

The
Quentaris
Chronicles
Swords
of Quentaris
Paul Collins

Teacher's Notes

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This new series set in the city of Quentaris is aimed at young readers from upper primary to secondary levels and is filled with adventure.

Young people will enjoy the different fantasy world and the excitement and unexpected events that are lurking in the other worlds referred to in this series.

In *Swords of Quentaris* Rad de La'rel, a street wise urchin with few prospects, dares to steal a map from the sky crawlers when they are attacking the city from the rift. The map gives him an opportunity to go to the rift caves outside Quentaris to seek his fortune and the possibility of claiming his birthright. He is accompanied in the quest by Tulcia – a feisty young girl with many attributes.

The story tells of the young people's lives in the dangerous city of Quentaris, their adventures in the rift caves and the infamous scar rift and the changes that take place as a result of their daring.

The fast-paced action and intrigue will keep young readers engrossed and have them eagerly awaiting the next book.

These notes can be photocopied for class use.

They and other resources are available at no charge from the Lothian Books' website:

www.lothian.com.au

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LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

What are the guilds?

How can you join? (See page 13)

How do they work?

What are *skycrawlers*? (13)

Describe the skyship

Describe the pirates and what they do. (14-15)

What is the reason for words in *italics*? (There is an instance on page 16)

What is a *fence*?

Write about the Thieves' Guild

Why do people join?

What does Rad grab from the skyship?

What does it turn out to be?
Why is it so important?
What does the City Watch consist of? (81)
Why do people go to the rift caves?
Who runs Quentaris?
Jot down anything you learn about the history of Quentaris as you read.
Such a breathtaking sight you will never see again (89)
What is being referred to here?
Why does Tulcia say Rad has *no soul*? (90)
Describe the scar and what happens when they reach it. (97)
What is Rad's reaction once he is inside the cave? (100)
What fate befalls many who go to the cave? (101 and 104)
Describe the rifts and what is known about them. (105)
Why is the crossing *somewhat of a disappointment*? (106)
What do Rad and Tulcia find in the rift cave? (103 and 106)
What is the scar?
What does the map show? (127)
What knowledge does Rad have?
How has he gained it? (149)
Relate what happens as the two leave the rift cave.

Opening

Look at the opening of the story.
Determine what has been learned by the end of the first chapter
Jot down what the first chapter has achieved.

Setting

Where is the story set?
Outline your impressions of the city of Quentaris
What social structure exists there?
How is society organised?
What are the main ways of getting around? (29)
What are the systems that operate in the city?

Characters

Rad is the main character and we learn a great deal about him as the story unfolds.

Do a pen portrait of Rad, including as much as you can about him – what he wears, his background, his position, how he lives, his attributes, his yearnings and his birthright.

What sort of a life does he lead in Quentaris?

Mention how he operates and the change that comes over him by the end of the story – what caused it and why.

Do a profile of Tulcia, touching on her strong points and her character and attitude.

The two main characters are strong and Tulcia is a female to be reckoned with

Give instances of her strength – both physical and mental.

She and Rad are quite different in their bearing and attitude

Jot down some instances of these differences.

Who is Nathine? (11)

Write about her.

Who is Vindon Nibhelline?
What part does he play in the story?

Vocabulary

From the novel, make a list of words that are associated with fighting

Jot down words that are to do with fantasy

Make a list of old world names, such as *wastrels* (42) and *cuirasses* (85)

Look at the following words in context and determine their meaning.

Use the dictionary to help you if you need to:

stridently (17), *inexorably* (24), *cryptic* (29), *ensorcelled* (94), *detritus* (99), *expunged* (101), *ululating* (141), *maelstrom* (152).

What is the meaning of *flew the coop*? (See page 40)

Look at the variety of ways the author uses for expressing oneself:

querulous voice (65), began *sibilantly*, *vehement* agreement (66).

Find more

Make a list of words to do with mood that alert the reader to what is coming up, for example:

foreboding, *ominous portent*. (84)

What is the name given for words that sound the same but are spelt differently and have a different meaning, such as:

site/sight; *reigned/rained/reined*? (89)

Jot down others that you find as you read.

THE CRAFT OF WRITING

Examine closely Paul Collins' graphic language and his use of similes, for instance:

like a felled bat (15), *like oil across a hot plate* (16) *like water dowsing a fire* (84)

and vivid descriptive word pictures:

The world below kaleidoscoped. (19), *lichened roofline* (35),

juddered (20), *guttering light* (30)

It was as though he was wading through gluggy pea soup (40)

Take note of such word usage and use it in your own writing

Find places where Paul Collins describes the physical reaction of his characters to events they are witnessing or experiencing.

Jot some of these down and consider how an author establishes atmosphere and feeling.

Genre

What type of story is *Swords of Quentaris*?

Discussion

Talk about the following as they appear in the story:

the guilds

other worlds

choices

dilemmas

the imagination

destiny

attitude
intuition
elements of magic
myths and legends
What is magic?
People's reaction to the unknown
Faith and courage

Oral activities

Relate how Tulcia becomes Rad's partner
What sights do they see and what do they experience while they are in the cave?
Give some instances of Rad's fertile imagination.
Recount the story to a friend

Writing

Put yourself in Rad's place and describe life in Quentaris from your perspective.
Write about the relationship between Rad and Tulcia
Describe the adventure to the rift caves, how Rad and Tulcia got there, why they went and what happened while they were there.
From Tulcia's point of view
From Rad's perspective
Write about your own quest
More than once Rad and Tulcia behold wondrous things.
Write about some of these
Describe the rescue of Vindon Nibhelline
Why do you think Rad rescued his foe?

About the series

The Quentaris Chronicles are books written in the high fantasy genre and set in the city of Quentaris. The Quentaris shared world series was created by Paul Collins and Michael Pryor who are also the authors of four of the books in the series, the first two of these being *Swords of Quentaris* and *Quentaris in Flames*. Other releases in the series are *The Perfect Princess*, by Jenny Pausacker and *The Revognase* by Lucy Sussex.
Check out the website for this exciting series at www.quentaris.com