

Text Talk – activities and resources to use with Arthur and the Golden Rope– by Joe Todd Stanton (part 1 page 6-19)



Read part 1 (up to and including P.19) of the story in a group or as a class – find the key vocabulary as you read...

vault	A secure room where money and other valuable things can be kept safely
humble	A place or thing which is ordinary and not special in any way
subsequent	To describe something that happened or existed after the event that has just been referred to
grant	To allow
rare	Something which isn't common and is therefore interesting or valuable[
clambered	If you clamber somewhere, you climb there with difficulty, usually using your hands as well as your feet
embers	The small pieces of wood or coal that remain and glow with heat after the fire has finished burning
huddled	If you huddle somewhere you hold your arms and legs close to your body, usually because you're cold or frightened
townsfolk	The townsfolk of a town or city are the people who live there
command	If someone in authority commands you to do something, they tell you that you must do it

Talk

Discuss the main things that have happened so far:



At the beginning

In the middle

At the end

Add notes if you like!



Does it remind you of any other books or anything else?

What do you think will happen next?

Text Talk – activities and resources to
use with Arthur and the Golden Rope– by Joe Todd Stanton (Part 2
page 19-35)



Read part 2 (from P.19 up to and including P.35) of the story in a group or as a class
– find the key vocabulary as you read...

meddling	If you say that someone meddles in something, you are criticizing the fact that they try to influence or change it without being asked
harsh	Actions or speech which are unkind and show no understanding or sympathy
possessions	Items which somebody owns
boomed	A loud, deep sound that lasts for several seconds
ravaged	To damage something so much that it is almost completely destroyed
outwit	Someone who uses their intelligence or a clever trick to defeat someone or to gain an advantage over them
refuse	To deliberately not do something or to say firmly that you will not do it
colossal	Something which is very large
stumped	If you are stumped by a question or problem, you cannot think of any solution or answer to it
parchment	The skin of certain animals, such as sheep, treated to form a long lasting material for bookbinding or manuscripts

Talk

Discuss the main things that have happened so far:



At the beginning

In the middle

At the end

Add notes if you like!



Does it remind you
of any other books
or anything else?

What do you
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Text Talk – activities and resources to
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page 35 to end)



Read part 3 (P.35 up to the end) of the story in a group or as a class – find the key vocabulary as you read...

realm	A country that has a king or queen
sturdy	Someone or something which looks strong and is unlikely to be easily injured or damaged
peril	A great danger
solemnly	To be serious rather than cheerful or humorous
tore	Moved quickly, often in an uncontrolled and dangerous way
erupted	A sudden or unexpected change in something, usually quite violent
gigantic	Something which is extremely large in size, amount, or degree
beamed	Someone has a big smile on their face because they are happy, pleased or proud
journal	A written account of daily activities which someone carries out
defeated	To have won victory over someone in a battle, game or contest

Talk

Discuss the main things that have happened so far:



At the beginning

In the middle

At the end

Add notes if you like!



Does it remind you
of any other books
or anything else?

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Group Talk Teacher Prompts



These prompts can be used to aid conversation about the book. They are just ideas to get you started with Text Talk. You will probably need to adapt them and re-phrase them to fit the text and your learners. The idea is to initiate conversation and then encourage developing comprehension and inference through structured conversation and discussion.

Stage 1 – (initiate talk)

Tell me about....

Do you think.....

How did.....

Why did _____ do _____? (adapt to fit the book)

Stage 2 – (develop talk further)

Tell me more about _____

Can you extend your answer?

Can anyone else add anything more?

What made you think that?

Yes, good point....what about....

Stage 3 – (encourage critique/discussion)

Do you agree with what _____ said?

Did anyone think anything different?

Could there be another reason for _____

Can you explain why you disagree/agree?

Illustration Investigation

This section gets children to consider the important role that illustrations play in books. The section is based around conversation, promoting deeper inference skills and empathy discussions. Teachers can dip in and out of sections, using whatever prompts they feel are suitable. There are no answers provided because the answers will differ depending on a child's interpretation of an illustration.

The cover

Photocopy the cover of the book, or use post it notes, and ask the children to add words to describe what it would feel like to be Arthur. Imagine they had to go on a quest to fight monsters. Discuss the words they write.

After reading the book, ask the children to design a new cover for the book.

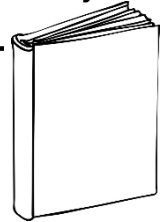


Illustration prompts

Did the illustrations add more to the story than just the words? Find examples in the story to show if they did.

Can the children find an example of an illustration that shows a calm environment? Can they find one that shows danger?

Did any of the pictures show how the characters felt? If so, which ones?

Describe what the pictures looked like and how the characters were feeling.



Page Detective

Get the children to look at the illustrations on page 34 to 35 and compare this to the illustration on page 38 to 39. What are the similarities and differences between the two images?

What would they prefer to climb?

A library wall with ladders or a tall mountain? Why?



