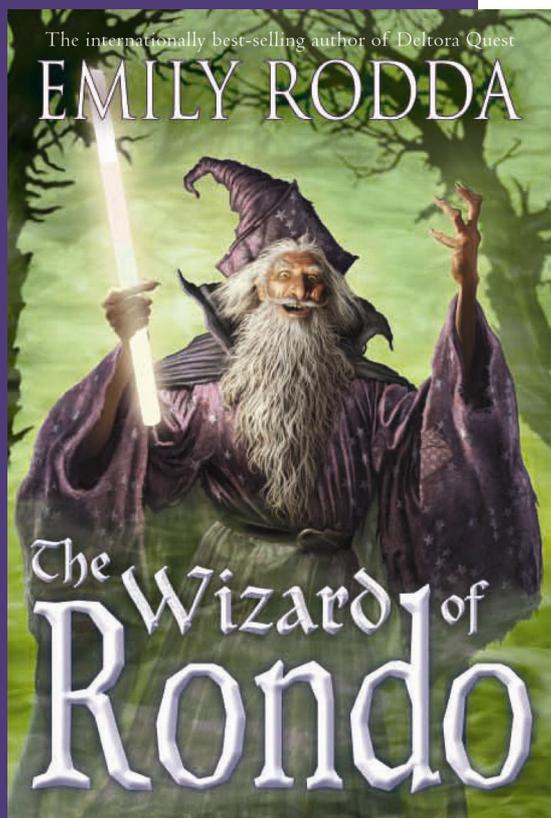


Teachers' Notes THE WIZARD OF RONDO

EMILY RODDA

Teachers' Notes written by Kate Rowe



OMNIBUS BOOKS

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Category | Fantasy |
| Title | The Wizard of Rondo |
| Author | Emily Rodda |
| Extent | 416 pp |
| Age | 9+ |
| Australian RRP | \$29.99 |
| Binding | Hardback |
| Printing | Mono |
| ISBN | 978 1 86291 792 7 |
| Format | 234 x 153 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Introduction..... | 2 |
| About the Author..... | 2 |
| Writing Style..... | 3 |
| Before Reading the Text..... | 3 |
| Reading the Text..... | 3 |
| Questions About the Text..... | 4 |
| Creative Activities..... | 5 |
| Extension Activities..... | 7 |
| Further Reading..... | 8 |
| Websites..... | 8 |

Teachers' Notes may be reproduced for use in school activities. They may not be redistributed for commercial sale or posted to other networks.

INTRODUCTION

The Wizard of Rondo is the sequel to *The Key to Rondo*. However, it is not necessary to have read the first book in order to enjoy and understand the second.

Sensible, reliable Leo Langlander and his prickly cousin Mimi have discovered that a seemingly innocent family music box in fact contains a whole other world – Rondo. It is a world full of fascinating characters, many of whom bear a strange resemblance to the fairytale characters of Leo and Mimi’s world. Thanks to Leo, Mimi, and their new Rondo friends, the evil Blue Queen who once ruled the land has recently suffered a humiliating defeat.

Now, while visiting Rondo for the second time, Leo, Mimi and the Quest team become embroiled in a new adventure. What has happened to the cantankerous Wizard Bing? Has his assistant murdered him, or has he been taken by the deadly Strix? And is the Blue Queen really so helpless after all?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emily Rodda’s real name is Jennifer Rowe. She was born in Sydney and completed an MA (Hons) in English Literature at Sydney University in 1973. She worked in publishing for many years, as an editor and then a publisher at Angus & Robertson, before becoming the editor of the *Australian Women’s Weekly* magazine in 1988.

Always a keen reader and writer, Emily began writing children’s stories in her spare time to entertain her young daughter Kate. She submitted her first manuscript to Angus & Robertson using a pseudonym – her grandmother’s name, Emily Rodda – to make sure that she got an honest opinion of her work from her colleagues. This book, *Something Special*, won the Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award, as did four other of her books in subsequent years: *Pigs Might Fly*, *The Best-Kept Secret*, *Finders Keepers*, and *Rowan of Rin*.

A full-time writer since 1992, Emily Rodda has published over ninety books. In recent times she is best known for the popular Deltora Quest fantasy series, which has sold more than any other Australian series, has been made into a successful animated TV series in Japan and is published in over thirty countries around the world.

