

The Legend of Hobart

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Novel Study

Student Pages

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Mini Lesson: Genre

A genre is a category of music, art, or literature. Works in the same genre have certain things in common. Books in the historical fiction genre all take place in the past. Mysteries always have a mystery that needs to be solved.

Like many books, *The Legend of Hobart* fits in more than one genre. It is a fairytale and a quest story. **Fairytales** include magical elements like dragons, fairies, or talking mirrors. They are usually set in make-believe places and include a lesson learned. **Quest Stories** include the main character going on a quest – an adventurous journey with a purpose. Typically, at the end of a quest story the character returns to where they started.

A. List stories you know that would fit in each genre.

Fairytale: _____

Mystery: _____

Historical Fiction: _____

B. Based on *The Legend of Hobart's* genres and its cover, what can you guess about the book?

Vocabulary Chapters 1 & 2

A. Read each vocabulary word in context.

- This was no maiden on the **verge** of womanhood. This was a child.
- I tried rescuing a damsel in **distress**.
- Everything went wrong. It was an absolute **debacle**.
- The farmer read each year's **almanac** carefully to see when to plant each crop.
- Our neighbor gives such good advice, we call him a **sage**.
- Other people wear socks on their feet. My brother, the **non-conformist**, wears them on his hands.

B. Match each vocabulary word with its definition. (There are more definitions than words.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| ____ 1. Verge | a. a state of anxiety, danger or need |
| ____ 2. Distress | b. a disaster or failure |
| ____ 3. Debacle | c. broken bits of glass |
| ____ 4. Almanac | d. edge or threshold |
| ____ 5. Sage | e. a wise person |
| ____ 6. Non-conformist | f. a book that contains information such as weather predictions, and planting charts |
| | g. a person whose behavior or views do not fit with those generally accepted |

C. The word sage can refer to a wise person or a type of plant. Name another word that has two completely different meanings.

Chapter 1

A. Read chapter 1.

B. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why does Hobart want to become a hero by Mayday?

2. Why was an ogre a once in a lifetime opportunity?

3. What is Hobart's plan at the end of the chapter?

4. Do you think it is a wise plan? Why or why not?

5. Why do you think Hobart is so determined to reach his goal?

History Connection: Minstrels

Like many fairytales, *The Legend of Hobart* is set in a fictional world that has many things in common with the Middle Ages. Hobart wants to become a knight, and in the very first chapter he mentions minstrels.

A minstrel was a medieval singer who often played an instrument, like a harp, and sang songs or recited poems to entertain the nobility. Many of these songs and poems were about the deeds of heroes. Stories of Robin Hood first appeared as minstrel's songs called ballads. Here are the first two stanzas of the ballad "Robin Hood and the Monk" in modern English.

In summer, when the woods are shining,

And leaves are large and long,

It is very merry in the fair forest

To hear the birdies' song.

To see the deer draw to the dale,

And leave the high hills free,

And shadow themselves in the green leaves,

Under the green wood tree.

Chapter 2

A. Read chapter 2.

B. Fill in the blanks using words from the word bank.

almanac	unbreakable thread	sword	dragon
satchel	talking horse	harp	firewood

1. Mildred the Wise told Hobart to bring in _____.
2. Hobart dreamt about a _____.
3. Hobart was hoping to receive a _____ from Mildred.
4. Mildred gave Hobart: _____, _____,
_____, and a _____.

C. Answer the following questions.

1. Which of Mildred's gifts do you think will be the most useful? Why?

2. If you could ask for one magical gift, what would it be? Why?

3. Hobart has a stutter. A stutter is a speech problem that causes the individual to repeat sounds or words. How does the author show Hobart's stutter in the text?

D. The protagonist is the main character of a story. After reading the first two chapters, what do you know about Hobart, the protagonist in this book?

Age: _____

Siblings: _____ older brothers

Hometown: _____

Family Occupation: _____

Goal: _____

Struggles: _____

Strengths: _____

Mini Lesson: Making Predictions

Dragons are among the most common mythological creatures found in books. Based on what you already know about dragons, you can make some guesses about the dragon in this book.

