

Novel Resource (#1)

Archer's Quest

By: Linda Sue Park

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Linda Sue Park was Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She was the daughter of Korean immigrants. She has been writing poems and stories since she was 4 years old. Her favorite thing to do is read! Park attended Stanford University and earned a degree in English and later studied Literature in London, where she married and had 2 children. She later returned to the US and followed her dream to write children's books. Her career started with Seesaw Girl. Other novel titles that followed were Kite Fighters, A single Shard, When My Name Was Keoko, and Project Mulberry. She also wrote several picture books. These titles include Tap Dancing on the Roof, A Firekeepers Son, What Does Bunny See, Bee Bim Bop, and Yum Yuck.

Honors: 2002 Newberry Medal Book

2002 ALA Best Book for Young Adults

2001 Booklist Editor's Choice

2005 Mark Twain Master List

2003, 2000, 2006 Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year

Honors: 2004 Skipping Stones Honor Award
2005 Garden State Teen Book Award
2008 Mark Twain Award Master List
2004 Parents' Choice Recommended Winner
2005 CCBC Book Award

Annotation: Parker was born to Korean immigrants and she incorporates her heritage into story in many different ways. She weaves together the past and present by challenging Kevin to explain modern technology such as cars, computers and telephones to Archer, one of the stories main characters. Through Korean history, folktales, math and the Chinese Zodiac, Kevin and Archer will develop a plan to help Archer travel back in time to rule ancient Korea. Parker has done a wonderful job presenting the characters with issues children might deal with in today's world. When Archer suddenly appears in Kevin's bedroom while he is doing homework and claims to have fallen off a tiger and landed there, Kevin tries to remember what his parents have taught him about strangers. He wants so badly to do the right thing, but he wants to help his friend.

To complete the quest to help Archer return to ancient Korea, the boys must act fast. They need to do it before Kevin's parent return home from work and the year of the tiger ends. In this dazzling adventure, students learn about, Korean history, math, loyalty and commitment to others. Much of the humor in this novel comes from the clash between the ancient and modern.

Finally, Kevin is able to remember the last element needed to return his friend home. When Archer disappears before Kevin's

eyes, Kevin feels a sense of happiness even though he knows their paths will never cross again. Kevin later receives a gift from his dad for a birthday. It is a bow and arrow that belonged to his father as a child. Kevin realized that the gift his dad gave him meant more to him now than ever. It was the only connection he had to Archer now that he was gone.

Genre: Fiction/Adventure

Point of View: Omniscient

Theme: There are a couple themes in this novel. Camaraderie is the first. Two boys must work together, trust and rely on each other to achieve one goal. Another is that if we work really hard, we can overcome anything. I feel in the title Archer's Quest, Park is leading us to believe the book is about a boy's incredible journey without leading us to where.

Conflict: There are several conflicts in this novel. Kevin vs. himself. (Deciding to do what his parents have taught him vs. what he wants to do to help out a friend). Kevin vs. Archer two boys agreeing on how to return Archer back to ancient Korea) Kevin vs. Mr. Lee (deciding to finally cross Mr. Lee to help Archer return).

Conflict Resolution: This happens when Kevin decides that it is more important to help someone in a crisis (Archer needing to get to Korea) than following his parents rules about strangers. Also when Kevin decides to distract Mr. Lee so Archer can jump up on the tiger

and leave, he feels that helping his friend is the most important thing at that moment too!

Characters:

Kevin: He is a 12 year old Korean American boy that is a math genius. He is the main character that struggles between doing what he knows is right and bending the rules to help someone in need.

Archer: the young man that appears in Kevin's room after falling off a tiger. He is a brave archer from ancient Korea.

Mr. Lee: He is a professor that works at the museum. Kevin goes to him to try to find out information about Archer and his ancestors.

Ah-jee and Ah-Mee: these were Kevin's grandparents. Kevin thought they could help give information to get Archer home because they were from Korea too!

Setting: This story takes place in modern times in the city of Dorchester, New York

Reading Level: 4th, 5th, 6th Grade

Booktalk: Kevin is a young Korean boy that finds himself home alone one day after school. He is in his bedroom when suddenly a young man holding a bow and arrow appears out of nowhere. Archie, (a nick name given to the boy by Kevin) claims to be a famous and skilled archer born to a ruler of Korea. Archie finds himself in a big city which he knows nothing about. It is up to Kevin to help Archie understand that he is safe but the boys need to find a way to get Archie back home. Archie is counting on his young friend to discover a way for him to return back to ancient Korea. With the help of the Chinese Zodiac, Math, and Korean

history, Kevin discovers a way to help his friend travel back in time. When Kevin is left standing in front of a metal, tiger statue with nothing but a broken arrow in his hand, he realizes he has done the best thing in his life! To find out more about this incredible adventure about loyalty and friendship that brings two boys together and apart read ARCHER'S QUEST!

Discussion Questions:

Ch.1

Pre-Reading: Think back to a time you were home alone and share your worst experience you've had.

Post Reading: Write a journal entry on what your experience was being home alone.

Ch.2

Pre-Reading: Has anyone ever called you by a nick name or can you think of someone you know that is called by one?

Post-Reading: Lets brainstorm a list of nicknames, look at them and discuss why they would make us feel good or bad about ourselves.

Ch.3

Pre-Reading: Can you remember a time when you believed that something was magical? If so try to recall what it was that helped you believe.

Post-Reading: Why did Archie believe Kevin's house was full of magic? Give 3 examples.

