

KEEPER OF THE CRYSTALS



Eve and the Runaway Unicorn

TEACHERS' NOTES TO ACCOMPANY
THE KEEPER OF THE CRYSTALS ACTIVITY BOOKLET



www.keeperofthecrystals.com.au



ACTIVITY 2 : MAKE YOUR OWN CRYSTALS

Warning: Make sure an adult is with you when you're handling hot water.

Borax {found with laundry detergent}

Water

Heatproof jars

Pencils

Cotton thread

Coloured pipe cleaners

In a pot or a large spouted container, dissolve 9 tbsp of Borax in 3 cups of very hot water. Boil the water in a kettle first to make sure it's hot enough to dissolve the Borax. Stir your solution very well until the Borax has completely dissolved. This can take a few minutes. When your solution is crystal clear, you're good to go.

Next, pour your Borax and water solution into your glass jars.

Shape your pipe cleaner into the shape you want your crystal to be.

Now you need to suspend your pipe cleaners freely in the solution. You can do this by hanging the pipe cleaner from a pencil balanced in the rim of the jar with the cotton thread.

Now, you just have to wait for a bit. Set your jar in a safe place where the solution can cool. By the next morning you should see your crystals starting to form.

ACTIVITY 3

CURRICULUM TOPICS

English: Reading, Writing, Talking, Listening, Researching, Presenting

Mathematics: Mapping

Creative and Performing Arts: Drawing, Painting, Design

PDHPE: Interpersonal Relationships, Physically Active

THEMES

Family, loyalty, friendship, resilience, physical strength, animal conservation, environment, conflict.

ACTIVITIES

Family and Community

- In *Eve and the Runaway Unicorn* Eve feels abandoned by her own mother and father but finds a sense of community with Callie's family and her village.
 - * What does community mean to you?
 - * Write a piece about your own community and how they can be like an extended family.
- Eve and Oscar have a fiery relationship. Over the course of the story they grow to trust and understand each other better. By the end of the book they are friends.
 - * Have students draw up a character chart and illustrate the similarities and differences between Eve and Oscar.
- At the end of the book we are led to believe that Eve's Gran knows more about the power of the crystal than she lets on.
 - * Discuss how the portrayal of Gran changes from the beginning of the story to the end. Are your assumptions about old people challenged?

Visual Literacy

- Study the cover of *Eve and the Runaway Unicorn*.
 - ★ What does the cover tell us about the narrative contained inside? Design a new cover for the book and prepare a pitch for why it is a better cover.
- Before we could use writing, stories were drawn in order to preserve them.
 - ★ Have students create a pictography of the narrative for *Eve and the Runaway Unicorn*.

Physical and Mental Fitness

- There are several points in the story when both Eve and Oscar's resilience is tested both physically and mentally.
 - ★ Find examples in the story of when characters are tested physically and mentally.
 - ★ Choose an example from your own life when you have been tested physically. And emotionally.

Fantasy

- Unicorns are a mythical animal said to represent purity and power.
 - ★ The unicorn is a central character in the book but only appears fleetingly at the start of the story and then towards the end of the book. Why do you think the writer did this?
 - ★ What does the unicorn represent in the story?

Series Writing

- If you were to write the next book in the *Keeper of the Crystals* series, what would the story be about?

Mapping

- Draw a map representing the world of Panthor, include the Borderlands, Lakes of Trapor, the wall and the tower.

Exploring Conflict

- ★ Which characters are in conflict in the book?
- ★ How do Oscar and Eve resolve their differences?
- ★ List four ways to effectively resolve conflict.

The Environment

- Trapor was once a world of lush vegetation. Once the king controlled the water supply, he controlled the people and the animals.
 - ★ Do you think we take fresh water for granted?
 - ★ Research how nomadic populations live in deserts with limited access to water.

ACTIVITY 4: RIDDLES

One where none should be,
or maybe where two should be,
seeking out purity,
in the king's trees.

What am I?

Answer: A Unicorn

What do unicorns have that no other creature has?

Answer: Baby Unicorns (Narwals have a single horn, so the answer can't be "horn")

Eve came across a panther and a unicorn in a forest of forgetfulness. Those two are strange beings. The panther lies every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and the other days he speaks the truth. The unicorn lies on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, however the other days of the week he speaks the truth.

Panther: Yesterday I was lying.

Unicorn: So was I.

On which day did they say that?

Answer: Wednesday

ACTIVITY 5: UNSCAMBLE THE WORDS

1. CRUNONI _____ Unicorn
2. SROAC _____ Oscar
3. HAPTORN _____ Panther
4. AROPRT _____ Trapor
5. DNESARBLDOR _____ Borderlands
6. DANOSM _____ Nomads
7. SRDETE _____ Desert
8. EHAHCET _____ Cheetah
9. SYATCLSR _____ Crystals
10. HTNEPAR _____ Panther
11. BDII _____ Ibid
12. WORET _____ Tower
13. LICLEA _____ Callie
14. RSWOC _____ Crows
15. OHURTEESE _____ Treehouse
16. EGLUNJ _____ Jungle