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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 *The Forests of Silence* (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 'News Flash!'.
- ⌘ The students complete 'Coding Activity'.

### 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 'Letter From Crian'.
- ⌘ The students complete 'Picture This! - City of Del'.

### 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 'Thought Pattern for Jarred...'
- ⌘ The students complete 'Anna's Diary Entry'.



# Getting to Know the Book and the Author

## The Book

*The Forests of Silence* begins with the death of the king of the City of Del. The king's son, Endon, is the new heir to the throne. His best friend, Jarred, watches as Endon wears the Belt of Deltora just once before it is locked in the highest room in the palace. The Belt has seven magical gemstones set in it which unite the seven tribes of the land and protect the land from the evil Shadow Lord. That night, Jarred reads in a book that the Belt should be worn by the king all the time to ensure its full power and protection. When he tells Endon, the chief advisor accuses Jarred of being a traitor and Jarred escapes the palace. In the city for the first time, he realises that it is in ruin and poverty, the opposite of what is seen from the palace because of the magic mist that the Shadow Lord has placed around the palace. Jarred is taken in by old Crian and his grand-daughter Anna. Years later, Crian dies and Jarred marries Anna. Then one night seven monstrous creatures are seen swooping the palace before flying away. Endon calls for Jarred secretly and Jarred enters the palace through a secret tunnel. They discover that the gemstones from the Belt have been stolen. Endon and his wife are hidden now that the Belt's protection is lost and the Shadow Lord reigns. Jarred waits many years before searching for the gems to restore the Belt, however he injures his leg and cannot go on the quest. His sixteen-year-old son, Lief, and companion, Barda, are chosen instead. They know that the seven gems are hidden in the seven most dangerous places in the land and are each guarded by an evil guardian. The first place they go to is the Forests of Silence. However, they are captured by Wenn and left as a meal for the Wennbar. They are rescued by an orphaned girl called Jasmine, who takes them to the centre, the most dangerous place in the forests. The centre and its Lilies of Life are guarded by Gorl, who carries a sword with the first gemstone in its hilt. He is defeated, but not before Barda is fatally injured. The Lilies of Life finally bloom and the nectar heals Barda and restores him to full health. Jasmine's mother's spirit appears and tells Jasmine to go with Lief and Barda, which she does. With the first gemstone found and restored to the Belt, the three companions prepare for their journey to the next place in the quest.

## 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 was Editor of the Australian 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 four children and second husband.



# Suggestions for Using the Unit Activities

Use some or all of the following suggestions to supplement your own ideas when studying *The Forests of Silence*.

## **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, e.g. a map of the land. 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
- ⌘ Study gemstones, medieval times, hierarchy of kings and queens, and invasions and battles.
- ⌘ 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 create a palace entirely out of newspaper to suit the criteria and measurements that you give.
- ⌘ 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.

## **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 and Two

marble	folk	blacksmith	surging	heir
roused	precious	noble	plaited	disloyal
mingle	feast	servant	ordinary	burden
obedient	persuade	tempted	custom	reveal
anxious	entertain	archery	forbidden	grieve
detest	influence	govern	decode	summon
tamed	royal	patient	curiosity	duty

## Section Two: Chapters Three and Four

trundle	jealous	value	beware	luxury
hatred	shrank	glitter	shriek	parchment
gnaw	stride	mocking	dismay	century
chapel	triumphant	stunted	traitor	invasion
pursue	turret	plunge	doubt	protect
shimmer	prove	cautious	forge	history
cloak	gaped	stubborn	purpose	accused

## Section Three: Chapters Five and Six

beloved	seized	solemn	chant	obey
encrusted	monstrous	straggly	clumsily	eager
overlook	abrupt	entrance	platform	clutched
feeble	grimly	glossy	permitted	anguished
reclaim	deserted	stammer	betray	shattered
confusing	depend	idle	rustle	fragments
motionless	familiar	ornaments	hesitating	limply

## Section Four: Chapters Seven and Eight

expression	greed	admiration	enfolded	alert
fortunate	possession	interfere	treacherous	writhing
surge	timid	dazed	insist	astounded
reign	restore	beggar	loyalty	distract
convinced	defeat	declared	suspect	puzzled
prowl	contempt	humble	agile	overthrow
cower	rapidly	sidle	accuracy	slung



# In Other Words...

On the left below are words from the first two chapters, with several letters missing. To the right of each word is another word that has the same, or almost the same, meaning. Fill in the blank spaces once you have figured out the word, and then find it in the word search.

1. \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ tradition
2. C \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ rituals
3. \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ T \_\_\_ fragile
4. \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ R \_\_\_ interrupted
5. \_\_\_ R \_\_\_ V \_\_\_ mourning
6. \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ mixed
7. \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ convined
8. \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ M kingdom
9. \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ L fend off
10. \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ enlivened
11. S \_\_\_ T \_\_\_ calmed
12. \_\_\_ P \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ magnificent
13. \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ called for
14. T \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ amulet
15. \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ Y careful

B	F	G	P	C	R	S	H	K	Q	S	T	X	O	L	N	H	T	E
K	C	D	I	S	T	U	R	B	E	D	V	R	E	C	P	S	K	C
S	G	B	T	A	L	M	F	N	C	E	D	P	O	R	E	O	L	E
A	P	E	C	E	R	M	I	N	G	L	E	D	A	U	R	O	M	R
B	C	L	R	D	L	O	W	A	Y	I	L	U	C	U	S	T	O	M
G	R	I	E	V	I	N	G	R	O	C	M	Y	T	H	U	E	J	R
D	I	S	P	N	O	E	W	S	T	A	L	I	S	M	A	N	D	E
P	E	R	E	S	D	D	X	A	N	T	O	P	E	R	D	L	I	P
R	E	A	L	M	P	I	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	I	E	S	M	L
A	S	O	O	T	H	E	D	P	L	Y	R	W	A	S	D	P	O	E