A. Fill out the left column of the chart below with common dragon characteristics. Later, you will come back and place a check mark next to the characteristics that were true of the dragon in *The Legend of Hobart*.

Common Dragon Characteristics	✓

Vocabulary Chapters 3 & 4

A. Read each vocabulary word in context.

- My brother is **wary** of big dogs.
- He listed off a **litany** of complaints.
- The dog was **tethered** by a rope.
- I was so sore, I **hobbled** across the room.
- The two fishermen **ferried** us back and forth across the river.
- Too much caffeine gives me **palpitations**.

B. Match each vocabulary word with its definition.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____1. Wary | a. a series of petitions, or a tedious list |
| _____2. Litany | b. a rapid, strong, or irregular heartbeat |
| _____3. Tethered | c. feeling or showing caution |
| _____4. Hobbled | d. to be connected or physically restricted |
| _____5. Ferried | e. walk in an awkward way, usually due to pain |
| _____6. Palpitations | f. to be transported from one place to another in short or regular trips. |

C. Use one of the vocabulary words in a sentence.

Chapter 3

A. Read chapter 3.

B. Choose the best answer for each question.

_____ 1. What is special about Albert?

- a. He belonged to Mildred the Wise.
- b. He can fly.
- c. He can talk.

_____ 2. Why does Tate say that he is in Hobart's debt?

- a. Hobart is headed to kill a dragon.
- b. Hobart saved Tate's life.
- c. Hobart will someday be a knight.

_____ 3. Albert screamed and his coat was covered with sweat because he was _____.

- a. Excited.
- b. Hopeful.
- c. Frightened.

_____ 4. What is Tate's family's profession?

- a. Shepherd
- b. Farmer
- c. Steward

C. Fill in the chart with how Tate and Hobart's families are alike and how they are different.

Just Hobart's Family	Both Families	Just Tate's Family

Chapter 4

A. Read chapter 4.

B. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Hobart says, "Good sense would have suggested that we turn north." Why?

2. Why didn't Hobart turn north?

3. Why did Hobart swim up the river?

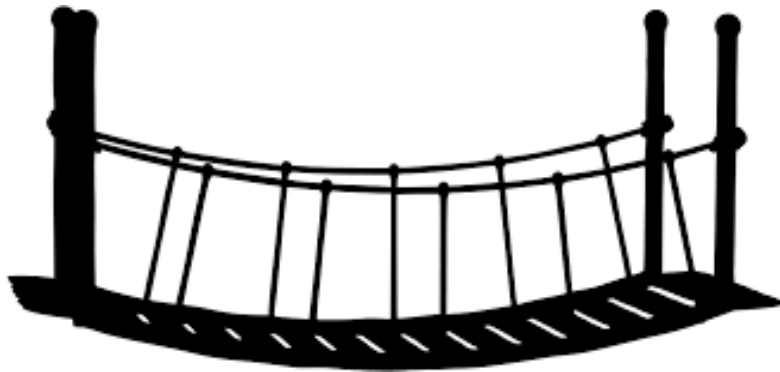
4. Why do you think Hobart agreed to build the bridge?

5. What gift did the villagers give the boys? Why?

Science Connection: Suspension Bridge

The bridge Tate and Hobart build is called a **suspension bridge**, because it is suspended by ropes or cables. Modern suspension bridges use steel cables strung between towers to support the weight of the bridge.

People have been building simpler versions of suspension bridges for thousands of years. Typically, simple suspension bridges use rope or vines to support the weight of the bridge. (Unbreakable thread only being available in fairytales.)



Vocabulary Chapters 5 & 6

A. Read the definitions of the vocabulary words.

despicable- (adj.) deserving hatred and contempt

harpies- (n.) grasping, unpleasant people

torment- (v.) to abuse, to annoy in a deliberately unkind way

vigorously- (adv.) forcefully

descending- (adj.) moving downward

begrudgingly- (adv.) reluctantly, without enthusiasm

B. Use the vocabulary words to complete the sentences.

1. The dog does not like baths. But he goes along with them _____.
2. Mom tells my siblings and me to not _____ each other.
3. The books were listed in _____ order by price.
4. The teenage trick or treaters attacked the candy bowl like _____.
5. Their _____ behavior landed them in jail.
6. We have to rub the dog _____ to get him dry.

