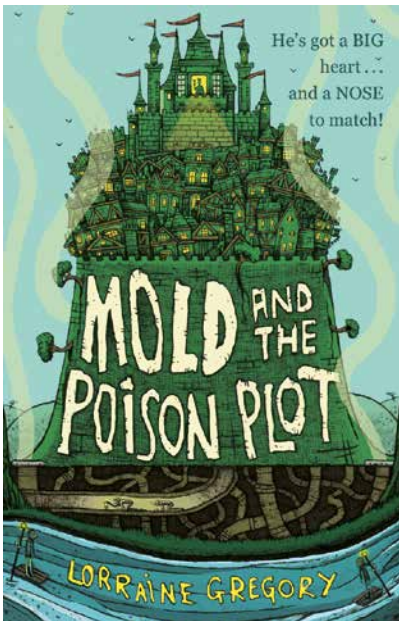


Class Notes for

MOLD AND THE POISON PLOT

By LORRAINE GREGORY



BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Look at the cover

- 1) What sort of book do you think it will be?
- 2) Does the cover make you want to read the book?

Read the first three chapters

- 1) What three things do we discover about Mold?
- 2) How do you feel about Mold from this beginning?
- 3) Do you think Aggy is a good guardian for Mold?
- 4) Mold speaks in a really distinctive way. What do you think of the dialect used?
- 5) Do you think the Dregs sound like a good place to live?
- 6) Do you think Aggy is innocent or guilty?

DURING THE READING OF THE BOOK

Try the following activities and discussion points:

SUPER SENSES

If you could have super sight, super smell, super taste, super hearing, or super touch, which would you choose and why?

SENSE OF SMELL

Research how the sense of smell works and then answer the quiz included at the end of the class notes.

POETRY

Write a poem about a part of your body!

NATURAL WORLD

Look at the Glossary included at the back of the book and the plants and animals created for this book. Can you create your own?

ACTIVITY

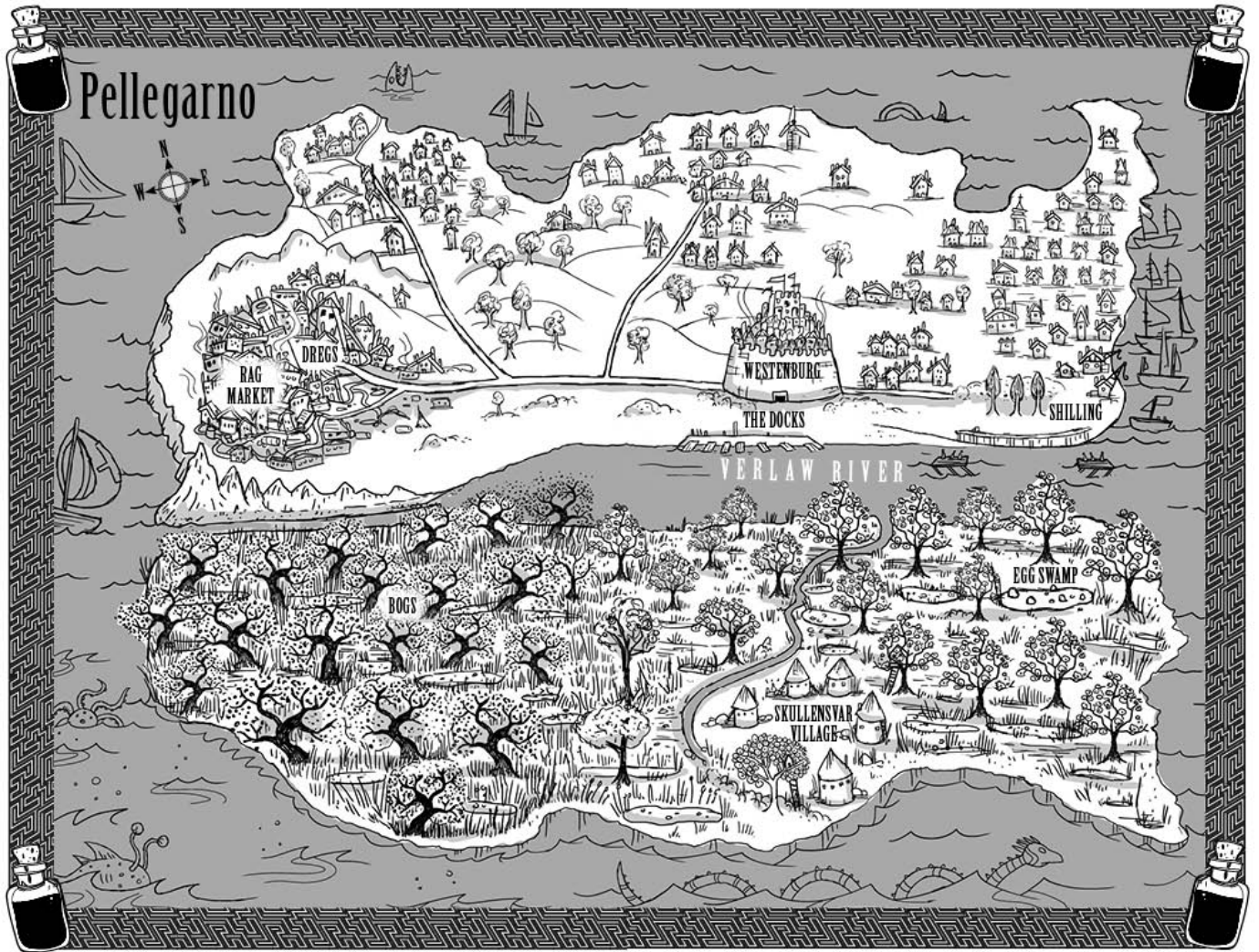
Draw pictures of your own made up plants or animals—describe each one and give it a rating in terms of how dangerous it is.

