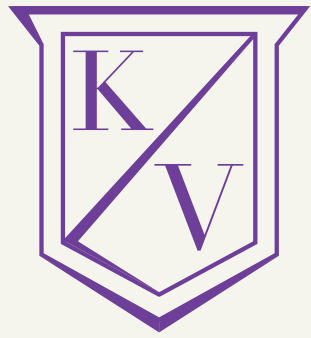


Heroes Who Inspire



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).

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)

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

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