C. Word Origins

- In Greek mythology, a harpy was a monster that looked like a large bird of prey with a woman's head.
- Our term breakfast comes from the medieval expression break fast. In the morning, after people had spent the night not eating (fasting), they would break their fast with the first meal of the day.

Chapter 5

A. Read chapter 5.

B. Match the names with the correct descriptions.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| _____1. The stranger thinks Hobart is the man _____. | A. Mortico |
| _____2. _____ hands Hobart a tree branch. | B. Hero |
| _____3. The stranger turns out to be Sir _____. | C. Gordon |
| _____4. The sword is called _____. | D. Guardian |
| _____5. The friends travel to Castle _____. | E. Tate |
| _____6. Hobart thinks the name _____ is unfair. | F. Danton |
| _____7. _____ hides behind a boulder. | G. Albert |
| | H. Hobart |

C. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why didn't Hobart want to hurt the stranger?

2. Why was the sword especially meaningful for Hobart?

Chapter 6

A. Read chapter 6.

B. Put the events in order by numbering them 1 (first) through 12 (last).

_____ Hobart is given four magical gifts.

_____ Hobart accidentally saves Tate from a wolf.

_____ Hobart gives the almanac to a fisherman.

_____ Hobart meets Tate's family.

_____ Hobart discovers an ogre in a cave.

_____ Hobart helps to build a bridge.

_____ Hobart travels to Castle Mortico.

_____ Hobart carries wood for Mildred the Wise.

_____ Hobart learns that Hero is an orphan.

_____ Hobart is attacked by an elderly gentleman.

_____ Hobart is given a legendary blade.

_____ Hobart and Tate are joined on their quest by Hero.

C. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why do you think Hero decided to join Hobart's quest?

2. Why do you think the almanac helped the fisherman overcome his fear?

Vocabulary Review Chapters 1-6

A. Match each vocabulary word with its definition.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Almanac | a. edge or threshold |
| _____ 2. Begrudgingly | b. a state of anxiety, danger or need |
| _____ 3. Debacle | c. a disaster or failure |
| _____ 4. Descending | d. a wise person |
| _____ 5. Despicable | e. feeling or showing caution |
| _____ 6. Distress | f. a series of petitions, or a tedious list |
| _____ 7. Ferried | g. to be connected or physically restricted |
| _____ 8. Harpies | h. walk in an awkward way, usually due to pain |
| _____ 9. Hobbled | i. a rapid, strong, or irregular heartbeat |
| _____ 10. Litany | j. deserving hatred and contempt |
| _____ 11. Non-conformist | k. grasping, unpleasant people |
| _____ 12. Palpitations | l. to abuse, to annoy in a deliberately unkind way |
| _____ 13. Sage | m. forcefully |
| _____ 14. Tethered | n. moving downward |
| _____ 15. Torment | o. reluctantly, without enthusiasm |
| _____ 16. Verge | p. a book that contains information such as weather predictions, and star charts |
| _____ 17. Vigorously | q. a person whose behavior or views do not fit with those generally accepted |
| _____ 18. Wary | r. to be transported from one place to another in short or regular trips. |

Who am I?

A. Write the character's name on the line. You may use characters more than once.

Albert	Dan	Gordon	Hero
Hobart	Mildred	Ogre	Danton
Sparkles	Tate	William	Wolf

1. _____ I was once so skilled with a sword that no one chose trial by combat during my time as king's champion.
2. _____ I am proud to call myself a non-conformist.
3. _____ I dream of one day seeing a statue of myself in King's City.
4. _____ I miss reading books with my grandfather.
5. _____ I love magical objects and the chance to tell a good story.
6. _____ After I fell and hit my head in a cave, a little girl braided my hair.
7. _____ I am tired of being pegged with tomatoes.
8. _____ We shared the task of ferrying the boys back and forth across the river so they could build a bridge.
9. _____ I decided that finding my supper elsewhere was easier than dealing with a mad horse.
10. _____ I may be sullen and small, but at least I don't talk.
11. _____ I gave Hobart the name *Ho-brat Bull Hat*.
12. _____ I am the son of a pig farmer.

