



The Fowl Twins

Author: Eoin Colfer

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Synopsis

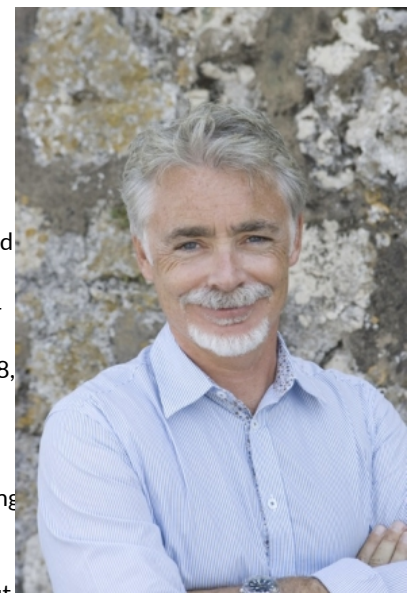
Criminal genius runs in the family... Myles and Beckett Fowl are twins but the two boys are wildly different. Beckett is blonde, messy and sulks whenever he has to wear clothes. Myles is impeccably neat, has an IQ of 170, and 3D prints a fresh suit every day – just like his older brother, Artemis Fowl. A week after their eleventh birthday the twins are left in the care of house security system, NANNI, for a single night. In that time, they befriend a troll on the run from a nefarious nobleman and an interrogating nun both of whom need the magical creature for their own gain . . . Prepare for an epic adventure in which The Fowl Twins and their new troll friend escape, get shot at, kidnapped, buried, arrested, threatened, killed (temporarily) . . . and discover that the strongest bond in the world is not the one forged by covalent electrons in adjacent atoms, but the one that exists between a pair of twins. The first book in the blockbusting new series from global bestseller Eoin Colfer.

Author Bio

Eoin Colfer (pronounced Owen) was born in Wexford on the South-East coast of Ireland in 1965, where he and his four brothers were brought up by his father (an elementary school teacher, historian and artist of note) and mother (a drama teacher). He first developed an interest in writing in primary (elementary) school with gripping Viking stories inspired by history he was learning in school at the time!

After leaving school he got his degree from Dublin university and qualified as a primary school teacher, returning to work in Wexford. He married in 1991 and he and his wife spent about 4 years between 1992 and 1996 working in Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Italy. His first book, Benny and Omar, was published in 1998, based on his experiences in Tunisia; it has since been translated into many languages. A sequel followed in 1999, followed by some other books (see below). Then in 2001 the first Artemis Fowl book was published and he was able to resign from teaching and concentrate fully on writing.

He says, "I will keep writing until people stop reading or I run out of ideas. Hopefully neither of these will happen anytime soon. He lives in Ireland with his wife and two children.



Curriculum Links

English Year 5

ACELT1610 identifying the narrative voice (the person or entity through whom the audience experiences the story) in a literary work, discussing the impact of first person narration on empathy and engagement.

English Year 6

ACELA1523 Understand how ideas can be expanded and sharpened through careful choice of verbs, elaborated tenses and a range of adverb groups/phrases

ACELA1518 Understand how authors often innovate on text structures and play with language features to achieve particular aesthetic, humorous and persuasive purposes and effects

The Arts: Visual Arts

Year 5 and 6

ACAVAM115 Develop and apply techniques and processes when making their artworks
- Enhancing and practising their art making skills in using a range of materials and technologies

Pre Reading

Look at the cover of the book.

Identify the title and the author.

Has anyone read any book by this author before?

Has anyone read an Artemis Fowl book?

What do you think connection between this book and the Artemis Fowl books might be?

Based on the cover of the book, what do you think the book might be about?

Read the blurb.

Based on the blurb, ask the class if they have read any books that sound like they may have a similar storyline style.



Discussion

When you think of a fairy, what do you think of?
List words on the board.

What about trolls?
What are worlds that you think of when you think of trolls



Perspective

The story is told from multiple perspectives; Myles, Lord Bleedham-Drye and Lazuli.
Why do you think the author chose to tell the story in this way?

The Troll is a key character in this story, and his capture at the start of the book is what sets the rest of the action into motion, but we never read the Troll's point of view.

**After reading Chapter 1, rewrite the action from the Trolls perspective.
From his journey to the surface, to being hit by a supersonic cellophane slug and being mistaken for a doll by Beckett.**

A fun picture book that tells the same story from two different perspectives is:

Tale of Two Beasts



Currently OUT OF PRINT at the time these notes were produced.
Find a copy in your school library OR your public library system.

Discussion

Language

The language and writing in the Fowl Twins is quite sophisticated.
How does the language and tone affect the story?
How does it compare to other books you have read?

Because of the complexity of some of the writing, keep a record of any words you don't understand when reading the book.
This can be done as a list on the classroom or individually.

Ask if the students can normally work out the meaning of the word based on the context?
How is their understanding and enjoyment of the text affected by not knowing a particular word?
Discuss strategies used to decode, or figure out what the word might mean, without looking it up in the dictionary.

Gadgets and Creative Writing

List the gadgets that feature in the book. Some include:

- NANNI - the AI programme
- NANNI glasses
- Gun with cellophane bullets (Bleedham Dry)
- Filamants (Lazuli)
- Flying device (Lazuli)
- Skyblade (Bleedham Dry)
- Drones (Bleedham Dry)
- Desk with a built in computer server (Bleedham Dry)

Write a short story about a day in your life, your everyday life, if you access to some or all of these gadgets.
How could any of these gadgets make your life easier?

The Arts: Visual Arts

What do you think Lazuli looks like?

Based on the descriptions of Lazuli in the book, draw your impression of her.

- 80cm tall
- Small, elfin head - sharp cheekbones and jaw, pointy ears.
- Skin and eyes aquamarine blue
- Fine flaxen blonde hair
- Yellow arrowhead markings across her neck and shoulders

Create your interpretation of Lazuli using any medium they wish, draw/paint/create using a digital program like:

<https://krita.org/en/>

Or any one of the many digital art Apps available

Some other books and series by Eoin Colfer

