

Ella Enchanted



By

Gail Carson Levine

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

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About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. For more information on his work and literature, visit novelstudies.org.

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on three chapters of *Ella Enchanted* and is comprised of the following activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include fairy tales, good versus evil, courage, perseverance, selflessness, friendship, love, coming of age, loyalty and trust.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *personification*.
7. Identify *singular/plural*
8. Identify *anagrams*
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.
6. Complete a Story Pyramid

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist/antagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Create a poem
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Chart
9. Complete a KWS Chart
10. Create a friendly letter.

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Create an Information Card
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

At her birth, Ella of Frell was given a foolish fairy's gift – the *gift of obedience*. Ella must obey any order given to her, whether it's hopping on one foot for a day or chopping off one's own head!

But strong-willed Ella does not tamely accept her fate. She goes on a quest, encountering ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, fairy godmothers, and handsome princes, determined to break the curse – and live happily ever after. (The publisher)

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found online at such sites as the following: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ella_Enchanted

Author Biography

Gail Carson Levine

Gail Carson Levine (born September 17, 1947 in New York City) is an American author of young adult books. Her first novel, *Ella Enchanted*, received a Newbery Honor in 1998. In 1967, she married David Levine. She majored in philosophy at New York's City College, where she received her B.A. in 1969. She spent the next 27 years working for the government of the state of New York, mainly as a welfare administrator, helping people find jobs. She also has an Airedale Terrier named Reggie. Her first published novel was *Ella Enchanted*, which was accepted for publication by Harper-Trophy. Levine recalls, "That day, April 17, 1996, was one of the happiest in my life." The book was published in 1997, and in 1998, it received a Newbery Honor. It would later be the inspiration for the 2004 film of the same name. The success of *Ella Enchanted* made it possible for Levine to retire from government work and pursue writing full-time. (Wikipedia)



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Chapters 1-3



Before you read the chapters:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of *Ella Enchanted* is Ella of Frell, a strong-willed young girl whose life is turned upside down as the novel begins. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **protagonist**?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

anticipated	infrequent	docile	intense
dignified	spectacle	profile	chancellor

1. Mandy posted a _____ of herself on *Facebook*.
2. Kevin's uncle's visits to their home were _____.
3. Mark Messier was a very _____ hockey player when he suited up for the Edmonton Oilers.
4. My grandmother was a most refined and _____ person.
5. Grace Symons was appointed _____ of Trent University.
6. “I really had _____ a larger piece of cake for dessert,” my brother complained.
7. After swallowing the tablet, the St. Bernard dog became very _____.
8. Rene certainly made a _____ of herself when she accidentally fell into the swimming pool.

Questions



1. What is the **setting** for most of Chapter One?

--

2. What *gift* had Lucinda given Ella shortly after she was born? Why did Ella refer to this gift as a *curse*?

3. How did it turn out to be a mistake for Ella to tell Pamela about the spell?

4. Describe Sir Peter's response to Ella crying at her mother's funeral. What do you think this says about his character?

5. How had Prince Charmont found out so much about Ella?

6. How would you describe the way that Ella's father reacted to his wife's death?

7. Think of three adjectives to describe the following characters from Chapter Three. You may choose adjectives to describe their appearance or personality.

Dame Olga			
Hattie			
Olive			

8. What did Ella find was rather unusual about the throw rug which lay under her mother's chair?

9. How did Hattie insult the memory of Ella's mother?

10. Who was Ella's fairy godmother?

Good to Know

Hydra is mentioned more than once in the first few chapters of the novel. Hydra is actually a creature from Greek mythology. It was an ancient serpent-like water creature *with more heads than a vase-painter could paint*. And for each head that was cut off – two more grew in its place. Beneath the waters of its lair was an entrance to the Underworld, and the Hydra was its guardian.



Language Activities



A. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **WAS** can also form the word **SAW**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

Word	Anagram	Clue
slide		Something a car does when in Neutral.
steps		Mosquitoes, blackflies, gnats.
closer		Extracted from coal tar and used to prevent wood from rotting.
dishes		A sound made by a reptile.
tales		Smallest amount.
garden		Peril.
raced		A type of tree.

B. Place the following words from these chapters in **alphabetical order**.

race	1.
Pamela	2.
ram	3.
River	4.
rag	5.
raced	6.
respect	7.
supposed	8.
rouge	9.
rich	10.

C. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter Two is “His palm was moist and hot as a hydra's swamp.”

What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) the sound of a shotgun blast

--

b) a rainbow

--

Look for a **simile** in the remaining chapters of the novel. If you find one return to this question and record it below.