Ch.4

Pre-Reading: Tell me about a time you thought it was ok to lie to your parents.

Post-Reading: Create a poem giving your views on being dishonest.

Ch.5

Pre-Reading: What was the best experience you've ever had at a museum?

Post-Reading: Draw a map of the different rooms Kevin and Archer travel through at their museum visit.

Ch.6

Pre-Reading: Why is it so important for us to stop and have a moment of silence?

Post-Reading: Let's all stop right now and close our eyes, breathe slowly and quietly so we feel each breath. Be only still and calm for 3 minutes. Let's discuss how we felt, why we think it's important to do this each day.

Ch7.

Pre-Reading: Try to recall a time that you were so thankful for something or someone that appeared to you “just in the nick of time”

Post-Reading: What significance did the turtles have in this chapter? What other things could they have done to cross the water?

Ch.8

Pre-Reading: From the title of this chapter, what do you think is the significance of the tiger?

Post-Reading: Lets brainstorm a list of synonyms for the word TABBY.

Ch.9

Pre-Reading: What is a Chinese Zodiac?

Post-Reading: Compare/Contrast how the Chinese calendar is similar and different from ours.

Ch.10

Pre-Reading: What are synonyms for the word outhouse? Let's brainstorm a list together.

Post-Reading: After reading this chapter what effect did it have on Archie when he found out the fortune cookies weren't magical, but a game?

Ch.11

Pre-Reading: What is the significance of a gift?

Post-Reading: What effect did it have on Kevin when Archer would not accept a gift to take back with him?

Ch.12

Pre-Reading: Have you ever had the feeling when you were doing something, that there was "a piece missing to the puzzle?"

Post- Reading: Draw a picture like a puzzle and include the key elements of an event element. Leave one important element out and see if your peers can solve your puzzle!

Ch.13

Pre-Reading: Think of a time when you received your most treasured gift and describe it to me.

Post Reading: Do you think the bow and arrow that Kevin's dad gave him would have meant the same to him had he never met Archer? Why or why not.

Language:

Bewildered: p.7- To become confused.

Gingerly: p. 13- In a careful or cautious manner.

Compromise: p.16- An agreement of a settlement or a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions.

Allegiance: p.47- A loyalty or commitment to a superior individual or group.

Contradicted: p.80- Deny the truth by asserting the opposite.

Stammered: p.141- Speak with a sudden involuntary pauses and a tendency to repeat the initial letters of a word.

Academic Standards:

Math: **3.6, 3.1, 4.1, 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 5.6, 5.7**

Reading: **3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7, 5.1, 5.2, 5.7**

Social Studies: **3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.3, 5.1**

Anticipation Guide

Before		Archer's Quest	After	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		Our parents always know what is best for us.		
		Loyalty and trust are two qualities for a good friendship.		

		One must travel far to learn about other cultures.		
		Folktales and legends are pretend and all of their content has nothing to do with the real world.		
		The best things in life are worth waiting for.		

Read Aloud Passage

#1

Ch.1, p.4, this passage describes how the room shook when Archer and an arrow came crashing in!

I chose this passage because it was very descriptive and left the reader feeling as if you were actually there. Also, I felt children reading the novel could relate to what was happening while his parents were at work because many kids at this age are home alone after school as well.

#2

Ch.12, p.140, this passage describes how Archer reached in his pocket for the gift he is going to give Kevin. I chose this passage

because Archer is presenting Kevin with a gift for all of his help and friendship. When Kevin sees it is a broken arrow, he feels so proud and honored to have been given this. I felt this passage taught a lesson on the value/meaning of certain gifts people give us.

“If You Like Archer’s Quest, By: Linda Sue Park

You’ll Love....

Pirate Emperor by: Meyer Kai

Through magic and fantasy, the characters in this novel discover their special powers and save a city. Like Archie, in Archer’s Quest, the Ghost Trader mysteriously appears to help the characters resolve their conflict.

Igraine the Brave by: Cornelia Funke

Igraine is the daughter of 2 magicians and wants nothing more than to become a knight. When her castle is under attack, she has an opportunity to demonstrate her bravery. Igraine, like Kevin in Archer's Quest has to race against the clock to make things right.

The Adventures of VIN Fizz by: Clive Cussler

The adventures in Vin Fizz, take two girls across the U.S. in an enchanted airplane. Much like the adventures in Archer's Quest, you will be left amazed at the camaraderie between these characters that strengthens on their voyages.

The Prince of Fenway Park by: Julianna Baggott

Like Archie, in Archer's Quest, this novel's main character, Oscar is sent to a netherworld through time travel. If you enjoyed the excitement and adventure in Archer's Quest, you are sure to enjoy this entertaining adventure of one boy's quest to save Fenway Park.

Book Activities and Curriculum Connections:

Math Connection

Although this story takes place in a single day, make a timeline of all Kevin did to help Archie.

Academic Standard: **3.5, 4.5, 5.5**

Social Studies Connection

Locate a Chinese Zodiac calendar that lists the character traits for each animal. Do you have some of the traits list for the year/animal of your birth? You may want to use a Venn diagram to show the characteristics you share.

Academic Standard: **3.1, 4.1, 5.1**

Theatre/Drama Connection (Language Arts)

Pick a scene from the story, and work together with a group of friends to write a brief play about the scene. The time travel scenes make excellent choices. For an audience, act out the scene with your group using costumes and props. Be sure the scene is accurate from the book and has a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Academic Standard: **3.7, 4.7, 5.7**

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