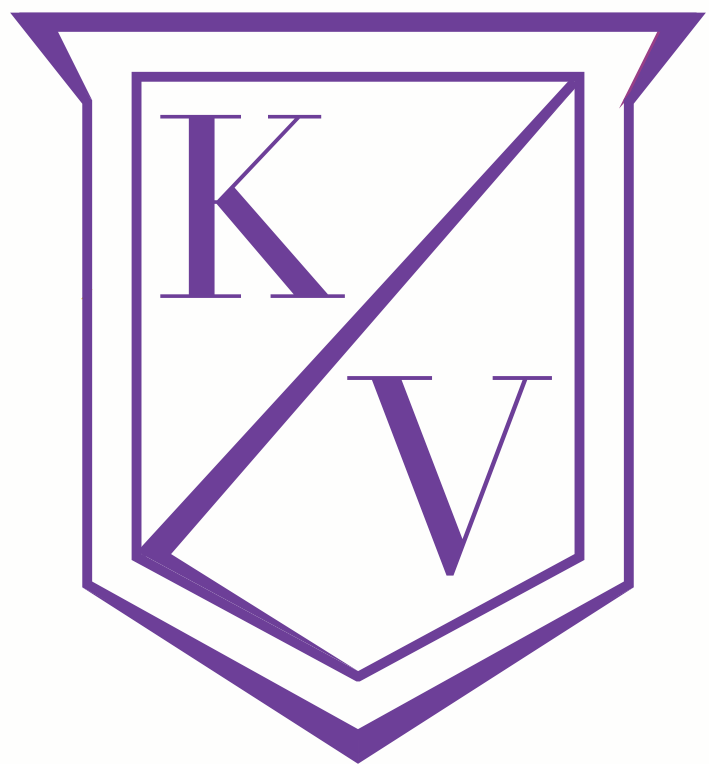


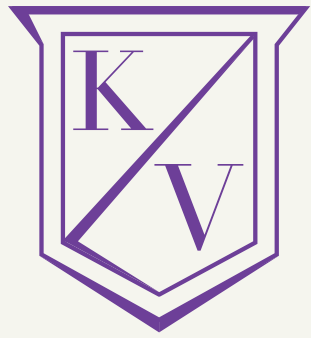
# Knightly Virtues



El Cid

Learning About the  
Virtues of Honesty and Humility

Heroes Who Inspire



# TEACHER'S NOTES

El Cid

## El Cid — 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 **honesty** and **humility**.

To accompany these **Teacher's Notes**, **El Cid – The Story**, and **El Cid – Resources for Pupils** are downloadable via the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues website ([www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://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
- **El Cid PowerPoint**
- **Other stories in the programme** including Gareth and Lynette, Don Quixote, Merchant of Venice, Robin Hood, Rosa Parks, Beowulf, Joan of Arc and Anne Frank

### Background Information for Teachers

This information is to supplement the El Cid PowerPoint which provides an introduction to the story, available online ([www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources))

El Cid was a real historical character, named Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, or Ruy Diaz. He was born in Burgos, in eleventh century Spain, and won the name of "Cid" (Arabic for lord or conqueror) by defeating five Moorish kings when much of Spain had been in the hands of invading North African Arabs for more than three centuries. The Moors gave him this name out of respect for an honourable and merciful adversary – although the Cid had firm friendships and alliances with many Spanish Moors. In terms of the present project, the key virtues of character that the Cid shows in the narrative are great courage, honour, personal integrity, mercy, tolerance and generosity. He shows great honour and personal integrity in demanding truth and justice from the squabbling Spanish kings; he is merciful to defeated Moors, tolerant of their different view and prepared for peaceful co-existence with them; and (like Don Quixote) he cares little for personal wealth and readily gives the spoils of war to his followers. Clearly, in the multi-cultural and multi-faith contexts of much present-day British schooling, a key point for emphasis here is that of the very positive social relations that Cid as a Christian knight strove hard to establish with the invading Muslim Moors at this point in Spanish history. On the one hand, Rodrigo is committed