--

D. KWS Chart ~ Ogres

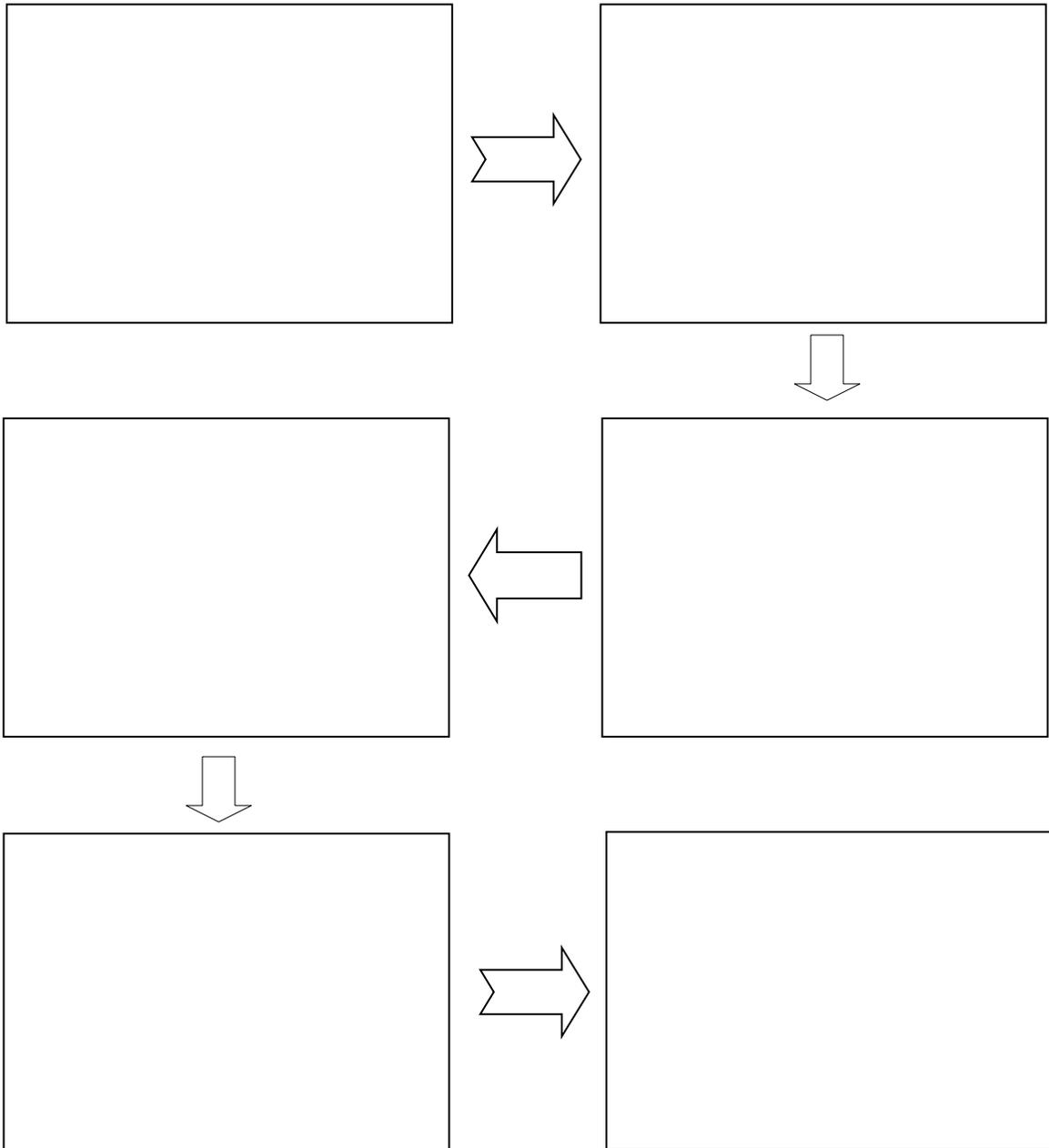
A number of fairy tale creatures are mentioned in the first few chapters. One of these is the dreaded **ogre**. The ogre gained renewed popularity with the release of the movie, **Shrek**, in 2001. But how much of the character Shrek is “fact” and how much is fiction (at least according to popular mythology)? In each of the columns below add helpful details that would assist someone researching ogres.



What I Know	What I Want To Learn	Possible Sources

E. Sequence Chart

Choose what you consider to be the six most important events in these chapters. In each of the six boxes below list the six events that you have chosen, describing what happened and telling why you consider this to be an essential part of the story.



F. Poems Ella May Have Enjoyed.

Some time ago Wilbert Schwenck Gilbert wrote a poem entitled, *The Two Ogres*. One of the verses is as follows...

*Two ogres dwell in Wickham Wold
Each TRAITS distinctive had:
The younger was as good as gold,
The elder was as bad.*



Ogres and other fairy tale creatures have been featured in poems and stories for many generations. These have included giants (*Jack and the Beanstalk*), dragons (*The Sphynx*), fairies (*Halloween*, by Robert Burns).

There are many forms of poetry available to the aspiring poet other than the rhyming poem for which Robert Burns was so adept at creating. An ACROSTIC poem is one example. In an acrostic poem the first letters of each line are aligned vertically to form a word. The word often is the subject of the poem. Here is an example:

The Moth

Multicolored.
Often mistaken for a butterfly
Tickled my nose when it landed on me
Hops from flower to flower on the breeze.

The Acrostic Poem

Now create your own Acrostic Poem on a fairy tale subject of your choice. Your poem must have at least four lines (and doesn't need to rhyme).

Title: _____

Extension Activity



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A story-board can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel. Complete the story-board below illustrating the events described in this section of *Ella Enchanted*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6