

# THE HERO'S GUIDE TO SAVING YOUR KINGDOM ACTIVITY GUIDE

## ABOUT THE HEROICS

Prince Liam. Prince Frederic. Prince Duncan. Prince Gustav. You've never heard of them, have you? And you know why? Revisionist history. These are the princes who saved Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Snow White, and Rapunzel, respectively, and yet you likely know them only as "Prince Charming." But that's about to change. Cast out of their respective castles, Liam, Frederic, Duncan, and Gustav stumble upon an evil plot to take down their kingdoms. Now it's up to them to triumph over their . . . shall we say, *shortcomings* . . . and become the heroes that no one ever thought they could be. Four imperfect princes and five audacious princesses welcome you to a world where even classic fairy tales are not at all what they seem.

**"GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT,  
YOU CHUCKLEHEADED THROAT-WARBLER!"**

—The Evil Witch Zaubera





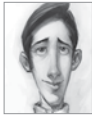

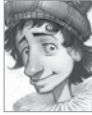




## STUFF TO DISCUSS TO PROVE YOU READ THE BOOK

1. How do you define a hero? What qualities of the four princes make them unlikely heroes?
2. Which classic fairy tales are reimaged in the book? How are they different from the way you've heard them before?
3. Why does Ella leave Frederic? Why does Frederic go after her?
4. Why is Gustav a loner? Why does Rapunzel think Gustav doesn't like himself? Who helps Gustav come to appreciate some of his own qualities?
5. Why does Liam think the people of his kingdom love him? Why do they actually love him?
6. Who is the Bandit King? What about him surprises the princes?
7. Gustav says that the princes "don't do teamwork well." Do you agree or disagree? Explain. How do Ella and Lila make a good team?
8. How do the princes turn their shortcomings into talents? How does their friendship help them to do so?
9. Who are the villains of the story? How is each like villains you've seen before? How is each different?
10. Which parts of the book do you find funniest? Why?
11. Hints are dropped that not every prince wants to end up with the princess with whom he is paired at the start of the novel. Who do you think should end up with whom?
12. The bards get some stuff wrong in their songs. Why shouldn't you always believe what you hear? How does the teller of a story affect its interpretation?

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## GETTING TO KNOW THE HEROES

Now that you know the *real* princes and princesses, think about what makes them heroic, what flaws they have to overcome, and what acts of heroism they carry out in the novel. Fill in the chart below, keeping in mind that not every character (*ahem*, Briar Rose!) might be a hero in your eyes.

HIGHNESS	MOST HEROIC QUALITY	BIGGEST SHORTCOMING	ACT(S) OF HEROISM
 LIAM			
 BRIAR ROSE			
 FREDERIC			
 ELLA			
 DUNCAN			
 SNOW WHITE			
 GUSTAV			
 RAPUNZEL			
 LILA			

**“WE MAY BE UNSUNG HEROES,  
BUT GIVE US TIME. THAT’LL CHANGE.”**  
—Prince Liam

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## SOUND SMART BY USING IMPRESSIVE WORDS

Learn the meanings of the fifteen words from *The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom* 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. bard
2. bedlam
3. dank
4. diabolical
5. eccentric
6. escapade
7. herbivore
8. incredulous
9. infamous
10. irk
11. minstrel
12. perilous
13. rogue
14. scourge
15. thwart

### DEFINITIONS:

- A. majorly evil
- B. something that causes suffering
- C. a singer from olden times who wanders from place to place
- D. a scoundrel
- E. to stop something from happening
- F. to get on someone's nerves
- G. a confusing, frenzied scene
- H. not believing
- I. disagreeably damp
- J. a vegetarian
- K. totally dangerous
- L. downright odd or "different"
- M. an adventure
- N. a person who writes songs/verses celebrating heroes
- O. known for having a bad rep



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

**"THE SYLVARIAN DWARFS ONCE STARTED A WAR  
WITH THE AVONDELLIAN ELVES SIMPLY BECAUSE  
THE ELVES WERE BRAGGING ABOUT THE FACT THAT  
THEY GOT TO PLURALIZE WITH A V."**

—*The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom*



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## YOU TOO CAN SAVE THE KINGDOM!

Create your own “Hero’s Guide to Saving Your Kingdom” by filling in the blanks in the excerpts below with nouns, verbs, and adjectives accordingly. Remember that nouns are people, places, or things; verbs are action words; and adjectives are describing words.

1. “So, we \_\_\_\_\_ at last,” \_\_\_\_\_ said with a \_\_\_\_\_ flair as he pivoted on his \_\_\_\_\_ and spun to face the \_\_\_\_\_. Only it wasn’t the \_\_\_\_\_. It was a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ red dragon.  
VERB (PRESENT TENSE)      PROPER NOUN      ADJECTIVE      NOUN      NOUN      NOUN (SAME AS PREVIOUS)      ADJECTIVE      ADJECTIVE
2. The crowd of \_\_\_\_\_ over one another as they tried to land a blow on one of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ started flying, \_\_\_\_\_.  
PLURAL NOUN      VERB (PAST TENSE)      PLURAL NOUN      PLURAL NOUN      PLURAL NOUN      NOUN  
shattering here and there. \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ against people’s backs.  
PLURAL NOUN      VERB (PAST TENSE)  
\_\_\_\_\_ was torn off the wall and eaten.  
NOUN
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ along the \_\_\_\_\_ until he came to the first of the doors. He slowly \_\_\_\_\_ it, \_\_\_\_\_ his head inside, and saw nothing but a \_\_\_\_\_, which made him \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ the door and moved down to the next one.  
VERB (PAST TENSE)      NOUN      VERB (PAST TENSE)      VERB (PAST TENSE)      NOUN  
Behind that door, he found a \_\_\_\_\_ room lined with \_\_\_\_\_. The third door opened onto a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ corridor. He was about to \_\_\_\_\_ it when he heard \_\_\_\_\_ around the corner.  
ADJECTIVE      PLURAL NOUN      ADJECTIVE      ADJECTIVE      VERB (PRESENT TENSE)      PLURAL NOUN

**“SOME OF YOU MAY NOT REALIZE THAT THERE’S MORE THAN ONE PRINCE CHARMING. AND THAT NONE ARE ACTUALLY NAMED CHARMING. NO ONE IS. CHARMING ISN’T A NAME; IT’S AN ADJECTIVE.”** —*The Hero’s Guide to Saving Your Kingdom*



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