Vocabulary Chapter 7

A. Reach each vocabulary word in context. Then match each word with its definition.

- Sparkles just stood there, looking as grumpy and **sullen** as ever.
- Hero raced along beside me, her dark hair **billowing** out behind her.
- Hero gave me an **incredulous** look. “You *wanted* a fire?”
- Tate took a **tentative** step into the river and then another.
- The rock was **submerged** at the bottom of the river.
- The rain reached us covering us in **deluges** of water.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| ___1. sullen | a. under the surface of water, or hidden, covered |
| ___2. billowing | b. showing irritation through gloomy silence |
| ___3. incredulous | c. to puff up or fly behind, often due to wind |
| ___4. tentative | d. unsure, hesitant |
| ___5. submerged | e. showing disbelief |
| ___6. deluges | f. a great flood of water or heavy rain |

B. Word origins

The prefix sub- (as in submerged) comes from the Latin and means under, below, or secondary.

Can you name a form of transportation that begins with the prefix sub?

Chapter 7

A. Read chapter 7.

B. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What frightened the horses?

2. Why did Hobart hope that Mildred the Wise didn't like Albert very much?

3. In this chapter, Tate had to face a fear. What do you think helped him overcome his fear?

4. Have you ever had to face a fear? What was it and what helped you overcome it?

Science Connection: Lightning and Forest Fires

In this chapter, lightning started a forest fire in the middle of a rainstorm. You may wonder if that's possible in real life. The answer is yes!

Fire requires three things: fuel, oxygen, and heat. In the case of a lightning started forest fire, the main fuel source is wood from the trees and the heat comes from the lightning. According to the National Weather Service, lightning can heat the air it passes through to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. That's five times hotter than the surface of the sun and more than hot enough to set a tree on fire, even in the middle of a rainstorm.

Bonus question: If a candle is burning in a jar and you screw the lid onto the jar, the fire will go out. Why?



Vocabulary Chapter 8

A. Words in English can have more than one meaning. Read the different meanings of the word *sheer* and then use the context of each sentence to determine which meaning is being used.

Sheer- a. transparent or almost see through

b. nothing other than, pure

c. vertical or very steep

___ 1. We drilled through *sheer* rock.

___ 2. The curtains are so *sheer* you can see right through them.

___ 3. We looked over the side of the *sheer* cliff.

B. As if having words with multiple meanings isn't tough enough, you can also have words that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings. These are called homophones.

Shear-a. to cut away

For each sentence choose if you would use *shear* or *sheer*.

1. The farmers _____ the wool off the sheep every spring.

2. The children laughed with _____ delight.

Considering the meaning of each base word, do you think a pair of special scissors used to cut cloth would be called *shears* or *sheers*?

3. _____

Chapter 8

A. Read chapter 8.

B. Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. What skill did Hero teach? Was she a good teacher? Why or why not?

2. How did Hobart respond to Albert's fear?

3. Why did Hobart believe that the bandits might be telling the truth?

4. What did Hero miss about home?

Vocabulary Chapter 9

A. Read the meaning of each vocabulary word, and then use the appropriate word in each sentence.

Clench (v.)- to close, to squeeze or grip firmly

Shrill (adj.)- high pitched noise

Sear (v.)- to burn the surface of something with very high heat

Siege (n.)- a military term meaning to cut off escape or supplies

Anguish (n.)- severe mental or physical pain

1. My Uncle John likes to _____ steaks when he grills them.
2. When my friend broke his leg, he experienced _____.
3. When my two-year-old brother screams, his voice is _____.
4. When armies laid _____ to a castle, they would often bring tools.
5. My grandmother doesn't like to fly and will usually _____ her fists during takeoffs and landings.