to defending his homeland against invaders: but on the other hand, he is also respectful of their faith and seeks to live in peace and harmony with them if possible. In this spirit, he wins much Moorish admiration and many Muslim friends. However, another major theme in the Cid narrative -- which resonates deeply with the Gareth story -- is that Cid's knightly virtues of honour, courage and mercy follow from personal character rather than social status. Rodrigo Diaz is not especially high born (though he has the Spanish title 'Don' which is roughly equivalent to the English 'Sir' or 'knight' and is earned by deeds of chivalry) and is therefore looked down upon by many of the Spanish inherited nobility. In this respect, the narrative makes a point of contrasting the Cid's honourable and courageous conduct with the dishonourable and cowardly conduct of high-born nobles and (in particular) princes of royal blood. The point is pointedly made in the story that virtues are a matter of achievement not heredity. There is a reasonable film (starring Charlton Heston as Cid and Sophia Loren as Ximena), clips of which might be usefully used to illustrate the story. The final scenes in which the dead Cid is strapped on his horse to ride out of Valencia against the invading Moors might be a striking one to use in this connection.

# El Cid — Lesson Plan

**Title: El Cid –  
Honesty and Humility**

**Year Group 5/6**  
Curriculum links: Literacy, History

## **Learning Objectives**

1. To understand what the virtues of honesty and humility mean in the story of El Cid;
2. To accurately identify vocabulary which illustrate the virtues of honesty and humility from the story of El Cid;
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 honesty and humility;
2. To begin to be able to relate the virtues of honesty and humility to our own lives today.

## **Resources**

Related Knightly Virtues resources, including the Virtues Toolkit, are available via [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources)

**Provided:** El Cid narrative, El Cid Teacher's Notes, El Cid 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: Honesty

Ask pupils to work on their own and, with particular focus on the sections 'El Cid' and 'The Death of Sancho', to find examples of when El Cid demands honesty from those around him. There is space provided for them to write their answers. Pupils then pick out three virtues, in addition to honesty, that El Cid demonstrates in the story.

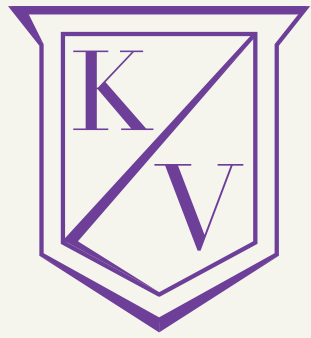
## **Plenary (15mins)**

Bring the group together to discuss the acts of honesty found within the story and invite them to share their suggestions for other virtues displayed and reasons for choosing them. Show and read the humility virtue card (available in the Virtues Toolkit) and introduce the homework task.

## **Progression/Homework** Virtue in Focus: Humility

Humility task from the Virtues Toolkit found online at [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources)

Heroes Who Inspire



# THE STORY



El Cid

Story retold by the Jubilee Centre for  
Character and Virtues



# El Cid — The Story



EL CID (Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar 1043-1099)

Imagine the scene. The newly crowned king of northern Spain is sitting in splendour receiving promises of loyalty from his subjects. This is King Alfonso, brother of Sancho and 4 other brothers and sisters.

This is a great moment for Alfonso. He had previously been robbed of his lands by his brother Sancho. Well now Sancho was dead and not only had Alfonso got his lands back, but he had also inherited Sancho's lands as well.

Suddenly the atmosphere changes. The next knight to come forward is El Cid, the friend and champion of his brother Sancho. El Cid was a great knight with an awesome reputation for his success and bravery in battle. El Cid's many acts of tolerance and forgiveness towards his enemies had already endeared him to the Spanish people.

El Cid kneels in front of Alfonso but instead of a vow of allegiance he asks a question.

"Did you kill your brother? Did you murder Sancho?"

When Alfonso and Sancho's father Ferdinand was alive, he was king of a large area of northern Spain. Ferdinand wanted his 6 children to live peaceably after his death, so he divided his kingdom between them. Sancho, Alfonso and their 2 brothers were each left large areas of land. Their 2 sisters were each left a city.

Ferdinand's hopes for peace and friendship amongst his children were short lived. Sancho was furious that he, the eldest son had not been left all of his father's kingdom and he decided to take it back, by force if necessary.

"I am my father's eldest son" boomed Sancho. "He should have left ALL of his kingdom to me. Why has he given lands to my brothers? I will have all of the kingdom. You must help me El Cid. My brothers and sisters must hand their lands to me or I will take them by force"

El Cid had grown up with Sancho. He had learnt his fighting skills on horseback and with the sword and lance alongside Sancho. El Cid had led many successful armies for Sancho and had achieved fame for his success in one to one combat as Sancho's champion. For all his love and respect for Sancho, El Cid was appalled at his greedy determination to rob his brothers and sisters of the land their father had given them.