In 1995 Emily Rodda won the prestigious Dromkeen Medal. The judges of the award said of her that she ‘maintains a prolific writing schedule, continues to provide a role model in

promoting children's literature and still spends many hours sharing her love of books with children and educators'. She has also won many different kids' choice awards across Australia.

Emily has written seven murder mysteries for adults under her real name, Jennifer Rowe. Her favourite hobbies are reading and writing stories. She has four children and lives in the Blue Mountains with her husband.

For further information please consult Emily Rodda's online biography at <http://www.emilyrodda.com>

WRITING STYLE

The Wizard of Rondo is written in a light, humorous and thoroughly engaging style. The world and the characters of Rondo are richly described and vividly brought to life. The writing melds the fast-paced, action-packed style of Deltora Quest with the finely crafted flavour of Rodda's earlier work and will therefore appeal to both dedicated and reluctant readers.

BEFORE READING THE TEXT

Before reading *The Wizard of Rondo* it may be helpful for students to familiarise themselves with common fairy tales and nursery rhymes. This could be done as part of a library presentation, or simply a class discussion based around the following questions:

- How many fairytales and nursery rhymes do you know?
- Do you know which countries these fairytales and nursery rhymes come from?
- Do you know who wrote them?
- What sorts of things do fairytales have that other stories don't always have? (i.e. how do you know that what you're reading is a fairytale?)

READING THE TEXT

The teacher might like to read the first chapters to the class and ask the first comprehension questions orally, either for students to work on alone, in pairs or as part of a class discussion. The teacher could continue to read the text or ask the students to carry on reading on their own.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT

Please note that in order to help students engage with the text, many of these questions ask for opinions and therefore may not have one 'right' answer. It would be a good idea for each student to answer these questions alone and then compare notes with a partner or with the class.

Chapters 1-5:

- In a few sentences, describe the music box.
- Leo and Mimi are very different. Describe each of their personalities based on what you have read in the first two chapters.
- Why is the Black Sheep so busy?
- Why is Leo so worried about the newspaper report?
- What do Conker, Freda and Bertha want Mimi to do, and why doesn't she want to?

Chapters 6-10:

- What's wrong with Bertha?
- Which well-known fairytale do you think the gnome on the poster in the police station is from?
- What is unusual about Officer Begood's prisoner?
- What is unusual about Peg the shopkeeper?
- What do Polly and Jim send to help the friends on their quest?

Chapters 11-15:

- Newspaper reporters are supposed to only report the facts. Do you think Scribble is a fair and honest reporter? Why or why not?
- Use your own words to describe the Snug and its surroundings. Try and describe it as best you can in sixty words or less.
- If you had the choice between Clogg's Shoe Emporium and the Snug, where would you stay the night and why?
- If you could make a wish at the wishing well in the Snug, what would you wish? Think carefully – remember there's something unusual about the wishing well!

Chapters 16-20:

- Who or what is the Ancient One?
- Why doesn't Tye want to attract attention to herself in the Snug?

- Do you know any skipping games like the one the girls are playing in the Snug? If so, write down the words.

Chapters 21-25:

- What is Clogg's big secret?
- Do you think Conker's decision regarding the cooking pot is the right one? Why or why not?
- Make a list of the strange inventions found at Wizard Bing's house and say what each one does.

Chapters 26-30:

- Wizard Bing's chickens have a theory about what happened to Wizard Bing and Simon. What is it?
- Which traditional rhyme in our world is Moul't's birthing day rhyme based on?
- Who does Leo see in the mist of Tiger's Glen?

Chapters 31-40:

- Divide a page into two columns marked 'Problem' and 'Solution'. On the left side make a list of all the problems that are solved in these final chapters and on the right side give the solution that is found in each case. For example, in the left column write 'Conker and his cooking pot do not get along' and in the right column explain how this problem is solved.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. ART

- Draw a picture of your favourite character from *The Wizard of Rondo* using clues from the book to make them look exactly how you think the author describes them.
- Make a map showing the quest team's journey to Hobnob and everywhere they stopped on the way.
- Mimi and Leo wear special adventuring clothes when they are in Rondo. What clothes would you wear if you visited Rondo? What colours would they be, and what material would they be made from? Would you have a hat? How about weapons or jewellery? Draw and describe your outfit.

- Imagine that you have a music box like Leo's, but with a totally different world inside it. What would your imaginary world look like? What would it be called? Draw panels for each side of your music box.

