He flies through the air, breathes out great flames of fire and carries off people and horses into the sky. The film was made on location in Eastern Europe, among the dramatic mountains and forests of Slovakia.

**BACKGROUND AND THEMES**

The idea of the Old Code at the heart of this story is taken from the English medieval ‘code of chivalry’ and the legendary court of King Arthur and the Round Table. It was a strict code (set of rules to live by) that imposed order on the chaotic and unpredictable world of the Middle Ages (5th century to 14th century).

King Arthur appears briefly in the film of Dragonheart (but not in this adaptation) and recites the Old Code to Sir Bowen. This is the full version:

>A knight* is sworn to valour*
>His heart knows only virtue*
>His blade* defends the helpless
>His might* upholds the weak
>His word speaks only truth
>His wrath* undoes* the wicked.

* men who fought for the king on horses
* courage
* goodness
* sword
* strength
* anger
* ruins

In the medieval world the king had complete power over his land and people. He had castles across the land and would travel from one to another to show everybody who was in charge. He gave land to his lords if they were loyal to him. The king and the lords had knights who enforced their power. The knights would rush all over the king’s land to fight anyone who challenged the royal authority. The peasants lived in villages and worked the land for the lord or the king. In return for their work and their loyalty, they got a small piece of land for their family. They also did other labouring work - in this story they build King Eion's great castle for him.
Fields were divided into strips for the peasant families. Here they grew their own vegetables and kept a few animals - perhaps a cow and one or two pigs. The peasants were usually allowed to fatten up their pigs on acorns and nuts in the king's or lord's forests in the autumn. They then killed and salted them to last through the winter. Life was hard, though, especially when the winters were long and food ran out long before the spring.

An important theme running through the story is losing one's faith and then finding it again through acts of kindness and love. Sir Bowen, the hero of the story, is not perfect. He begins the story as a good knight, teaching Prince Einon to follow the Old Code and not his father's evil ways. But when he believes that the Great Dragon has given the boy an evil heart, he forgets the Old Code and becomes a dragon hunter. He says he kills dragons for money. Really he blames them for the death of the Old Code and the old way of life and the terrible injustice he sees around him. But when he meets the young peasant girl, Kara, who is full of ideals and ready to fight Prince Einon to the death, he sees himself as a young knight. With her example and the love of the dragon, he returns to the Old Code and fights back.

Dragons have a long history as popular mythical creatures. They have appeared in literature since the oldest poems, and have continued to feature in children's story books to this day.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK
Ask students to do exercises 1 and 2 on page 41 of their books. Then get students to tell a story around the class. Write some of the new words from exercises 1 and 2 on the board - at least one word per student. Give an opening sentence, e.g. ‘A tall young man walked up to the castle.’ Each student adds a sentence to the story, using one or more words from the board. Cross words off the list as they are used.

ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK
Chapters 1-3
The peasants want to fight King Freyne. They want to kill the king and they have a clever idea. Ask students to find the place on page 4 where Redbeard shouts ‘Now!’ and the clever idea begins.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK
Discussion. Talk with students about what a good knight is - a person who fights strongly and is good. In groups, ask students to think about this question: Who are the knights of our world today? They can be people in films or books, or living people.

Communicative activities
The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the reader, and supplement those exercises. For supplementary exercises covering shorter sections of the book, see the photocopiable Student’s Activities pages of this factsheet. These are primarily for use with class readers but, with the exception of discussion and pair/groupwork questions, can also be used by students working in a self-access centre.

Activities

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Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practised in the Before You Read sections of exercises at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

Chapters 1-3
battle (n) a big fight with many people
beard (n) hair on a man's face below his mouth
bucket (n) people carry water in this
burn (v) to hurt something with fire
castle (n) a large strong building
code (n) this says what you can do and what you cannot do
cruel (adj) liking to hurt other people or animals
crown (n) a special hat worn by the head of a country
dragon (n) an angry animal in stories; it has fire coming out of its mouth
field (n) people grow food or keep animals in a field
heart (n) this is in your body and keeps you alive; you love and hate with it
king (n) this man is the head of a country
knight (n) this soldier lived in about 1000 and fought on his horse
peasant (n) this person lives in the country and works on their own small piece of ground
prince (n) the son of a king (see above) and queen
queen (n) this woman is head of a country
ride (v) to go along on an animal, usually a horse
star (n) a small light in the sky at night
sword (n) a long sharp knife; people fight with it

Chapters 4-6
monk (n) this man loves God and lives with a lot of other men

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Activities before reading the book

1. What do you think dragons do? Tick (√) below.
   - eat young women
   - kill kings
   - fight knights
   - help peasants
   - burn villages
   - sing songs
   - do good things
   - do bad things

2. Read the introduction on page iv and then close the book. Can you remember what the young prince has to say?

3. Life in 984AD. Make sentences.
   (a) Peasants often had nothing to eat.
   (b) Peasants lived in houses.
   (c) Peasant children worked hard.
   (d) Knights had to fight for
      (i) in the fields.
      (ii) in the winter.
      (iii) with only one room.
      (iv) the king.

