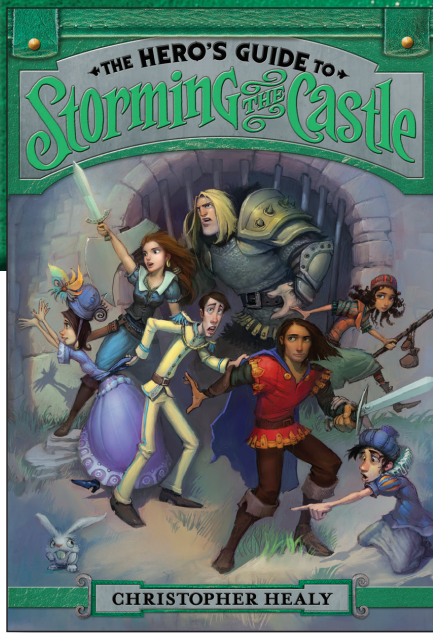


THE HERO'S GUIDE TO STORMING THE CASTLE ACTIVITY GUIDE



ABOUT THE HEROICS

Prince Liam. Prince Frederic. Prince Duncan. Prince Gustav. You remember them, don't you? They're the Princes Charming who finally got some credit after they stepped out of the shadows of their princesses—Cinderella, Rapunzel, Snow White, and Briar Rose—to defeat an evil witch. But alas, such fame and recognition only last so long. And when Briar Rose blackmails our heroes into breaking into the most formidable fortress in the Thirteen Kingdoms to steal an object of great power, they are going to have to prove themselves all over again. Magical gemstones, bladejaw eels, a mysterious Gray Phantom, and two maniacal warlords bent on world domination—it's all in a day's work for the League of Princes.

STUFF TO DISCUSS TO PROVE YOU READ THE BOOK

1. Prince Frederic says, “*Wit is my weapon. Words are my ammunition*” (p. 16). How does Frederic’s cleverness and agility with language allow him to aid the League of Princes on the quest?
2. Does the revelation of how Frederic’s mother died change his understanding of his father’s overprotectiveness?
3. How do Gustav’s brothers act like bullies? Why do you think they treat their youngest brother unkindly?
4. Why does Briar Rose want to marry Prince Liam? How is kidnapping and forcing Liam into marriage helping her realize her goals? How is it perhaps not helping?
5. How does the truth of Liam’s first act of heroism affect his self-confidence and how he identifies himself?
6. What is a non sequitur? How is Prince Duncan the prince of non sequiturs?
7. Describe the complicated relationships among Ella, Frederic, and Liam. Who does Ella choose at the end of the book, and why? How does Frederic feel about Rapunzel?
8. How is Lila *not* the stereotypical kid sister? Conversely, how is Liam the stereotypical older brother?
9. What is the JJDG? What’s its significance to Briar?
10. How is Deeb Rauber a surprising villain? What are his more villainous qualities?
11. Frederic offers this bit of wisdom: “No one is defined by a single act” (p. 372). What does he mean? How does this adage hold true for defining each of the princes and princesses?
12. How have the princes and princesses improved their ability to work together since their first adventure? What’s heroic about teamwork?

“KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

FOR INSTANCE, DON’T YOU FEEL MUCH MORE POWERFUL NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE THAT KNOWLEDGE IS POWER?”

—*The Hero’s Guide to Being a Hero* by Prince Duncan



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sound smart by using impressive words

Learn the meanings of the fifteen words from *The Hero's Guide to Storming the Castle* listed below by matching each with its definition. Then find the words in the word search puzzle; the words can appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward, or backward.

Words:

1. annul
2. bygones
3. covet
4. cowl
5. gall
6. heist
7. hooligan
8. league
9. notoriety
10. ominous
11. philodendron
12. plausible
13. slapstick
14. uppity
15. vendetta

Definitions:

- A. scary
- B. to make void
- C. a unit of distance measuring three miles
- D. physical comedy
- E. to wish for longingly
- F. a feud
- G. being famous in a bad way
- H. a houseplant
- I. taking on airs
- J. seemingly believable
- K. a hooded robe
- L. things in the past
- M. a tough, aggressive young person
- N. a burglary
- O. nerve



Answer Key: 1B, 2L, 3E, 4K, 5O, 6N, 7M, 8C, 9G, 10A, 11H, 12J, 13D, 14I, 15F

“MERE WORDS CANNOT DEFEAT A TRUE HERO.

UNLESS THEY HAPPEN TO BE THE WORDS TO SOME SORT OF
INSTANT DEATH SPELL. MAGIC IS SCARY.”

—*The Hero's Guide to Being a Hero* by Prince Duncan

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Storming the conventions

In *The Hero's Guide to Storming the Castle*, author Christopher Healy takes many of the conventions and stereotypes of fairy tales and turns them on their heads. How? And why? Explore how the author storms the castle (and the conventions!) in the novel by filling in the chart below.

CONVENTION	HOW IT'S STORMED	EFFECT ON THE STORY
A FAIRY TALE INVOLVES A SINGLE PRINCE.		
PRINCESSES NEED SAVING.		
DWARFS ARE NAMED FOR PERSONALITY TRAITS.		
ROYAL WEDDINGS MEAN HAPPILY EVER AFTER.		
HEROES ARE ALL HEROIC ALL THE TIME.		
SIDEKICKS—NOT HEROES—SERVE AS COMIC RELIEF.		
GNOMES ARE BAD TEMPERED.		
ALL PRINCESSES ARE KIND AND GOOD.		
INITIAL PRINCE-PRINCESS PAIRINGS ARE SET IN STONE.		

**“WHEN FACING UNBEATABLE ODDS,
JUST THINK OF YOURSELF AS UNBEATABLY ODD.”**

—*The Hero's Guide to Being a Hero* by Prince Duncan



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