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Introduction and Sample Lesson Plans	4	
Getting to Know the Book and the Author	6	
Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities	8	
Vocabulary Lists	9	
Quiz 1: Chapters One and Two	12	
Equal Shares	13	
A Letter to Home	14	
Quiz 2: Chapters Three and Four	15	
Invent your Own Mystery Item	16	
Reflectional Symmetry	17	
Quiz 3: Chapters Five and Six	18	
Picture this! – Muddlet	19	
Conversation Script	20	
Quiz 4: Chapters Seven and Eight	21	
News Flash!	22	
Different Customs	23	
Quiz 5: Chapters Nine and Ten	24	
Character Profile – Reece	25	
Inspection Checklist	26	
Quiz 6: Chapters Eleven and Twelve	27	
What’s that Sound?	28	
Tom’s Shop	29	
Quiz 7: Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen	30	
Rat Report	31	
Match the Words	32	
Quiz 8: Chapters Fifteen and Sixteen	33	
Werkowt Theeswerdz	35	
Picture this! – City of the Rats	36	
Quiz 9: Chapter Seventeen	37	
Story Map	38	
What if...	39	
Jumbled Sentences	40	
Imagine you Are...	41	
Which Character Is Which?	42	
Character Comparison	43	
Time for a Poem!	44	
Accordion Book	45	
Objective Test and Essay	46	
Crossword	47	
Answers	48	





Introduction and Sample Lesson Plans

Introduction

This literature unit has been designed to provide teachers with ideas for use with the novel *City of the Rats* (Deltora Quest series) 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 and Two).
- 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 'Equal Shares' and 'A Letter Home'.



Week 2

- Read Section 2 of the book (Chapters Three and Four).
- 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 'Invent your Own Mystery Item' and 'Reflectional Symmetry'.



Week 3

- Read Section 3 of the book (Chapters Five and Six).
- 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! – Muddlets' and 'Conversation Script'.



Week 4

- Read Section 4 of the book (Chapters Seven and Eight).
- The students summarise what has been read (orally or in written form).
- The students complete the quiz for Section 4.





Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities

Use some or all of the following suggestions to supplement your own ideas when studying *City of the Rats*.

Before the Book

- Organise student copies of some or all of the worksheets in a work package.
- Set up a display to suit the book, such as a map of the land. This display can be three-dimensional, using a variety of materials, or be 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.
- Study gemstones and fantasy.
- Discuss friendships, survival, heroism and fantasy with the children.
- Read about the author ('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 Lief's point of view.
- Have the children illustrate different parts of the story.
- Have the children create clay models of each character.
- Have the children create a large map of the land and add more details as they are discovered.

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.
- Complete the after the book activity sheets.





Quiz 1: Chapters One and Two

1. Why didn't the travellers stop to rest? _____

2. Why was it hard to leave Raladin? _____

3. What were the travellers looking for and why? _____

4. Describe Jasmine's two pets. _____

5. Why doesn't Jasmine understand what a shop is? _____

6. Why did the ruby grow dim? _____

7. Why didn't the wolves make their move until the travellers were past the tree? _____

8. What did the wolves change into? _____

9. What did the creatures want and why? _____

10. Why didn't the creatures notice what Filli was doing? _____

11. How did Lief buy some time? _____

12. How did the travellers escape? _____





Equal Shares

Work out the following shares:

- a. 24 slices of cake between 8 people: _____
- b. 81 lollies between 9 people: _____
- c. 45 marbles between 5 people: _____
- d. 23 biscuits between 2 people: _____
- e. 42 trading cards between 6 people: _____
- f. 20 flowers between 4 people: _____
- g. 15 pieces of pizza between 3 people: _____
- h. 21 apples between 7 people: _____
- i. 210 pencils between 10 people: _____
- j. 40 chocolates between 8 people: _____
- k. 156 toys between 12 people: _____
- l. 99 rubber bands between 11 people: _____



m. Ichabod and his brothers and sisters were arguing over the portions of the travellers that they would each eat, as there were three travellers and eleven creatures. The travellers are also different sizes. Explain below how you would have divided the travellers' portions equally between the creatures.



