

A Curriculum Guide to

FLIGHTS AND CHIMES AND *Mysterious* TIMES

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This guide is aligned with the Common Core State Standards in the following areas: (SL.5.1a, 1c) (RL.5.1-4, 6) (W.5.2b, 2d, 7, 8)

Prereading Activities

1. This novel is an example of steampunk literature. Your students may not have a great deal of experience with the genre and its unique elements. Consider letting them explore the topic through Internet research (kid-friendly, of course), and then use those research skills to write a paragraph about what they learned before commencing the study of the novel. This will help prepare them for the unique setting and give them a chance to hone their writing of exposition, a key component of the Common Core State Standards. Use the graphic organizer below to help guide their research and drafting.

TOPIC: Research Steampunk Literature

Address of website used:	Key topics explored:	Why you think it's a reliable source:

Elements in STEAMPUNK	Notes:
TIME PERIOD	
GENRE	
SOCIETY	
TECHNOLOGY	
PLACE	
DETAILS	

List other titles that are STEAMPUNK-related:

2. Read the Prologue aloud to the class. Then have students write five predictions about the novel before they begin reading. In pairs, have students compare their predictions and explain why they thought this after hearing the excerpt.

Discussion Questions

1. Who is Lorcan Havelock and what is his quest? After reading Chapter One, list the ten most important facts the reader learns.
2. What does Mr. Havelock attempt to get Mrs. Foster to agree to? Why does she refuse? What is Jack's reaction? Would you want to go with him or not? Why?
3. Why does Mrs. Pond take Jack to town? Who does he see and decide to follow? Where exactly does he go? Did you think it was a trap?
4. Describe the setting and the characters whom Jack encounters after leaving the tower. What odd details does he notice?
5. List what the reader knows and what they can infer about the Lady after reading Chapters One through Five. Why do you think she wants a new son?
6. Compare and contrast London with Londinium. What does Jack learn from Beth the windup girl?
7. Summarize Jack's time at Dr. Snailwater's house. List what information you think is most important to his survival in this new world.
8. What does Lorcan discover upon his return to Mayfair? How does he revise his plan? Find a piece of key evidence from the text that makes you believe this.
9. Describe Jack's adventure through the city with Beth and Dr. Snailwater. What do you think would be the most fun part of living in Londinium?
10. How does Jack prove his skills to Dr. Snailwater? How is Jack different from all the others in this new world? Why? Why doesn't Jack want to go home to his family? Do you blame him?
11. Explain how Lorcan gets Jack to come out of hiding. Does fear often make people act or betray others in ways they wouldn't normally? Do you consider Jack brave for coming forward?
12. Analyze Jack's new life in the palace to his old one at Mayfair. What's better? What is worse? Is it worth the price?
13. Summarize both the parade through the city and the encounter and battle following it. Why do you think the author decided to include both of these scenes? What do we learn about the characters and the conflict?
14. Explain what Jack and Beth see as they explore the palace at night. What do you think Lorcan wants for himself? Why?
15. What type of magic does Lorcan use? Who benefits from it? How does he teach Dr. Snailwater a lesson? How is she eventually restored?
16. Explain what happened at Christmas to Jack. How does it change everything?
17. Outline the myth of the Gearwing. What do you think is most important about this tale? How could it help Jack? How do you think it has been used in the past? What's the connection between the Gearwing and the crystal ball?
18. Why does the Lady banish Lorcan? What is his ultimate plan to win a place back in her graces again? Do you think this makes him more desperate?
19. Explain how Xeno gets the cooperation of the faeries in the battle. How had Lorcan hid the Gearwing in plain sight? Is Jack able to defeat Lorcan and his plan? How does this epic battle take place? Which element is your favorite?
20. In the end, how is Jack saved by what he had lost? What does he decide to do? What happened to the Gearwing? What will happen to Beth? Predict what will happen with Dr. Snailwater and Xeno as well.

Activities

CHARACTER: As you read the novel, fill out the chart below.

Character name:	Most important thing to know about this character:	A key quote or part of the text that best shows this:
Jack Foster		
Lorcan Havelock		
The Lady		
Beth		
Dr. Snailwater		
Xenocrates Fink		
Arabella		
Mrs. Pond		
Mr. and Mrs. Foster		

Compare and contrast the two major settings from the novel:

	London	Londinium
Everyday citizens of the city		
Magic		
Technology		

POINT OF VIEW: The perspective a story is told from

With a reading partner, discuss and take notes on how the story would be different if told through these characters' eyes (or point of view) rather than Jack's:

Mrs. Foster	
Beth	
Lorcan Havelock	
Dr. Snailwater	

How does point of view change what the reader knows or believes about other characters?

How does point of view influence what a reader believes to be true about the conflict in a story?

Vocabulary

Use the following words from Chapters One and Two of *Flights and Chimes and Mysterious Times* to create a sentence, making sure the words makes sense in the context.

- tangible
- nag
- tomes
- inevitable
- ailment
- façade
- affably
- trinkets

1. The _____ was covered with ivy, hacked away from the windows by the gardener with a pair of wickedly sharp shears.
2. Not like the Lady, who would keep the boy Jack close, spoiling him with love and _____ and cake, for all children enjoy cake.
3. His eye caught Lorcan's and he smiled _____, seemingly assuming Lorcan was waiting to greet someone off the two seventeen.
4. Hard as he'd tried to delay, the _____ time had come.
5. The driver snapped the reins against a scrubby _____, which whinnied and snorted before pulling away.
6. Perhaps he had some kind of _____ that called for the darkened lenses.
7. Bookshelves of faery stories, dictionaries, and the kind of thick _____ that people feel they should read but never do lined one of the walls.
8. He is far more concerned with the material, the _____.

Now find at least five other new words from the novel as you read, and try to discern (or figure out) what they mean by the way they are used:

New word	
How it's used in the story	
What I think it means	
Dictionary check	

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