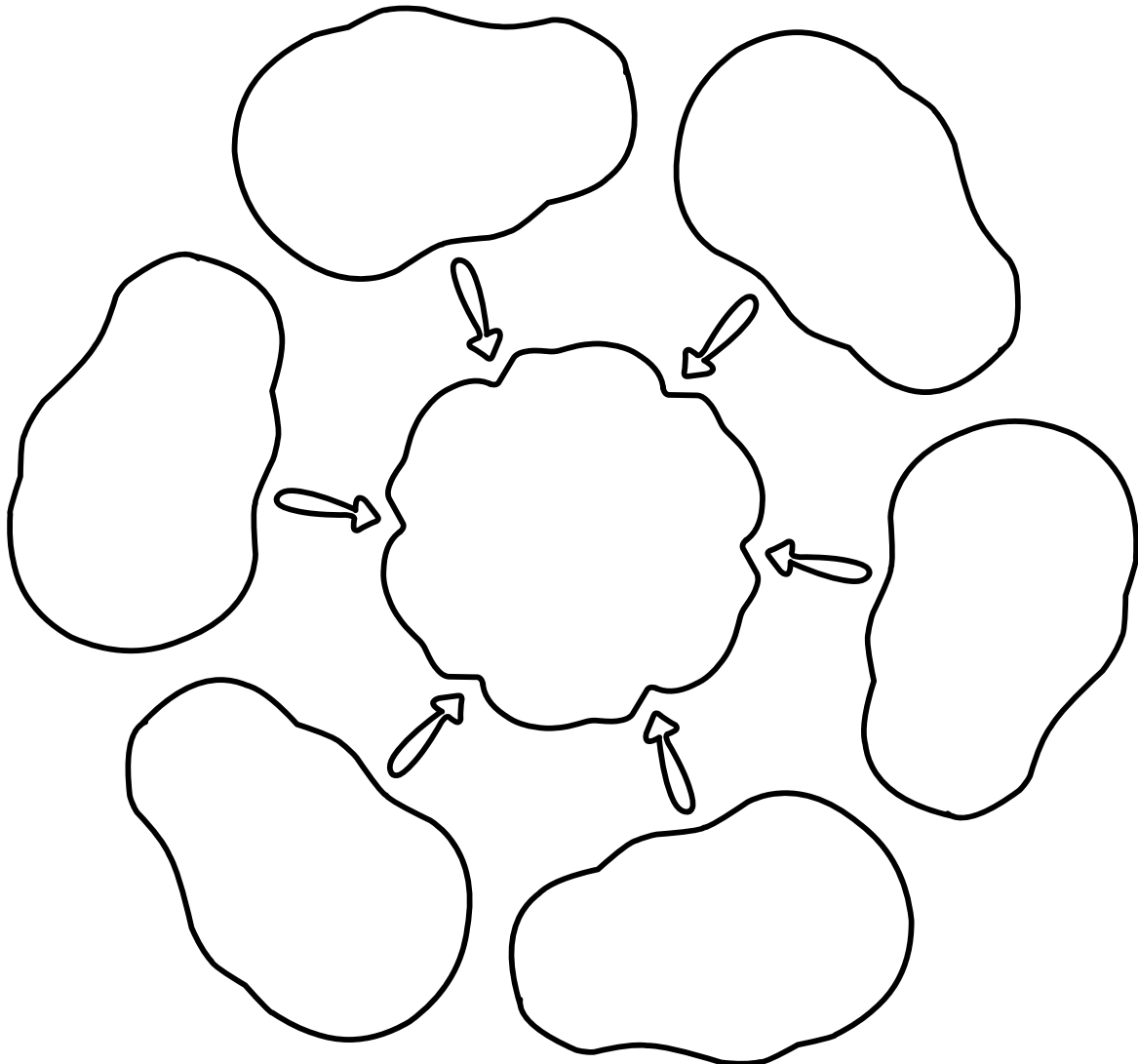


Theme 3 - Finding Strength

Activity 2: Recognise your own strengths

As the novel progresses, Ed learns to recognise his strengths and feel more confident in himself.

Make a mind-map to celebrate your own strengths! Write your name in the middle of the template below. In each of the six bubbles, write down one of your personal qualities or strengths. It may help to ask your friends or family to help you recognise these, just as Dad helps Ed in the novel.



Keep your mind-map somewhere safe. If you ever feel worried that you are not good enough, as Ed did at the start of the story, you can look at your mind-map to help you feel stronger and more confident!



Reading Group Questions

- How does Ed feel in the run up to the Reveal? How do his feelings change as the story progresses?
- Ed and Elodie's dads are supportive and caring. What advice or wisdom do you think Ed found most helpful? Alternatively, share the advice that you would give Ed
- What do we learn from the book about the meaning of family?
- As the story progresses, Ed realises that his nightmares only have power over him when he believes in them. We all have nightmares sometimes. What can we do to help us feel less scared of nightmares?
- *The Forgotten Magic* is the first in the *Artezans* series by L.D. Lapinski. What do you think might happen in the next book in the series?



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