2. CREATIVE WRITING

- Write a message from one Rondo character to another, giving news of the events that have occurred at Hobnob, e.g. Officer Begood to his mother, Bodelia Parker to a friend, Tilly to one of her sisters at Macdonald's farm, Woodley to his brother at another Snug. Remember the message has to be very short in order to fit on one page so that the mouse can deliver it!
- Many of the characters in the world of Rondo are based on well-known fairytale characters. How many can you spot? Work in pairs to find as many as you can and then work as a class to make a full list.
- Write about the world you created in the Art section. What kind of place is it – city, country, desert, outer space or somewhere else? What sounds would there be? What types of animals and plants? What would it smell like? Are there people? What do they look like and what do they do? There is no 'right' answer; the aim is to describe a place with enough detail that it would seem believable to someone else reading it.
- When you have a good description of your world, picture yourself in it. Imagine that suddenly someone runs up to you and says 'Quick! I need your help!'. Who is this person, what do they look like and why do they need your help? Write about what happens in the next ten minutes of your adventure!
- Although Wizard Bing's inventions often go horribly wrong, he does have great ideas. List his inventions (you may have started this list during the reading questions) and the good points and bad points about each one. Which invention do you like best? If you were a wizard, what would you invent? It might help to have a class brainstorming session on things that would be very cool to have. (If you can't think of anything, here are some ideas to get you going: a new flavour of ice cream, a robot that does jobs for you, hair that changes colour whenever you like, a machine that predicts the future.)

- Write a news article for the *Rondo Rambler* based on something that happened in *The Wizard of Rondo*. Remember to write as if you are a reporter telling the facts of the story so that anyone reading the report will know exactly what happened.

3. MUSIC

- What tune do you imagine the music box plays? Compose a melody using whichever instrument you are comfortable with, for example a piano, recorder, xylophone or even your voice. See if you and a friend can make a duet using two instruments, and perform it for the class!

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- From the list of fairytales that you made in the Creative Writing section, pick one and do some research on it. Which country did it come from? Who wrote it? Find an example of a fairytale from your own family's country of origin and write it in your own words (if you don't know any fairytales from your own culture, ask your parents or grandparents for help).
- Sometimes the original version of a fairytale is a lot more frightening than its modern version. Compare, for example, the differences between Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid* and the Disney animated version of *The Little Mermaid*. See if you can find other fairytales that were different in their original versions but be prepared: some of them are a little gory!
- If you liked *The Wizard of Rondo*, write and tell Emily Rodda why. Or if someone in your class comes up with a question about the book that no one can answer, write and ask her about it! Don't forget to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your reply.

You can address your letter to:

Emily Rodda c/- Omnibus Books, 335 Unley Rd, Malvern SA 5061

FURTHER READING

Read other books by Emily Rodda, including *The Key to Rondo*, books from the Deltora Quest series and/or books from the Rowan of Rin series. In your opinion, how do they compare to *The Wizard of Rondo*?

If you enjoyed *The Wizard of Rondo* you might also enjoy fantasy works by other Australian authors, such as *Foundling* and *Lamplighter* by D.M. Cornish. And if you enjoy fairytales in general, you might enjoy *The Storyteller* TV series, available on DVD, or movies such as *The Princess Bride* or *Willow*.

WEBSITES

EMILY RODDA

For information about Emily Rodda, including answers to frequently asked questions and a current booklist, please go to:

<http://www.emilyrodda.com> and

<http://www.scholastic.com.au>

FAIRYTALES AND NURSERY RHYMES

General information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fairy_tale

Fairytales and nursery rhymes:

<http://www.ivyjoy.com/fables/index.shtml>

Grimm brothers fairytales:

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~spok/grimtmp/> (plain text version)

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/>

Grimm brothers info:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm.html>

Worksheets:

http://abcteach.com/directory/theme_units/literature/fairy_tales/,

http://www.schools.net.au/edu/lesson_ideas/fairytales/fairy_url.html

Links to games and resources:

<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek3/fairytales.htm>,

www.primaryschool.com.au (do a search for fairy tales)

Webquest:

<http://www-ma.beth.k12.pa.us/jhoke/jhwebquest/jhwebquest.htm>

(N.B. the reading level of some of the stories may be too advanced for some students to follow).

Quizzes:

<http://www.abc.net.au/myfavouritebook/kids/quiz/default.htm>