B. In this chapter, we come across another set of homophones. Fill in the blanks with the right words.

Bare- without covering

Bear- to carry an emotional or physical burden; a four legged animal

1. After the fire, the land was completely _____.
2. I couldn't _____ being trapped with a _____.

Chapter 9

A. Read chapter 9.

B. Answer the following questions.

1. How did each of the friends show their nervousness?

a. Hero- _____

b. Tate- _____

c. Hobart- _____

2. Did seeing the castle make the friends more or less nervous? Why?

3. Hobart considers turning back. What are his reasons for going home?

4. What are his reasons for going forward?

5. What finally helps him make his decision?

Vocabulary Chapter 10

A. Read each vocabulary word in context.

- My grandfather wears **spectacles** to help him see.
- I just started learning to play the piano. I am a **novice**.
- The **scholar** spent her adult life studying history.
- He isn't a friend, just more of an **acquaintance**.
- My grandfather loves to **reminisce** about the good old days.
- My coach is so muscular you could call him **burly**.

B. Match each vocabulary word with the correct definition

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| ___ 1. spectacles | a. a person you don't know well |
| ___ 2. novice | b. large and strong, heavily built |
| ___ 3. scholar | c. a person who studies or who is an expert on a topic |
| ___ 4. acquaintance | d. glasses |
| ___ 5. reminisce | e. a person who is new to or inexperienced, a beginner |
| ___ 6. burly | f. to remember, usually fondly |

C. The term novice is used in many situations. A new member of a religious order is often called a novice. In fields such as blacksmithing and carpentry, the stages are often listed as: novice, apprentice, journeyman, master.

Chapter 10

A. Read chapter 10.

B. Turn back to p. 8 and review your list of Common Dragon Characteristics.

a. Place a check mark next to each characteristic shared by Lord Rupert.

b. How is Lord Rupert unlike other dragons?

C. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What clues does the author give that this not an ordinary castle?

2. Why does Lord Rupert believe Hobart and his friends have come to the castle?

3. What was Hobart's concern as he entered the castle? What is his new concern after he spends the evening with Lord Rupert?

4. What does Hobart decide to do about his dilemma? Would you have made the same choice? Why or why not?

Math Connection: Applying Math

Lord Rupert tells Hobart, Hero, and Tate that he first saw the Flamegon Comet 428 years ago, and that it comes into view every 107 years. How many orbits has the comet made since Lord Rupert first saw it? _____

Science Connection: Arachnids

Lord Rupert refers to a “stray arachnid.” Arachnids are a classification of living things that includes spiders, scorpions, and ticks. The term arachnid comes from the Greek Myth of Arachne, a weaver who was turned into a spider by the Goddess Athena.

Domain: Eukaryota (organisms whose cells have a nucleus)

Kingdom: Animalia (can move, gain energy from other organisms)

Phylum: Arthropoda (exoskeleton not a backbone, jointed legs)

Class: Arachnida (four pairs of legs for walking)

Science Connection: Classification

There are so many kinds of living things on Earth that scientists use a system to organize them all. You can use a mnemonic (memory trick) to help you remember the levels of classification of living things.

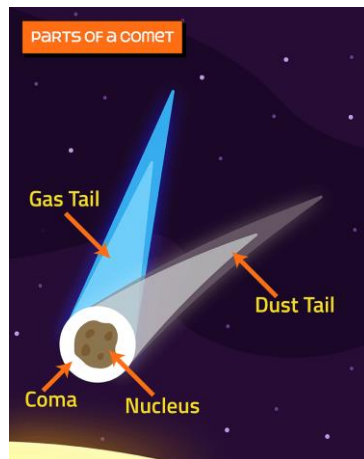
Do kings play chess on fine green silk?

Bonus: Look up a species that interests you and write its classifications in the spaces below.

Domesticated Dog		
D- Dominion	Eukaryota	
K- Kingdom	Animalia	
P- Phylum	Chordata	
C- Class	Mammalia	
O- Order	Carnivora	
F- Family	Canidae	
G- Genus	Canis	
S- Species	Canis familiaris	

Science Connection: Comets

In chapter 10, Hobart and his friends join Lord Rupert Flamegon in viewing the Flamegon Comet. **Comets** are large objects made of dust and ice that orbit the Sun. They are often best known for their long, streaming tails. The heart of the comet is the frozen core called the **nucleus**. When the comet gets close to the Sun, the nucleus begins to heat up turning some of the ice to gas and dust. This creates a fuzzy cloud around the nucleus called the **coma**. As the dust and gas stream away from the nucleus, they create the comet's two tails: one **dust tail**, one ion or **gas tail**.