Activities while reading the book

CHAPTERS 1 - 3

Chapters 1-2

1. We meet two knights in Chapter 1 - Sir Bowen and Brok. How do they want Einon to act when he is king? Write sentences.
   (a) Sir Bowen wants ...
   (b) Brok wants ...
   Which road do you think Prince Einon will follow - (a) or (b)?

2. Read Chapter 2. Write loves or doesn’t love in these sentences.
   (a) King Freyne ....................... his people.
   (b) Sir Bowen ....................... Prince Einon.
   (c) Sir Bowen ....................... King Freyne.
   (d) Prince Einon ....................... his father.

3. Who ...
   (a) has a cruel smile on his face when he kills the peasants?
   (b) thinks it is wrong to kill peasants?
   (c) has hard eyes?
   (d) kills the king?
   (e) fights for the crown?
   (f) puts a sword in Einon’s heart?

Chapter 3

1. Choose the right answer.
   (a) Queen Aislinn is Einon’s ...
      (i) mother (ii) wife (iii) sister
   (b) When she hears that her husband is dead, she is ...
      (i) sad (ii) not sad
   (c) She (i) wants (ii) doesn’t want to help her son.

2. What do the words in italics mean?
   (a) ‘It was ugly - brown and black, with a large mouth, big teeth, and sad eyes.’ What was?
   (b) ‘I’m going to teach him about dragons in the future.’ Who?
   (c) ‘He has to say that, not you,’ answered the dragon.’ Who?
   (d) ‘Bowen gave it to the dragon.’ What?
   (e) ‘I’ll ... be kind to them.’ Who?
   (f) ‘Watch me!’ Who?
   (g) ‘It’ll make you strong.’ What will?

CHAPTERS 4 - 6

Chapter 4

   (a) Einon is very angry and fights Bowen.
   (b) They are working very hard.
   (c) Suddenly Sir Bowen stops Brok and shouts to the peasants, ‘Run away!’. Why?
   (d) Brok finds Redbeard and burns out his eyes.
   (e) Suddenly King Einon sees Redbeard.
   (f) Bowen is stronger and he wins.
   (g) They are building him a new castle.
   (h) Brok wants to kill Redbeard.
   (i) Sadly he rides away.
   (j) Cruel King Einon is watching his peasants.
   (k) But Einon wants to burn out his eyes.

2. Sir Bowen changes in Chapter 4. Before he thought the Old Code was the right way. Now he doesn’t. How is he going to break the Old Code?

Chapter 5

Why ...
   (a) doesn’t Sir Bowen like the story about the Old Code?
   (b) does the ground round the monk begin to move and his pen fall out of his fingers?
   (c) are there dead men and horses on the ground round the tree?
   (d) does Sir Bowen want to kill the dragon?
   (e) does the dragon fly through the sky for a long time?
Chapter 9
How do these people do these things? Put the words in the sentences.
cruelly fast angrily quickly suddenly kindly sadly
(a) Draco sings to Kara.
(b) Kara tells Bowen to go away.
(c) When they hear the sound of horses, Draco jumps into the water.
(d) Einon speaks to Sir Bowen.
(e) When he sees Draco, Einon rides away.
(f) Bowen understands that Draco is the Great Dragon from the mountain.
(g) Bowen speaks to Draco.

Chapter 10
1 Answer these questions.
(a) How many peasants does Sir Felton think he is as strong as?
(b) What does Queen Aislinn give her son?
(c) Why do Einon and his knights leave the castle?
(d) Where do the peasants take the king and his knights?
(e) What is their plan?
(f) What happens when Bowen pushes his sword through Einon’s heart?
(g) Why does Einon want Draco to live?
(h) Why won’t Bowen kill Draco?
2 You are at the end of the story. Work with another student. Look at the chapter names. Ask and answer questions. For example:
Chapter 1 The Old Code
Ask: Who lives by the Old Code? Who doesn’t?
Chapter 2 The Battle
Ask: Who fights in the battle?
3 How many English words can you make out of DRAGONHEART?
Examples: and, the, head
Take five minutes. How many words do you have? Ask another student. How many words do they have? Are they the same?

Activities after reading the book
In the hundreds of years before Dragonheart takes place, the dragons wanted to teach men and women to live good lives. Do you think we can learn from animals and the way they live? Write down some ideas.
Dragonheart. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better.Â Dragonheart. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. For other uses, see Dragonheart (disambiguation). DragonHeart. Theatrical release poster. Directed by. Dragonheart is an epic adventure that will thrill the entire family.Â This Valentine's Day weekend, take flight with Siveth the Dragon voiced by Helena Bonham Carter in the all-new movie, Dragonheart: Vengeance with Joseph Millson and Jack Kane. Watch it on Movies Anywhere https://uni.pictures/DH5MA. See All. Dragonheart gives us medieval action, a splendidly mulleted Dennis Quaid, and Sean Connery as a talking dragon -- and, unfortunately, a story that largely fails to engage. 50%. TOMATOMETER.Â This 10-digit number is your confirmation number. Your AMC Ticket Confirmation# can be found in your order confirmation email. Dragonheart Videos. View All Videos (10). Dragonheart Photos. View All Photos (15). Movie Info.