

Epic

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CONOR KOSTICK

Teaching Resources

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OBJECTIVES

- The student will analyze the novel's society through connecting and comparing it to the society they know and the societies based in other novels.
- The student will comprehend the novel through connecting themselves to the characters
- The student will identify recurring themes through creating captions for fantasy photographs/illustrations
- The student will expand their vocabulary through creating their own definition, a context clue and illustration for their new words
- The student will connect recurring themes through literary works through discussion and creating journal entries

VOCABULARY

amalgamated; erratic; arduous; lithe; severity; exasperated; accumulation; riposte; frivolity; dour; discontent; veer; quays; inevitably; estuary; resilient; antagonizing; slog; illicit; tedious; tether; irrelevance

CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO

1. Page 7 - "I'm dead." What does this imply? Explain.
2. In the first chapter, explain the relationship between Erik and his mother? Explain the relationship between Erik and his father? Use textual events/details to support your answer.
3. Please define "reallocated." Why are Erik and his family being "reallocated"?
4. Infer – Erik becomes very angry that his father will not "fight." Why do you think his father cannot/refuses to "fight."
5. Connect to literature/Inference – Erik's parents keep "things" from him/talk

behind his back. This idea of keeping information was also witnessed in *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, with the Logan children. Why might Erik's parents be holding information from him? Think of the information that was kept from the Logan children.

6. Prediction – What type of information might Erik's parents be keeping from him? Explain.

7. Using your prior knowledge and the information in chapters 1 and 2, speculate – Do you think Erik's parents should be including him in their conversations? Explain using support from prior knowledge, other novels and chapters 1 and 2.

8. Please define "Central Allocations" in your own words.

9. Erik's mother died. Has she really "died"? Explain.

10. Infer – Bjorn states that it is unrealistic to kill "Central Allocations." What does this tell you about Central Allocations? Explain.

11. Erik makes a "goal" for himself at the end of chapter one. What is the goal? Do you think he can accomplish this goal? Explain. Think of Bjorn's statement.

12. Erik has died, again. He creates a new persona for the game. Describe his character. Include physical and personality character traits. Do you believe Erik's created character will succeed in the game? Explain.

13. Eric uses a majority, if not all, of his character points on beauty. How do people define beauty? Explain. Does beauty have its advantages? Are there disadvantages to beauty? Explain using life/novel connections.

14. Do you agree with Erik's choice for his game persona? Explain.

15. In the community, it is required that everyone play the game. Erik played for four hours. Would your parents let you play for four hours? Explain.

16. Erik is convinced that he can kill the red dragon. Has there ever been something that you did not give up on? Explain. Do you think Erik will be able to achieve his goal? Explain.

CHAPTERS 3-4

1. In our society, our conflict resolution techniques are a little different then the novels. In our school, if there is a conflict, the parties would meet with a mediator and solve the problem through discussion, In Erik's world. the conflict is dealt out in a simulated battle in an arena. In your opinion, which method solves or works out the problem better? Explain.

2. Bjorn is hesitant about asking Erik's Cindella to come along with him to fight the Kobolds. Page 30 – "In effect, Bjorn was offering to tow Erik along. It would have been easy to convince himself that Erik was not serious about his new character and that any loot divided with it would be wasted. But friends were friends and, regardless of Erik's irresponsible choices, it was right to make the offer."

Do you believe Bjorn made the right decision? Explain.

If you were in a similar position, what would you do? Explain.

3. In chapter four, the story is told of how Erik cracked his tooth. What is the importance of this story? Why do you think the author is telling this story at this point in the novel? Explain.

CHAPTER 8

1. Describe the character of Ragnok

(physical/personality). Use the following quote to support your answer -

Page 72 – “He was a villain, so what?”

2. What does the following quote say about Ragnok:

“And so he rode them down, bringing their struggle up the ladder of Epic to an abrupt end.”

3. Page 72 – What is Ragnok’s plan? Explain.

4. Page 74 – the sophistication of Epic – If the game is being called “Sophisticated” – what does that mean? Do you call your Wii games or other video console games sophisticated? Explain.

CHAPTER 9

1. What happens to Erik at the beginning of Chapter 9? Outline the events.

2. Explain/Describe how Erik’s father is feeling? Use the following quotes to support your answer:

“If you were in Mikelgard and a senior Epic player, they would treat you differently.” He paused. “Or if we had thousands of Bezants. Erik could see his father was angry, but couldn’t follow his reasoning.