Because comets travel around the sun in an orbit, scientists can predict when many of them will come into view from Earth.

Chapter 11

A. Read chapter 11.

B. Six people or groups nominated Hobart for knight school. Fill in the chart below to show who they were and their reasons.

Nominator(s)	Reason
1. Lord Rupert	
2.	Hobart saved his life twice.
3. Dan the Slight	
4.	Hobart gave him the courage to overcome his fear.
5. Villagers	
6.	Hobart offered her friendship.

C. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Hero notices that something significant has changed about Hobart. What was it?

2. What surprised Hobart when he got home?

4. According to the king, what is the first role of a knight?

Vocabulary Review Chapters 7-11

A. Match each vocabulary word with its definition.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. sullen | a. under the surface of water, or hidden, covered |
| ___ 2. billowing | b. showing irritation through gloomy silence |
| ___ 3. incredulous | c. to puff up or fly behind, often due to wind |
| ___ 4. tentative | d. unsure, hesitant |
| ___ 5. submerged | e. showing disbelief |
| ___ 6. deluges | f. a great flood of water or heavy rain |
| ___ 7. spectacles | g. a person you know slightly |
| ___ 8. novice | h. large and strong, heavily built |
| ___ 9. scholar | i. a person who studies or who is an expert on a topic |
| ___ 10. acquaintance | j. glasses |
| ___ 11. reminisce | k. a person who is new to or inexperienced |
| ___ 12. burly | l. to remember, usually fondly |
| ___ 13. clench | m. to burn the surface with high heat |
| ___ 14. shrill | n. severe mental or physical pain |
| ___ 15. sear | o. to squeeze or grip firmly |
| ___ 16. siege | p. high pitched |
| ___ 17. anguish | q. military term meaning to cut off escape or supplies |
| ___ 18. shear | r. steep |
| ___ 19. bear | s. to cut |
| ___ 20. sheer | t. to carry as in a physical or emotional burden |

Who am I?

A. Write the character's name on the line. You may use characters more than once.

Some questions have more than one answer.

Albert	Hero	Lord Rupert	Hopkins
Hobart	Bandits	Tate	King
Danton	Mildred	Villagers	William

1. _____ I am an elderly astronomer.
2. _____ I serve the lord of Castle Flamegon.
3. _____ We underestimated Lord Danton's granddaughter.
4. _____ I did not enchant Albert to give him the ability to walk on water.
5. _____ I had to face my fear to escape a wildfire.
6. _____ I received an interesting haircut from my friends.
7. _____ We were overjoyed by the gift of a magic satchel.
8. _____ I sacrificed my dream to do what was right.
9. _____ My grandfather was served by Lord Rupert.
10. _____ We are highly afraid of spiders.

11. _____ We were accepted into Knight School.

12. _____ I found a new home at Castle Flamegon.
13. _____ I returned home to Fair Oaks with new stories of adventure to share.

Thinking About the Story

1. What does it mean to be a hero? Do you think Hobart is a hero? Why or why not?
2. What does Hobart give up during the story? What does he gain? Were his sacrifices worth it in the end?
3. What is the most important thing Hobart learned during the story? How did learning that change him?
4. What character or event had the biggest impact on Hobart? Why?
5. Who was your favorite character? Why?

Final Projects

Creative Writing

1. Write a children's picture book telling the story of *The Legend of Hobart* from the point of view of another character.
2. Write a short story that happens before or after *The Legend of Hobart*.
3. Write your own fairytale.

Art

4. Create a detailed map of Hobart's journey.
5. Create a mural for the novel highlighting important themes and events.

Speech

6. Write and present a speech on what makes a hero.
7. Write and present a speech about a person you consider a hero.

Music

8. Write and perform a minstrel's song about Hobart and his adventure.