

**Interdisciplinary Ideas**

**LANGUAGE ARTS**
1. Write an Outside/Inside poem.* (Lines begin, "On the outside I seem..." followed by "...but on the inside I'm...")
2. Explain what you think King Desmond means when he tells Princess Orla the following:
   "Soon a spring will come when I shall not watch the salmon return; nor the grass sprout and clothe the hills in green..."
   "Princes are as eager to become kings as the gray cygnets are to be swans."
   "You have made your bed; now you must lie in it."

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
1. List clues indicating the medieval time period of the story, such as helmets and coats of arms. In pairs or small groups, investigate medieval symbolism. (Keywords: shields, knights, heraldry)
2. In pairs or small groups, investigate your own state emblems and/or state bird. (Keyword: your state emblems; bird) Share information with the class.

**SCIENCE**
1. In pairs, find out about bogs and the types of plants that grow in this habitat. (Keyword: bog) Draw or download a picture of a bog with flora and fauna to label and post.
2. In small groups, find information about one of the birds in the story. (Keywords: gray cygnet; bald eagle; peacock; nightingale) Create posters with pictures and information about the bird, such as habitat and diet.

* Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Teaching Heartwood, Activities, Primary, for examples of Outside/Inside poems.

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**Prince Boghole**

**CONCEPTS**
Justice
Fairness
Wisdom

**SUMMARY**

*Prince Boghole* is a warm, humorous tale of poetic justice. Good King Desmond of Munster proposes a contest for the "hand in marriage" of his daughter, the beautiful Princess Orla. This picture of medieval Ireland, although somewhat irreverent, nonetheless offers wise observations of human nature. Julie Downing's detailed watercolor illustrations capture the essence of courtly life in this Celtic kingdom.

**OBJECTIVES**

The student will be able to identify, define, and discuss justice, fairness, and wisdom as they apply to this story. The student will explore differences between inner qualities and outward appearances.

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_Erik Christian Haugaard_
1987
New York: Macmillan

**JUSTICE**
Ireland
Folktale
Reading Time: 10 minutes

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After the Story

Prince Boghole

Discussion

1. In the time period of the story, it was common for fathers to choose husbands for their daughters. What does the King hope to find out from his test? Do you consider it fair for the King to choose his daughter's husband? Why or why not?

2. What qualities of character do the three princes reveal through their words, actions, and choice of birds?

3. Think about the nightingale, its ordinary appearance and its extraordinary gift. How does the saying “Don’t judge a book by its cover” apply to the story? How does it apply to your own life?

4. Often pride interferes with justice. Talk about how the King’s pride interfered with Princess Orla’s choice.

5. What do you think the author means when he writes, “Gormlai was so wise she had wisdom to spare…”? Give examples of her wisdom in the story. Do you think Princess Orla is wise? Why or why not?

6. How is the ending just and fair? What other attributes do you recognize in this story? What attributes do you look for in a friend?

Activities

1. Locate Ireland on the world map. Identify the capital city, surrounding bodies of water, and closest countries.

2. Create coats of arms on cardboard shields. (Keyword: coat of arms kids) Include your ideas of justice and fairness in your design. Write a brief paragraph explaining your shield, present to the class, and display for all to see.

3. Invite someone to class who has served on a jury and would like to tell about the experience. Discuss why a decision made by a jury is more just than a decision made by only one person.

4. Learn about solving problems through conflict resolution (see Teacher’s Guide). Invite your school counselor or a mediator from your community to speak to your class about how to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Extension

1. Complete Home Connection pages and take home to share with families.

2. Retell the story at home. Discuss the saying “You can’t judge a book by its cover.” Ask family members to explain or give examples of other wise sayings or quotes that are important to them.

Wrap-up

1. Discuss the saying “Appearances can be deceiving.” Think of examples from the story and from your own life. In My Heartwood Journal write what the saying means in relation to the story and/or your own experiences.

2. Together brainstorm and list other fair endings to the story. In small groups, rewrite the story as a play with an ending from the list. Videotape or perform plays for another class.

Vocabulary

distinguished proclaimed homespun larder gorsebushes
widower larder cygnets feat