Word Activities

These can be used with any text

Choose activities to complete for the book

Base word hunt

Look for words in the story where you can identify the base word, for example:

Jumping – jump

Sunshine – sun / shine

Bravely – brave

Darkness - dark

Word builder

Look for words in the story from which you can build more words, for example:

Smile – smiling - smiled

Hot – hotter – hottest

Silent – silently - silenced

Word spot

Find words in the story with the following number of letters – do you know what they all mean?

2 letters	3 letters	4 letters	6+ letters

Writing Activities

These can be used with any text

This is how it went ... write a brief overview of the story:

Beginning

Middle

End

Use the key vocabulary on page one if you need to!

Character Interview

Choose a character from the story and write down three questions that you would like to ask them.



Now write what answers you think the character might give!

Comprehension Questions

(part 1)



1	According to p8, what is the most 'treasured possession'?	Artefacts	Creatures	A collection of books
2	Where was Arthur born?	Denmark	Iceland	Tuckernuck Island
3	What did Arthur like to show a great interest in, in the forest?			
4	What was the name of the town's wise woman?			
5	What did the Wind Weaver give to Arthur?			
6	What was Arthur carrying whilst travelling in the forest?			
7	Who has the power to relight the fire?			
8	How do you think Arthur felt when he heard the howl? Why?			
9	How would you feel if you came across a monster in your town?			
	What would you do?			
10	Do you think that Arthur will help to save the town?			
	Why?			

Answers



1	According to p 8, what is the most 'treasured possession'?			A collection of books
2	Where was Arthur born?		Iceland	
3	What did Arthur like to show a great interest in, in the forest?	The strange creatures that lived there		
4	What was the name of the town's wise woman?	Atrix		
5	What did the Wind Weaver give to Arthur?	A special feather which would grant him special protection at a time of need		
6	What was Arthur carrying whilst travelling in the forest?	A net and a red rucksack		
7	Who has the power to relight the fire?	A god with a hammer that can command the skies		
8	How do you think Arthur felt when he heard the howl? Why?	Upset/anxious/afraid because it was 'terrible' and he was plunged into darkness/he looks scared		
9	How would you feel if you had to leave your home and everything behind and go to a new place?			
10	Do you think that Lenny will go back to live with his Mum again? Why or why not?			

Comprehension Questions

(part 2)



1	Who had been injured by the wolf?	Everyone	The warriors	The bakers
2	What was at the end of Arthur's bed?	A slipper	A candle	A chest
3	What did Arthur pack?			
4	Who had already failed to trap the wolf?			
5	How many glass bottles did Thor give him?			
6	What was the goddess of love called?			
7	Do you think that Thor believes that Arthur will succeed? Why?			
8	Do you think that Arthur enjoyed looking in all the books? Why?			
9	How would you feel if somebody made comments about you like the ones they made about Arthur on p21? Would you like it?			
10	What do you think will be on the parchment? Why?			

Answers (part 2)



1	Who had been injured by the wolf?	Everyone		
2	What was at the end of Arthur's bed?			A chest
3	What did Arthur pack?	His most useful possessions		
4	Who had already failed to trap the wolf?	The gods		
5	How many glass bottles did Thor give him?	Two		
6	What was the goddess of love called?	Freyja		
7	Do you think that Thor believes that Arthur will succeed? Why?	Yes because he has already collected strange things		
8	Do you think that Arthur enjoyed looking in all the books? Why?	No- because he looks exhausted in the illustration/he had to look in them all which would take a long time		
9	How would you feel if somebody made comments about you like the ones they made about Arthur on p21? Would you like it?			
10	What do you think will be on the parchment? Why?			

Comprehension Questions

(part 3)



1	Who caught Arthur when he was in peril?	Thor	Odin	Wind Weaver
2	How did Thor describe Arthur?	As brave	As odd	As funny
3	Where did Arthur hide?			
4	What was Thor holding towards the monster?			
5	What did Fenrir bite off?			
6	What was used to tie Fenrir up?			
7	How do you think the townsfolk felt when the fire burst to life? Why?			
8	How do you think Arthur felt at the end of his adventure? Why?			
9	Do you think Fenrir, the wolf would ever escape? Why?			
10	Do you think that Arthur will ever go on another adventure again? Would you like to go on an adventure like Arthur? Why?			

Answers (part 3)



1	Who caught Arthur when he was in peril?			Wind Weaver
2	How did Thor describe Arthur?	As brave		
3	Where did Arthur hide?	In the forest		
4	What was Thor holding towards the monster?	His hammer		
5	What did Fenrir bite off?	The Hand of Time		
6	What was used to tie Fenrir up?	It was 'bombed out'		
7	How do you think the townsfolk felt when the fire burst to life? Why?	Happy, because they cheered and gathered around to hear Arthur speak		
8	How do you think Arthur felt at the end of his adventure? Why?	Tired because he was fast asleep before the townsfolk celebrated		
9	Do you think that Fenrir, the wolf, would ever escape? Why?			
10	Do you think that Arthur will ever go on another adventure again? Would you like to go on an adventure like Arthur? Why?			