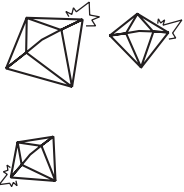


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# Introduction and Sample Lesson Plans

## Introduction

This literature unit has been designed to supplement teachers with ideas for use with the novel *Rowan and the Keeper of the Crystal* by Emily Rodda. It is aimed at upper primary school students. The following Sample Lesson Plans suggest ideas for a ten week whole class study. Photocopying a work package for each student is a good way to study the book.

## Sample Lesson Plans

### Week 1

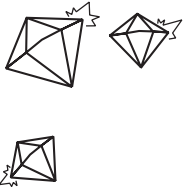
- ◆ Introduce the book using some or all of the ideas listed in 'Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities' ('Before the Book').
- ◆ Introduce the package you may have pre-made for each student.
- ◆ Read Section 1 of the book (Chapters One, Two and Three).
- ◆ The students summarise what has been read (orally or in written form).
- ◆ The students complete the quiz for Section 1.
- ◆ The students do some vocabulary work using words from the vocabulary list. The children can either write dictionary meanings, write their own meanings based on what was read, or include each word in a meaningful sentence.
- ◆ The students complete 'Picture This!', 'News Flash!' and 'Rowan's Diary'.

### Week 2

- ◆ Read Section 2 of the book (Chapters Four, Five and Six).
- ◆ The students summarise what has been read (orally or in written form).
- ◆ The students complete the quiz for Section 2.
- ◆ The students do some vocabulary work using words from the vocabulary list.
- ◆ The students complete 'Dear Marlie', 'Conversation Script' and 'Let's Compare'.

### Week 3

- ◆ Read Section 3 of the book (Chapters Seven, Eight and Nine).
- ◆ The students summarise what has been read (orally or in written form).
- ◆ The students complete the quiz for Section 3.
- ◆ The students do some vocabulary work using words from the vocabulary list.
- ◆ The students complete 'Picture This!', 'That's Poisonous!' and 'Character Profile - The Keeper of the Crystal'.



# Getting to Know the Book and the Author

## The Book

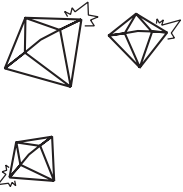
*Rowan and the Keeper of the Crystal* is the third book in the *Rowan* series by Emily Rodda. The story begins with the arrival in Rin of Perlain, a member of the Maris Folk from the coast. Tired and exhausted, Perlain tells the people of Rin that the magical Crystal that protects them all is dimming and the Keeper of the Crystal will die. To save the Crystal's power, a new Keeper must be chosen by the Chooser. Rowan is shocked to discover that the Chooser is his mother, Jiller, and as Rowan is the Chooser's first-born, he must also go to the Coast with Jiller.

On the night that Jiller and Rowan arrive, Jiller is poisoned in the Keeper's Cavern and lies in Death Sleep. Rowan is now the new Chooser and meets the three Candidates he must choose from – Asha of Umbray, Seaborn of Fisk, and Doss of Pandellis. However, Rowan refuses to choose a new Keeper until an antidote is made for his mother. He and the Candidates venture to the other side of the island and solve the riddle to create the antidote.

During the adventure, Rowan comes to know each Candidate, comes face to face with the Great Serpent and discovers the truth about Orin the Wise, who first found the Crystal. Back at the Cavern, Jiller is given the antidote and Rowan chooses the new Keeper. However, this Candidate has been brainwashed by the enemy Zebak and as the Crystal flashes, the Zebak's ships come towards the shore. Luckily, the new Keeper will not betray the Maris Folk and creates a storm, which wakes the serpents of the deep which destroy most of the Zebak. The Maris Folk and the people of Rin are safe once again with their new Keeper of the Crystal.