MOLD WORDSEARCH

Try the wordsearch included at the end of the class notes.

MAP

Look at the map of Pellegarno at the front of the book. Draw your own map and label at least seven places.



AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED READING THE BOOK

Try the following activities:

STEREOTYPES

Have a look at some pictures of Disney princesses on the internet. Then have a look at Disney villains.

Discuss stereotypes with regard to noses in particular. Have you noticed that:
Small noses = good people / big noses = bad people?

DEBATE: Do we judge people according to how they look? Is it fair?

Does it matter how people look? Why do we sometimes judge people based on appearance?

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

- ✎ In this book there were dungeons, torture, and hanging, all of which were part of history in the UK.
- ✎ Read the passage when Mold visits Aggy in the dungeon.
- ✎ Look at the Tower of London, The Clink, and Newgate on the internet.
- ✎ Read the passage where Marlow holds Aggy.
- ✎ Look at medieval torture instruments used to force people to confess their crimes, like the Rack or the Iron Maiden. Do you think torturing people to get confessions is a good technique or not?

Explore the theme of capital punishment

DEBATE: Is capital punishment a good way of preventing crime or not?

Look at the USA, where capital punishment still exists today. Has it affected the number of crimes that take place?

DIVERSITY AND TOLERANCE

Look at the three tribes—Yellowhair, Boggers, and Snifflers.

- 1) How did you feel about the Boggers at the beginning of the book?
- 2) How did you feel about the Boggers (Skullensvar) at the end?
- 3) If you felt differently, why?
- 4) The Yellowhair invaded Pellegarno and slowly tried to wipe out the native (indigenous) populations—has this happened before in history?

Look at Native American history after the Europeans settled in their land in the 1800s. What happened to them? Do you think it was fair?

- 5) Do you think all types of people can live together happily?
- 6) Why is tolerance important?
- 7) Did you learn anything from Mold and his attitude towards others?
- 8) Do you think Godric was a good king?
- 9) Do you think Iric will do a better job?
- 10) Do you think you live in a tolerant country?

Activity ideas

- ✎ Make a poster encouraging people to be respectful and tolerant of others.
- ✎ Write a newspaper article based on what happened in *Mold and the Poison Plot*. It can include interviews and pictures, you could write it from any point of view!

Interview with the Author—Lorraine Gregory



Where did you get the idea for the book?