“Here the doctors say the necessary equipment has been broken for over twenty years. Here they have to use surgery. You will be left with a scar and it will take longer to heal.”

3. Describe the Executioner. If you saw the Executioner (while you were playing the game), how would you feel? What would you do? Explain.

4. Explain this quote – “Hate and vengeance strode once more in the world of Epic.” Page 71 (Who, what and why?)

5. What does a player/person have to do to get accepted into Mikelgard University? Would you want to live in a world where everything you have – money job, education – is based on how well you perform and succeed in a game? Explain your reasoning.

6. What did Harald and Thorstein do for Erik while he was in the hospital? Explain the sequence of events that occurred after he received “this box”.

CHAPTER 10

1. Explain Harald’s full name (Harald Erikson)

2. Prediction – Who is spreading the articles in *New Leviathan*? Explain your choice.

CHAPTERS 11-12

1. How did the graduation ceremony proceed? Does Erik and his friends have a chance of attending University? Explain.

2. Why was Harald exiled? Make a prediction.

3. Make a prediction on Chapter 12’s title.

4. How did Erik’s father originally escape Exile?

5. What is Erik’s plan for the Dragon? Give a detailed explanation.

CHAPTERS 16-17

1. Chapter 16 is entitled “The Bribe.” What is the bribe discussed in the chapter? Do you think this is a good offer/bribe? Has anyone ever bribed you? Did you consider or take the bribe? Explain.

2. Have the Osterfjord players really changed their way of life or thinking since they acquired their wealth? Explain.

3. What is Erik’s philosophy? Explain. Do you agree with Bjorn’s statement below? Explain.

Page 171 - “Ya. You believe in the Erik Haraldson School of Philosophy, that all will come out right in the end, that fortune will favor the deserving. I do not believe that. That world is much more arbitrary.”

4. Please explain this quote:

Page 163: “The prospect of going to Mikelgard University and changing, wearing better clothes, appeared before Erik, and the image included him having a perfect white smile. But he didn’t want to change. Keeping the tooth as it was proved he was from a small district with poor resources.”

What does it tell us about Erik? Would you feel the same way? Explain.

5. What suggestion does Svein give to Erik in regards to how to get his father out of Exile? (Page 163) Would you choose this option? Explain.

6. Does Erik trust Svein? Explain with text support how you know Erik’s feelings towards him.

7. Please describe what each player would like to do with their fortune? Page 164

8. Erik and his mother buy the portable headset. What do you think they would need it for?

9. Describe some of the items that the characters have bought with their money.

10. B.E. has spent over a million. Do you think it is a wise decision to spend this much money. Explain.

CHAPTER 18

1. Cindella creates a posting? What does she want? Do you think the adventure and the posting are a good idea? Explain.

2. The committee suggests that Svein volunteers for the voyage? Make a prediction.

3. What does Ragnock propose? What is the outcome.

CHAPTER 19-20

1. What does the following quote say about the character? Explain.

“Utter stillness. Not a cough from anyone, fearful of drawing attention to themselves. Then a voice, terrible and cold dripping with poisonous sibilance, and yet insidiously beautiful and persuasive.”

2. Erik allows Count Illystivostich passage on the ship. Would you have done the same thing? Explain. Predict what could happen.

3. (Page 196) Erik and Annonemus are not agreeing on strategy plans. What does Erik suggest? Describe. What is Annonemus’ argument? What do you think is the best strategy?

4. What does Svein say about the situation? page 198

Stop reading on page 199

5. The count agrees to assist in the matter, but no one argues (persuasive power). At this point do you trust the Count? Predict what could happen. Choose a side - The Count or Cindella. Explain.

CHAPTER 21-23

1. What happened when Erik and his crew encountered the other ship? Describe the events and outcome.

2. What is Svein’s outcome in the game and with Central Allocations? Explain.

3. B.E. has lost his character and wealth. What is his view on the situation? Explain. How would you feel if it happened to you.

4. What happened to Bjorn's character? Where is he?

5. Choose one event from the novel and explain why that event would make a good article for the New Leviathan.

CHAPTER 24

1. Translate the following phrase: *Finem facere mundo* – page 221. Explain the meaning in your own words.

2. In chapter 24, what does Annonemus tell the Count? What does the count plan to do in return? What is the bargain? Would you make a bargain with the count?