## The Author

Emily Rodda's real name is Jennifer Rowe. Emily Rodda is the name of her grandmother. She takes on this name when she writes books for children. Jennifer Rowe was born in Sydney in 1948. She received a Master of Arts in English Literature at the University of Sydney. Her first job was assistant editor at Paul Hamlyn. Jennifer then worked for fourteen years as Editor, Senior Editor, Managing Director, Deputy Publisher and Publisher at Angus and Robertson Publishers. During this time she began writing books for children under her pseudonym (Emily Rodda). Jennifer Rowe is the only person to have won the Australian Children's Book Council Book of the Year for Younger Readers Award five times. Jennifer then had a career in publishing and worked as Editor of the *Australia Women's Weekly* for five years. She now devotes her time between consultancies for book publishers and her own writing. She lives in the Blue Mountains with her husband and four children.



# Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities

Use some or all of the following suggestions to supplement your own ideas when studying *Rowan and the Keeper of the Crystal*.

## Before the Book

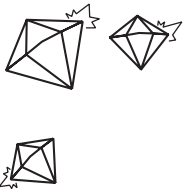
- ◆ Organise student copies of some or all of the worksheets into a work package.
- ◆ Set up a display to suit the book. This display can be 3-D using a variety of materials, or painted on a window.
- ◆ When programming, consider:
  - themes such as friendships, teamwork etc.
  - topics such as survival, heroes, fantasy etc.
  - linking the novel to your spelling and writing activities.
- ◆ Design art activities based on the novel, e.g. making craft projects out of things found at the beach, making kites, making old maps.
- ◆ Discuss friendships, survival, heroism and fantasy with the children.
- ◆ Read about the author (see 'Getting to Know the Book and the Author').

## During the Book

- ◆ Use the student work packages.
- ◆ Include related themes and topics in your teaching.
- ◆ Have the children write chapter summaries or alternatively, keep a diary from Rowan's point of view.
- ◆ Have the children design a mountain on a large sheet of paper and add the riddles and pictures of the obstacles as they read.
- ◆ Have the children illustrate different parts of the story.

## After the Book

- ◆ Have the students write a book review or create a book poster for the novel.
- ◆ Have the students write their own fantasy story. Discuss the elements of fantasy first.



# Vocabulary Lists

The following words could be useful for learning to spell or for defining.

## Section One: Chapters One, Two and Three

parchment	governed	candidate	decree
glimpse	crisis	fabled	garments
reverence	antidote	invaded	messenger
abruptly	peril	ancestors	rasping
warrior	summons	routine	clan
defeat	account	ancient	vital
serpent	reluctant	loyalty	united
grieved	betrothed	cunning	burden

## Section Two: Chapters Four, Five and Six

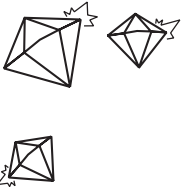
farewell	envy	lurking	veil
grateful	journey	rival	favouring
folk	weary	prosper	fate
mended	retreated	tether	ignorance
woven	impulse	fearsome	droned
trade	approach	amused	stricken
ornament	cavern	harbour	deceiving
driftwood	plunged	enquiring	milling

## Section Three: Chapters Seven, Eight and Nine

overwhelming	delicate	solution	loathing
wisdom	figure	yearning	precious
impress	basking	recognise	draped
century	deny	delay	avenge
beckon	utter	ember	qualities
towering	transparent	disturb	determination
confirm	liquid	venom	accuse
waver	obtain	convince	perish

## Section Four: Chapters Ten, Eleven and Twelve

paces	regret	fetch	hover
eerie	fortune	outwit	guide
vast	value	despair	plumes
distant	exchange	depend	intent
despise	suspicious	treacherous	glance
pretence	squabbling	confident	stern
scheme	clamber	doubt	blunt
observe	discourage	wary	ingredients



# Quiz: Chapters One, Two and Three

1. What did the messenger's message say? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe Perlain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who is the Chooser? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Did the Maris clans become united? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which clan was destroyed when the Zebak invaded the coast three hundred years ago? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did the people of Rin come to be in the land? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why are the Maris Folk vital to the safety of the people of Rin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. When does the Crystal dim? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the Chooser's role? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why is the Chooser a person from Rin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why is it dangerous to be a Chooser? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why does Rowan have to go to the coast as well? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_