It actually came to me in a flash while I was teasing my son about the mess in his bedroom. I suggested throwing all his toys in the bin, and then I said we should throw him in the bin, and then I said—“but the bin men won’t want you either”, and I had this vision of a baby in the bin! That baby became Mold, and then I had to think of a reason why he was in the bin and imagine what would happen to him, and the whole plot fell into my head within a few days!

Why did you give your main character a big nose?

Because I had a big nose and had been horribly teased about it all my life. Everywhere I looked characters with big noses were always the bad guys and it made me cross. So it seemed perfect to give Mold a big nose and to make it a gift rather than a curse! I wanted some good examples of big nosed characters out there!

Why did you use such an unusual dialect?

I didn’t plan it! That was how I heard Mold’s voice in my head, so that’s how I wrote it. I like the way it feels unique to Mold and somehow makes it easier to imagine him as a character!

Did you always want to be a writer?

Yes! I was a huge reader as a child, and it didn’t take me long to start writing my own stories. I spent years scrawling very long, exciting stories when I was young, but then I grew up and decided it was an impossible dream, so I did very boring, sensible things instead. Luckily I came to my senses in the end and decided I needed to try and follow my dream at least. It took several years and A LOT of hard work, but I got there in the end, and it’s wonderful to see children reading my book.

If you have any other questions, you can send them to Lorraine!

If you would like to contact Lorraine, you can email her at lorrainegregoryauthor@gmail.com

Send her a message on Twitter @authorontheedge

OR write to her C/O Hannah Penny
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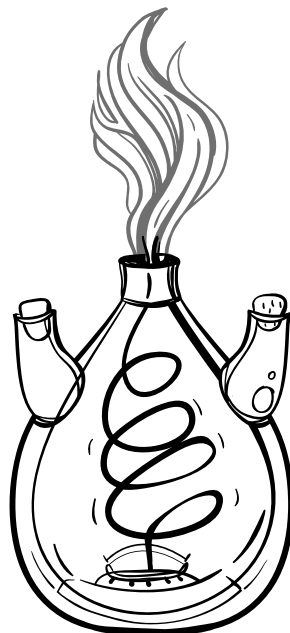
You can look at Lorraine’s website at www.lorrainegregoryauthor.co.uk for details of events and workshops!

You can review *Mold and the Poison Plot* on many different websites, including Amazon, Waterstones, and Topps! Ask your teacher to help you.

MOLD AND THE POISON PLOT

Smell Quiz

- 1) Girls have a better sense of smell than boys. TRUE/FALSE
- 2) Fish have no sense of smell at all. TRUE/FALSE
- 3) Cow farts are causing global warming. TRUE/FALSE
- 4) Ancient Egyptians were wearing perfume 3000 years ago. TRUE/FALSE
- 5) 10% of what you taste comes from smell information. TRUE/FALSE
- 6) Some plants have a sense of smell. TRUE/FALSE
- 7) Boys fart more than girls. TRUE/FALSE
- 8) Dogs can help to diagnose illnesses using their sense of smell. TRUE/FALSE
- 9) Smell is the least sensitive of all the senses. TRUE/FALSE
- 10) 75% of emotions are triggered by smell. TRUE/FALSE