3. Explain/Interpret the following quote: "Wow the game is coming alive. How creepy is that!" Then he glanced curiously at Erik. "How did you know?"

CHAPTERS 25-26

1. Page 228 –

"It was not Inny or Bjorn; Erik did not recognize the Knock."

Who was the unexpected visitor? Explain what happened and what the visitor wanted? Did Erik oblige the visitor? (Did he help him out?) Explain.

Do you have sympathy for the visitor? Explain.

2. What is Svein Redbeard's obsession? Did you ever have an obsession that you just could not give up on? Explain.

3. What is the Golden Shield of Al'Karak? Describe. Where does it come from? Why did Central Allocations spend a fortune on this one item? How much did they spend on this item?

4. How does Bjorn rescue his friends?

5. Please explain the following quote:

Page 240 – "Wouldn't it be wonderful if the game didn't matter, other than to play in? We could explore snowy mountains, spectacular caverns, and remote desert civilizations. To journey just for the pleasure of the adventures would be something . . ." She paused. "Only now do I understand why this game was invented."

6. Summarize Bjorn's journey and how he met the Merpeople.

7. Read the following quote. What is interesting about the quote?

"Fascinating, Bjorn. What an Experience!" Erik was almost jealous. He wished that Cindella too could

have seen the underwater city.'

8. Bjorn received three requests from the Merking. What did he ask for? Describe each request.

9. Page 243 – What are Erik/Cindella and Annonemus disagreeing about? Explain each character's point of view.

10. Explain your view on the following quote:

"Well, I cannot honestly say I am convinced he is now hostile to C.A. It's just that I think if Cindella was turned to stone, and someone had the chance to turn her back but left her . . . that would be terribly cruel.

"Erik's right," added Injeborg. "It's not about how he behaves at all. Let him do what he likes, for better or worse. It's about us, and our morals. Are we like them? No. It's that simple."

CHAPTER 27

1. Who created *New Leviathan*. What was his purpose?

2. Inside the game, as the Executioner, what did Ragnok do? What was his purpose in performing these acts? Explain.

3. If you are accepted into Mikelgard University, are your classes in real life or in the game of Epic? Explain.

4. Describe and explain the encounter between Ragnok/the Executioner and Count Illystivostich. (Page 290+)

5. Describe the Thereal Tower of Nightmare. When can one enter it?

6. What is the *Epicus Ultima*, really? Is it a treasure? If not, what?

CHAPTER 28

1. Who cleaned the yard and house? What is your impression? Why do you think this person performed these deeds? Explain.

2. Please explain this quote. What does it mean or signify about a character and the real person playing the character? Explain.

"Close up, his thinning hair and wrinkled face were not the features he associated with the warrior in the game – he could have been one of the old men from the village, and have spent his entire life here."

"So, what's next for you and your friends?" That Svein's question was meant to be supportive was shown by

the warm smile that accompanied it.'

3. After all that has occurred, what is your impression of Svein, now? Explain.

4. Erik and his group are planning to challenge Central Allocations for the release of the people on Exile Island. Svein wonders if the people will support them or fear the return of the exiles (they will be setting loose people who are convicted of violence.) If you were a member of the community, would you support Erik and his group? Explain.

5. Erik's challenge is lodged but don't take place for a month. What does Erik suggest? Explain. Do you agree that they should attempt to do this? Explain.

CHAPTER 29

1. When they reach the tower, what do they encounter? What would you have done, if you had encountered this? Explain.

2. Who did the Executioner get to side with him? Why do you think they sided with him? (think about the difference between wisdom and Knowledge).

3. Where are Erik and his group planning to get volunteers to join their fight?

4. Where does Erik go to get help from within the game? Explain the encounter.

5. What important ideas does Injeborg say in her speech in the stadium? - Pages 275-277.

6. Explain/describe what happens when Ragnock Strongarm comes into the arena.

CHAPTER 30-32

1. Would you have risked your character, his attributes and wealth and joined the Osterfjord Players army? Explain.

2. Who does Injeborg have to protect? Explain why.

3. How did Ragnock react to so many people disobeying Central Allocations? Explain.

4. How did Ragnock spot the Osterfjord players? (Think about this the next time you want to be low key).

5. What happens to the Executioner?

6. Erik says they lost the battle. Explain. Did they really lose the battle? What was the purpose of this fight? Explain.

