

Literacy Skills Teacher's Guide for

Archer's Quest

by
Linda Sue Park

Book Information

Linda Sue Park, Archer's Quest

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167 Pages

Book Level: 4.6

Interest Level: MG

Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, return to his own time.

Topics: Countries/Regions, Korea, North and South; People, Royalty; Science Fiction, Time Travel

Main Characters

Ah-jee Kevin's grandfather

Ah-mee Kevin's grandmother

Archer a skillful archer who is the leader of an ancient Korean kingdom; also called Koh Chu-mong and Archie

Dad Kevin's dad, a computer programmer at the local college

Kevin a sixth-grade boy who has trouble sticking to most tasks

Mom Kevin's mom, who also works at the local college

Professor Lee a curator at a museum who is an expert on Korean history; a friend of Kevin's grandparents

Vocabulary

coincidence an accident or chance happening that seems to or could have been planned; a concurrence of events; a simultaneous happening of two unlike events

deceit the act of misleading others or causing others to believe something that is not true; the practice of lying or cheating; dishonesty

deemed held the opinion of; viewed or regarded as; thought or supposed to be; took for; judged or estimated; considered; held

heritage national or ethnic background; something passed down from previous generations; ancestral roots

logical sensible; following a consistent or reasonable order; making sense; intelligent; smart or wise

lunar of or relating to the Moon

modesty the state of being shy about one's accomplishments, talents, or beauty; the absence of bragging or arrogance; a humbleness in regard to one's self worth and importance; the quality of bashfulness

plaque a flat, thin slab of metal, clay, or similar hard material that can be decorated and used as an ornament or a memorial; an inscribed tablet that can be hung on a wall

sheer very steep; running straight up and down; vertical

vibrating moving back and forth, to and fro, or from side to side rapidly; shaking or quivering; throbbing

Synopsis

Sixth-grader Kevin, the grandson of Korean immigrants, is an ordinary kid who is bored by school, especially history class. He feels that he is very different from his father, a programmer at a local university who loves math and precision. Kevin is home alone in Dorchester, New York, when an arrow flies through the air, pinning his baseball cap to the wall. He is surprised to find in his bedroom a man claiming to be Koh Chu-mong, a very skillful archer and the leader of a Korean kingdom in the first century B.C. Koh Chu-mong tells Kevin to call him Archer, but Kevin always thinks of him as Archie. Archie claims to have fallen off the tiger he was riding and has somehow landed in Kevin's bedroom.

An exciting adventure ensues when Kevin attempts to find a way to return Archie to his own place and time. Several humorous incidents occur because of the clash between ancient and modern cultures. Archie is amazed and, at times, frightened by cars, telephones, the computer, lights, and even a bed.

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Hoping to get some help from his grandparents' friend Mr. Lee, Kevin takes Archie to the local museum, but he doesn't learn much there. A suspenseful trip to the zoo to see the tiger seems promising, but the tiger is from India, not Korea. As they walk around the city, Archie tells Kevin wonderful stories of Korean history and legend. Kevin uses all his powers of reasoning and deduction to come up with a final plan to get Archie back to his time and place. Dr. Lee, however, has followed them and attempts to take Archie back to the museum. Kevin intervenes and helps Archie return home with the help of a statue of a tiger and a handful of dirt.

During his time with Archie, Kevin learns more about his Korean ancestry, Chinese astrology, and how to make a real commitment to something. He discovers that ordinary people can do extraordinary deeds, and he also comes to appreciate his dad.

Open-Ended Questions

Use these open-ended questions as the basis for class discussions, student presentations, or extended writing assignments.

Literary Analysis

When Kevin wanted Archer to tell a story about himself, Kevin suggested Archer tell it in third person. What does this mean? How would it help Archer tell the story?

Telling a story in third person means telling it as though the narrator is a different person. Archer would be more comfortable telling the story because he would not be bragging about himself. It would be as if he were telling the story about someone else but with the knowledge of the one whom the story is about.

Inferential Comprehension

How was Mr. Lee's interest in Archer different from Kevin's?

At one point, Mr. Lee thought Archer might be a danger to Kevin and thought Archer needed professional help. When he realized Archer might actually be Koh Chu-mong, he wanted to question him about Korean history and treat him like some kind of museum exhibit. Kevin was interested in learning about Archer as a person and in returning him to where he belonged. He cared about Archer's well-being.

Teachable Skills

Understanding Hist./Cultural Factors

Understanding Historical and Cultural Factors

Understanding Characterization Understanding Characterization

Comparing and Contrasting Compare and Contrast

Understanding Literary Features Understanding Literary Features