Sancho went ahead anyway and El Cid had little choice but to help him.

Sancho stole all 3 of his brothers' lands and Alfonso escaped with his life and went to seek safety and sanctuary in Zamora which his sister Dona Urrace ruled.

Sickened by Sancho's conduct, El Cid tried to persuade him not to take Zamora by force.

"Sire this is your sister" counselled El Cid. "You surely cannot wish to harm her. You have taken the lands which your father gave to your 3 brothers. They are beaten and you now have a large kingdom. Is it not enough?"

Sancho refused to listen and his army went ahead and laid siege to Zamora, not allowing anyone in or out of the city and refusing to allow any food in.



## .....**The Death of Sancho**.....

El Cid pleaded with Sancho to be allowed to negotiate a surrender from Dona Urrace and Alfonso.

“Sire, let me go to your sister and plead with her to leave Zamorra peaceably and without bloodshed”

Sancho allowed El Cid to go and seek a surrender from his sister. It was agreed that a man representing Sancho’s sister Dona Urrace and Alfonso would come out and discuss her surrender to Sancho.

The plan backfired because the man sent out to speak with Sancho was an assassin and he stabbed and murdered him.

It seemed clear that Alfonso had played a part in his brother’s murder. El Cid was devastated by Sancho’s death and that is what gave him the courage to kneel before his new king and ask the shocking question “did you kill your brother?”

King Alfonso had little choice but to defend his honour. He stood in the church of Santa Gadea in Burgos and, with his hands on the altar, he swore not once but 3 times that he had played no part in the murder of his brother Sancho.

El Cid accepted King Alfonso’s word and swore his loyal service to him.

On the surface King Alfonso was friendly towards El Cid and gave him high office as Campeador - leader of the armed forces.

Privately Alfonso seethed with anger.

## .....**All Hail King Alfonso**.....

Alfonso had been deeply humiliated when El Cid asked him to swear his innocence and who knows, perhaps his conscience was troubled too.

In those days, the leaders of smaller and weaker lands were obliged to pay tributes (fines) to their stronger more powerful neighbours. Failure to pay led to threats of force. The King of Seville owed tributes to King Alfonso and here was an opportunity for Alfonso to get revenge. He sent El Cid and his men to Seville to collect the debt. El Cid did as instructed and he returned to court with the money owed to Alfonso.

But no, the tributes should have been greater. El Cid’s enemies whispered that he must have decided to steal some of the money for himself. This accusation went against the honest nature and integrity of El Cid but Alfonso used the false charge as an excuse to banish EL Cid from the kingdom. This was a harsh punishment.

El Cid had to leave his wife and 2 daughters behind as he went into exile with a group of loyal followers.

His banishment was received with great sorrow by the Spanish people who loved their great hero and champion.

In order to live, El Cid became a soldier of fortune, offering his services to one master and then to another. He was always successful as he led his men into battle after battle. El Cid added over and over to his reputation as a fearless knight who led his men with great courage and often showed compassion to his beaten enemies.

When King Alfonso had problems at home he sent for El Cid, and the loyal knight went to his King's aid, despite the way he had been treated. Alfonso's warm welcome didn't last and soon enough El Cid was banished again, this time with no money and his family in prison.

Disgraced and poor, El Cid had to earn money by offering his fighting skills where he could. He rescued the city of Valencia which was being starved into surrender by the Moors.

El Cid drove the Moors out of the city, restored peace and decided to make the city his home. He showed compassion and mercy to the beaten Moors and, after sending for his family, El Cid lived in Valencia for the rest of his life.

## ..... **After his death** .....

El Cid died in 1099 killed, it is said, by a poisoned arrow.

Just before he died El Cid gave a strange instruction to his wife and closest men. He knew that a Moorish army was preparing to attack Valencia and he wanted to lead his army one more time. The Moors gathered outside the city knew that El Cid was dying and they believed his men would be easier to beat without El Cid leading them.

El Cid died and in line with his last request, he was tied into the saddle of his favourite horse Babieca. His sword the Tizona was tied into his hand and he led his men one last time. The Moors were terrified when they saw El Cid and they retreated, chased away by El Cid's army.