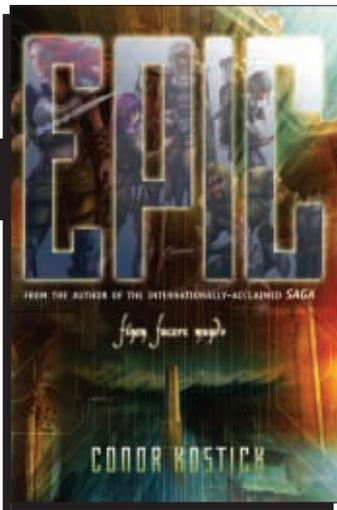
7. Who makes it to the Ethereal Tower?

8. What happens to Ragnock in chapter 31?

9. What happens to the game Epic at the end of Chapter 33?

WRITING ACTIVITIES

- Eric has a different discovery with Cindella than his previous characters. He receives a note, a map and some advice. The map shows the location of the Queen's messenger treasure.
 - Option 1 – Create a story describing how the treasure ended up on Skull Island.
 - Option 2 – Create a story of Cindella's adventure to Skull Island to obtain the treasure.
- Remember – Be sure to include all of the parts of the Story Plot Mountain. Also, please develop your characters through your character checklist.
- Create an article for *New Leviathan*. Pick an event from chapter 1-10. Be sure to include who, what, when and why.
- Create your own character for the Epic game. See activity on page 5
- Use the Activity Grid on page 6 to select three contrasting writing activities



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Design Your Own Game Character for Epic

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SKILLS

You have 60 points for the following categories: physical strength; agility; speed; magical power; healing power; and beauty.

Please decide how you are going to divvy up your skills. For example: strength 10, agility 10, speed 10, magical power 10, healing power 10 and beauty 10 = 60 points total.

Physical Strength - _____ points

Agility - _____ points

Speed - _____ points

Magical Power - _____ points

Healing Power - _____ points

Beauty - _____ points

_____ + _____ = 50 points total

Please explain why you allocated your points this way: _____

GENDER

Chosen gender: Male / Female

Explain why you chose that gender. Please use details to support your answer. _____

DISCIPLINE

Please choose your character's discipline – swashbuckler; footpad; chevalier; gambler; tumbler; drifter; witch; warlock; thief; or warrior. You may want to choose a discipline not on this list.

Define the discipline that you chose in your own words.

Chosen discipline: _____

Definition of discipline: _____

NAME

Erik decides not to use his own name for his character and chooses to name her Cindella. Please choose a name for your character and explain the reason for your choice.

Character Name: _____

Reason for choosing this name: _____

PICTURE

On a separate piece of paper, please illustrate your character. Be sure to create an outfit depicting their strengths chosen above. For example, if your character has a majority of magical power, what would they be carrying or wearing? (If your character has no beauty points, maybe they would have a hood up so no one could see their face.)



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Activity Grid

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Starting with the middle square, choose a row of three activities: it can be either diagonal, up and down, or across.

Choose one character from the novel. Find supporting text that describes the character. Illustrate the character. Document page numbers and text to support your illustration. (This can be a major or minor character)

Choose one descriptive passage from the novel, either from Epic, the game, or the real world, and illustrate. Please ensure that you document the text and page number on your illustration.

Erik finds out the truth about his father and why he could not play Epic. Write a letter to Erik, as Harald, explaining the truth of his actions and why you did not tell him the truth.

Please choose one character in the novel that you connect with. Explain, using text support, your connection with the character.

Create an article for the *New Leviathon*. Please choose an event to write about that shows how the society does not have an equal chance against Central Allocations. (You may not choose a topic that has already been written about).

Bjorn tells his tale of the Merpeople and the Merking. They have a very small role in the novel. Create a fantasy tale about the Merpeople who live under the water. How did they end up there? What is their kingdom like?

There are many example of internal conflict in the novel. Please give one example for three of the characters. Be sure to give supporting details to explain the conflict.

Please choose three external conflicts in the story. Explain who is involved in the conflicts. Use details and text support in your answer.

You are a member of Central Allocations – sorry. It is your vote that decides the outcome of Svein. Do you agree or disagree that he should be reinstated to Central Allocations? In an essay explain/support your decision. (Please have at least two to three reasons why.)