

# *Wardragon*

by

Paul Collins

This, the fourth and final book in *The Jelindel Chronicles*, will enthrall those who have read the other books in this quest fantasy and readers will eagerly follow the heroes – their adversaries and their fortunes – to the conclusion of their mission. Those who are reading this title as an introduction to this epic high fantasy series will be riveted by the fast pace and variety of action and be held spellbound by the plot – involving twists and trickery beyond belief!

Jelindel is attempting to restore things as they were for her world in Q'zar which has been in turmoil for a thousand years, having, with her companions, tracked down the Wardragon across frighteningly different worlds and faced many perils and hazardous situations.

However, since the Wardragon as an entity is all-powerful, and when warlords and wizards have attempted to piece together the mailshirt, which is his power, they little realise that they, instead of holding power, will be beholden to it. Jelindel and her friends have struggled against phenomenal odds and all she has are spells that take tremendous energy and often cause consequences that are not envisaged ...

Paul Collins presents a clever juxtaposition of characters, feelings and perceptions. He introduces many questions and challenging concepts in his gripping fantasy *Wardragon* that will encourage aficionados to read on and those readers who have not embarked on this genre to read more ...

Previous titles were: *Dragonlinks*, *Dragonfang* and *Dragonsight*, published by Penguin Books Australia.

## LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

- ⌘ What is the main character's name?
- ⌘ Describe the background of this person
  
- ⌘ What befell the two characters Daretor and Zimak?
- ⌘ What did this cause?
  
- ⌘ What is the mailshirt?
- ⌘ Who is the mailshirt's new host?
  
- ⌘ What is the meaning of the name Wardragon?
  
- ⌘ From the story, find instances of:
  - ⌘ an enigma, a dilemma, treachery, humour, sarcasm and irony
  
- ⌘ Find examples within the text of:
  - the use of sounds
  - feelings and emotions
  - twists and turns – when things are not as they seem
  
- ⌘ Make a list of things that are different in this story from the world as we know it

## Plot

This is a complex novel with many machinations and turns in its plot

- Tell a friend about the book you have just read: *Wardragon* by Paul Collins
- Divide up the class into groups whereby one group can take a section of the story and tell it to the rest of the class until the whole story is told in true oral epic fashion

## Characters

Jelindel is the main character in this story

- Write a profile of her touching on her powers, personality and characteristics.
- Do a piece about the Wardragon
- Make a list of five other characters from the story and jot down a few words that best describes each
- Read your list to the rest of the class and determine whether there are any similarities with other class members in the attributes of characters you have chosen

### Setting

- ⌘ Where is *Wardragon* set, that is, where does the story take place?

### Vocabulary

*Wardragon* is written in a particular way using a certain style.

- ⌘ Go through the text and compile a list of words that pertain only to this story – that is they have meaning and validity only within the context of this novel.
- ⌘ Make a list of names of places used in the novel
- ⌘ Draw up a list of
  - weapons
  - exotic creatures
 that appear in this novel
- ⌘ Choose some phrases or words that you felt were apt to a setting, place in the story, and in the creation of atmosphere.
- ⌘ Compile a list of ‘old-fashioned words’ and ponder why the author has used them.
- ⌘ If there are any English words that that you do not know as you are reading, attempt to determine their meaning from their context.
- ⌘ Look up words you cannot ascertain in the dictionary and try to add

them to your own writing to broaden your word usage

## Genre

- What type of book is *Wardragon*?
- List the ingredients that caused you to reach this conclusion and expand further on these features.

## Speaking / Listening

- ⌘ Talk about the way in which this novel is written.
- ⌘ Consider how time and its passage is handled in this novel
- ⌘ As Zimak or Daretor, tell your story
- ⌘ Choose a passage from the novel where Jelindel is achieving things. Put yourself in her place and relate how you handle the situation; how you feel and what you are able to achieve
- ⌘ Do a segment on *Wardragon* for your local radio station

## Discussion

- Talk about the imagination: where it can go; what it can achieve and its importance
- Discuss the following topics using the novel as a starting point:
  - power
  - illusion
  - betrayal
  - traitors
  - fear
  - spells
  - terror
  - loyalty
  - honour
  - oaths
  - destiny
  - hate
  - jealousy
  - revenge
  - change
  - guilt
  - choices
  - luck
  - hope
  - rivalry
  - symbols
  - fate
  - balance
  - dreams
  - trust
  - survival
  - magic

**Talk about:**

- sayings
- relationships
- being telepathic
- the place of rumours
- risk taking
- perspective
- the rituals of death, funerals
- the significance of the quest

**Talk about:**

- sorceresses, wizards, warlords
- people's backgrounds and the effect it has on their lives
- the future
- the role of dragons in the story
- other worlds
- curses

**THE CRAFT OF WRITING**

- Choose a descriptive passage that you found portrayed a scene that came to life .Examine it in detail and try to discover what the author has done to make this particular portion graphic
- Look at how the author creates atmosphere in this novel
- Find places where the weather reflects the landscape or situation and consider what effect this has on the story
- Look at the way different type is used in this book.
- Find instances and make comments on why it is used and the purpose it serves in each case

Writers often put forward their own views through their characters.

- Can you find portions or sayings or speeches where you felt that Paul Collins was saying something to the reader?
- Examine the place of contrast in writing

**Opening**

- Read the opening of *Wardragon* and say what the author has established at the beginning of his story. Comment on the mood and

what transpires

## Ending

- **Look** at the way in which this story ends and make some observations and comments about how this series finishes
- **Look** at the way Paul Collins presents this story. Examine the chapters and see what information they give the reader and what they are designed to do
- **Look** at Chapter 11 and how the author makes breaks in the text presenting one aspect of life and then crossing over to another place
- Assess what effect this achieves

## WRITING

- ⌘ Choose one of the worlds that is depicted in the novel and write about it stating details of what creatures inhabit it and how people go about their day-to-day activities. Mention dress, currency, pursuits and anything else you can to depict a picture of life in that place
- ⌘ Write a blurb for this title
- ⌘ Describe the final battle
- ⌘ In groups write a critical review of *Wardragon* for your local newspaper

## Further activities

- Act out a scene
- Draw a picture of the following as you imagine they might look that could be used as illustrations in this novel
  - Farvenu
  - Wardragon
  - The Sacred One
- Devise some names for characters and places that could be used in this story
  - *History is written by the victors.* Write a piece on this.
  - *Stories can change worlds.* Do you agree?

- For more information about the author go to:  
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Notes: Nancy Mortimer