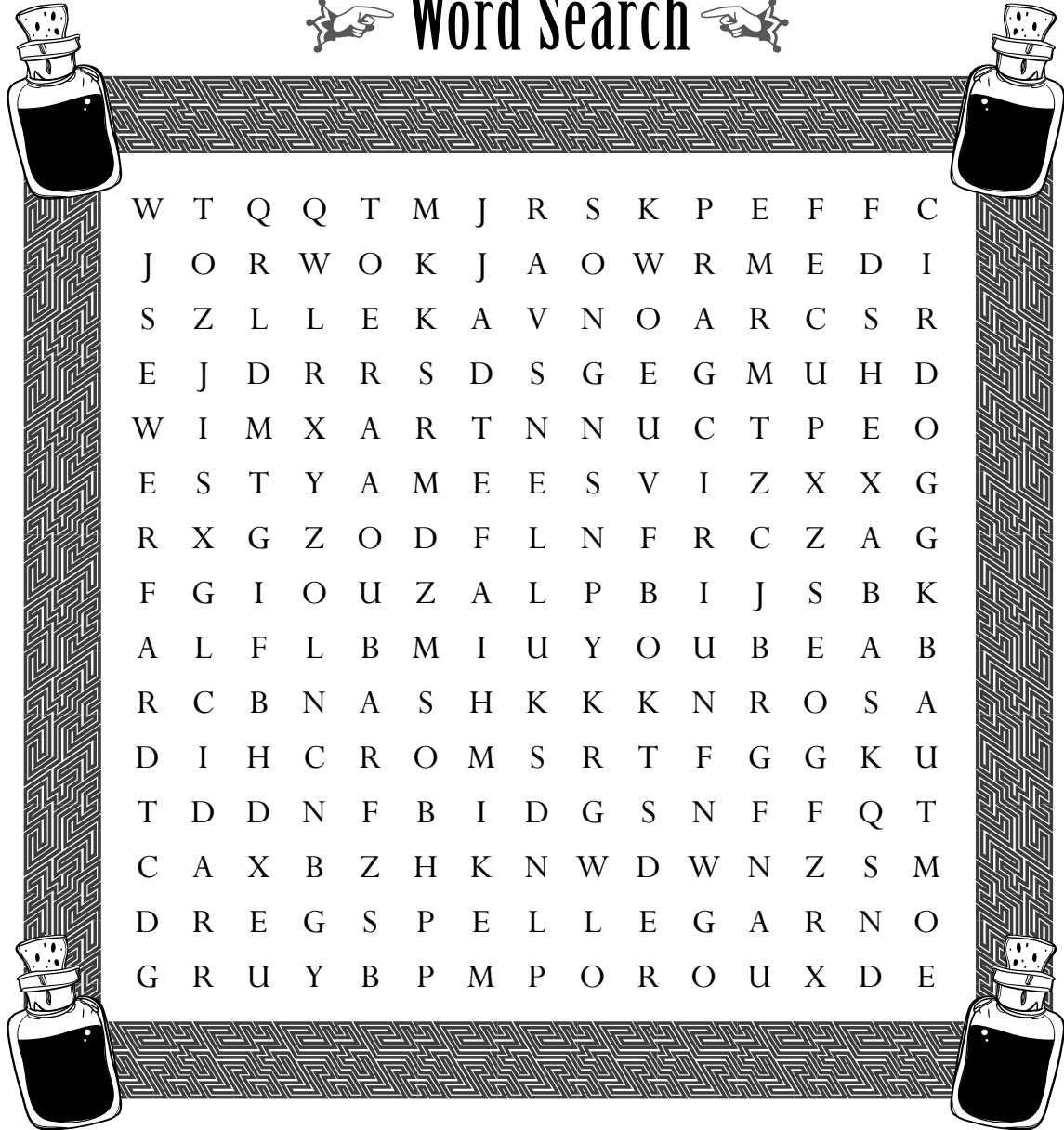


Mold and the Poison Plot Smell Quiz Answers

- 1) **True.** Girls do have a better sense of smell than boys.
- 2) **False.** Fish actually have an excellent sense of smell.
- 3) **True.** Well, the gas they release adds to the other greenhouse gases that are causing the planet to heat up.
- 4) **True.** Perfumes have been around for a long time!
- 5) **False.** It's actually between 75 and 90%!
- 6) **True.** Some plants can actually smell, like the Dodder plant, for example.
- 7) **False.** Boys and girls fart the same amount.
- 8) **True.** Dogs are being used to diagnose certain diseases and can also be used to warn their owners of conditions like epilepsy, strokes, and heart attacks.
- 9) **False.** Smell is the most sensitive sense. People can remember smells with 65% accuracy after a year, while visual recall is 50% after three months.
- 10) **True.** Emotions linked to pleasure, well being, and memory are triggered by smell.

MOLD AND THE POISON PLOT

Word Search



AGGY
BLUDENGORE
BOGS
DREGS
FERGUS
GODRIC
HEXABA
IRIC
LIZARD
MARLOW

MOLD
NASH
ORCHID
PELLEGARNO
PONG
SEWER
SKULLENSVAR
SWAMP
WESTENBURG
YURG