El Cid was a real knight in 11th century Spain and he has earned his place in history. El Cid was a soldier, tough and brave. He was also a loyal servant of his King and a great leader of men. He lives on as a national hero in Spain.

## El Cid — Glossary

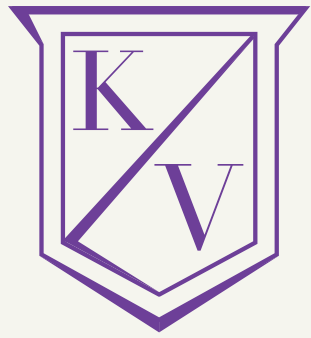
### Characters

El Cid	nobleman and military leader
King Alfonso	King of León and King of Castile
Sancho	Alfonso's brother
Donna Urrace	Alfonso's sister
Ferdinand	Alfonso's father
The Moors	Muslim of the Iberian Peninsula during the Middle Ages
Sword of Tizona	El Cid's weapon

### The Story

allegiance	the loyalty of a person or group to a cause, government or ruler
banishment	to be exiled or expelled from a country or region
counsel	formal advice
devastate	to cause great shock or grief
humiliate	to make some feel ashamed or foolish by insulting their pride
seethe	to be particularly angry
sicken	to make someone feel disgusted
swore something	to have made a solemn promise to do something or confirm

Heroes Who Inspire



# RESOURCES

— FOR PUPILS —

El Cid



## Activity 1

El Cid was an honest man, and displayed his honesty in different ways. He challenged those around him to show honesty, too.

- A** Working on your own, go through the story, with focus on the sections *El Cid* and *The Death of Sancho*, and describe how El Cid demands honesty from those around him. Is he successful?

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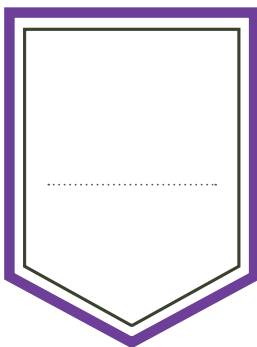
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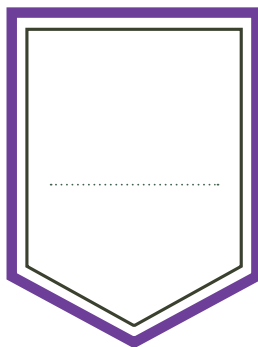
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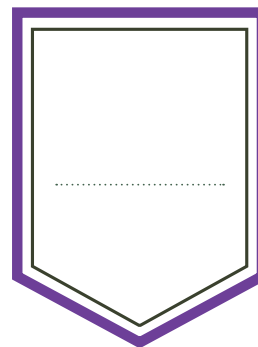
- B** What other virtues does El Cid show during the story? You may wish to refer to the Virtues Toolkit to refresh your memory on the virtues you have studied so far. Write three virtues El Cid shows in the boxes below.



A shield-shaped box with a purple border and a white interior. A horizontal dotted line is positioned near the bottom of the shield.



A shield-shaped box with a purple border and a white interior. A horizontal dotted line is positioned near the bottom of the shield.



A shield-shaped box with a purple border and a white interior. A horizontal dotted line is positioned near the bottom of the shield.

Virtue in Focus

Honesty



# The Knightly Virtues

## The Knightly Virtues Programme 8 virtues

**Humility** — To put the needs of others before your own, and be willing to take care of others as you take care of yourself.

**Honesty** — To be true to yourself and other people.

**Love** — To feel and to show great affection for another person or group of people.

**Service** — Working hard for a person, organisation or country. Helping other people.

**Courage** — Having the strength and will to know what you should do even though you may be afraid.

**Justice** — To have an understanding of what it is to uphold what is right.

**Self-discipline** — The ability to control yourself and be very organised.

**Gratitude** — To feel or to show appreciation for something that has been done for you.

## Other Virtues

**Mercy** — To show forgiveness to someone who has done wrong.

**Generosity** — To be kind and generous to those around you.

**Faith** — To stand strong in your ideals and beliefs.

**Nobility** — To be of impeccably strong moral mind or character.

**Hope** — To always keep a positive outlook on how your actions will improve your life and the lives of those around you.

**Strength** — To have the inner resolve to stand firm and not back down.

For more information about other Knightly Virtues resources please go to:  
[www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources)

For more information about the Knightly Virtues Research Report please go to:  
[www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtues](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtues)

