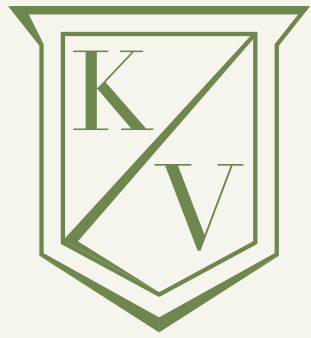


Heroes Who Inspire



TEACHER'S NOTES

Don Quixote

Don Quixote — Introduction

The purpose of this pack is to reaffirm and develop pupils' knowledge and understandings of the character virtues, with particular reference to the virtues of **love** and **service**.

To accompany these **Teacher's Notes**, **Don Quixote – The Story**, and **Don Quixote – Resources for Pupils** are downloadable via the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues website (www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources).

The following supporting documents are also provided online:

- **Knightly Virtues Introduction Materials**
- **Virtues Toolkit** including activities on the following virtues: Self-Discipline, Honesty, Love, Gratitude, Justice, Courage, Service, Humility
- **Don Quixote PowerPoint**
- **Other stories in the programme** including Gareth and Lynette, El Cid, Merchant of Venice, Robin Hood, Rosa Parks, Beowulf, Joan of Arc and Anne Frank

Background Information for Teachers

This information is to supplement the Don Quixote PowerPoint which provides an introduction to the story, available online (www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources)

Don Quixote is undoubtedly one of the greatest and best loved works of literature. The author of this enormous sprawling work, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, had a life as adventurous as his hero: he was a soldier and wounded in battle; he was kidnapped by pirates; and spent five years as a slave. When ransomed, he returned to Spain and started to write novels, plays and poetry. Desperate for money, however, he became a clerk and then a tax collector, although he was twice sent to prison because of problems with his accounts. It was in prison that he came up with the idea for Don Quixote. Initially, Cervantes set out to poke fun at the knightly tales popular in his time, but his story developed into an epic of over 400,000 words, richly combining comedy, tragedy, romance and adventure. It was an immediate success throughout Europe and is now considered a foremost classic of western literature. On the face of it, Don Quixote is a comic tale of an ageing bachelor farmer named Quixada, whose imagination is caught by the novels of knightly chivalry he has been reading. He sets out in a rusting suit of armour, on a decrepit horse called Rocinante, and with the portly peasant 'squire' Sancho Panza to re-create knightly quests of medieval chivalry. To his family and friends, it appears that Quixada has simply gone

mad. As Don Quixote, he mistakes inns and innkeepers for castles and kings, common peasant girls for fine ladies in distress, shaving bowls for magic helmets, windmills for giants, herds of sheep for armies of enemy knights and chained convicts as oppressed prisoners to be liberated. When the less romantic 'realities' behind Quixote's illusions (or delusions) are pointed out to him, he attributes the shifting appearance of things to an evil 'enchanter' who engineers these changes of vision. But it is also fairly clear that Cervantes is also encouraging the reader to see Quixote from a different perspective from other characters in the story. In fact, it is Quixote who is really the 'enchanter', who constantly aspires to transform everything mundane and tawdry into something magical and noble. Indeed, Don Quixote possesses all the knightly virtues of his enchanted vision: he is truly courageous in his assault on the windmill 'giants'; he is genuinely courteous in his treatment of all 'ladies' regardless of their actual social station; he shows true justice in attempting to liberate others from what he takes to be their oppression; he is (by contrast with Sancho Panza) really temperate in taking no more food or drink than his basic needs; and he is unfailingly generous in giving to others any material gains that come his way. Indeed, the final deathbed scenes of the book where Sancho Panza (who at the outset seems to have regarded the Quixotic quest as no more than a crazy joke) tries to persuade Quixada to return to the life of knightly adventure that has brought real adventure and meaning into his own life, are amongst the most moving in literature. It seems that while Quixote's life is a comedy, his death is a great tragedy -- since with his passing, so passes enchantment, idealism and true nobility of spirit from the world. In this connection, a good question to pursue with young audiences or readers of this work might be: 'Most of the other characters in the story seem to regard Quixote as a fool or a madman: is this what the author thinks or wants us to believe?' There are some reasonable movie versions of Quixote (including one with Peter O'Toole and Sophia Loren) from which useful illustrative clips might be taken.

Don Quixote — Lesson Plan

Title: Don Quixote – Love and Service

Year Group 5/6

Curriculum links: Literacy, History

Learning Objectives

1. To understand what the virtues of love and service mean in the story of Don Quixote;
2. To accurately identify vocabulary which illustrate the virtues of love and service from the story of Don Quixote;
3. To demonstrate sustained attention to an extended narrative and answer relevant questions accurately;
4. To be able to accurately retrieve information from the narrative which illustrates an answer or point of view.

Learning Outcomes

1. To be able to identify and describe the virtues of love and service;
2. To begin to be able to relate the virtues of love and service to our own lives today.

Resources

Related Knightly Virtues resources, including the Virtues Toolkit, are available via www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources

Provided: Don Quixote narrative, Don Quixote Teacher's Notes, Don Quixote Resources for Pupils

Not Provided: Interactive White Board, Flipchart, Pens

Introduction (15mins)

Introduce/reaffirm the meaning of character and virtue (Knightly Virtues Introduction PowerPoint). Introduce the Knightly Virtues definitions of humility and honesty (Virtues Toolkit). Establish open space for pupil engagement principles.

The Story (30-35mins)

Read the story to pupils. Provide pupils with the opportunity to clarify understanding. Provide pupils with access to the Glossary for reference to character names and new vocabulary.

Activity (15-20mins)

Virtue in Focus: Love

Split the pupils into small groups. Ask them to write down three examples of where and how Don Quixote and Sancho show love and affection towards one another. You may wish the pupils to focus on the 'Farewell Good Knight' section.

Plenary (15mins)

Bring the group together to discuss the examples of love and friendship found within the story. Ask pupils why they think Sandro was so upset at the end of the story. Show and read the service virtue card (available in the Virtues Toolkit) and introduce the homework task.

Progression/Homework

Virtue in Focus: Service

Service task from the Virtues Toolkit found online at www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources