Prereading: Cultural Background

In this fable, Rorik has inherited a magical sword from his deceased father. His late father's friend, Urik, plans to help Rorik on his first quest, which will be his initiation into manhood. A sandgorgon is a fictitious horrible creature.

Before Students Read: Writing

Ask your students to answer the questions on the Student's Page (Part A) and to share their answers with another student. Then ask for volunteers to share their answers with the whole class. This activity takes advantage of your students' prior knowledge of the story's central issues, which in turn will aid their reading comprehension.

Grammar Review (on Student's Page)

Suffixes, or word endings, are of two kinds. Inflectional suffixes have grammatical meaning, but do not change the root word's part of speech. For example, the verb talk can be changed to talks (third-person singular, present tense), talking (continuous tense), and talked (past tense). The noun country can be changed to countries (plural) or country's (possessive). Derivational suffixes change the meaning and often the part of speech. For example, care (noun or verb) can be changed to careful (adjective), carefully (adverb), carefulness (noun), or careless (adjective). Other important suffixes include: -able (as in a teachable student), -ish (as in a brownish color), -ous (as in a famous artist), and -ary (as in a customary greeting). These suffixes change words into adjectives.

After Students Read

Ask your students to interview an adult about an important event that led him or her to manhood or womanhood. Then ask students to write about this task or event. As in the story, ask your students to describe carefully each of the important characters of the event.

For Conversation

Here is one question to start a class discussion:

1. Rorik's temperament is not suited to the manly display of swordsmanship or hunting, yet his culture and family traditions demand it of him, under threat of ostracism. Have circumstances of your birth required that you, too, embrace traditions, ceremonies, lifestyles, or values that are foreign to your spirit? If so, do you “play along,” as Rorik does, to maintain the peace? Or do you protest and rebel? Is it conceivable that the resisted requirement will eventually grow on you, or even become familiar and desirable (like a successful arranged marriage)? Write a short essay, factual or fictional, expressing your feelings and experiences about going through something you wanted no part of.
**Test of Manhood** (p. 43)

Name _____________________________    Date _____________

**Part A: Before You Read**

Write answers to the following questions. Continue on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

1. What kind of events do you feel help make a boy become a man or a girl a woman? _____________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. How do you think these events were different for boys and girls who lived a thousand years ago? ______________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

**Part B: Grammar Review**

**Suffixes**, or word endings, can change the meaning of a word and often its part of speech. For example, *care* (noun or verb) can be changed to *careful* (adjective), *carefully* (adverb), *carefulness* (noun), or *careless* (adjective).

Other important suffixes include -able (as in *teachable* student), -ish (as in *brownish* color), -ous (as in *famous* artist), and -ary (as in *customary* greeting), which change words into adjectives, and -er and -tion, which change words into nouns.

**Directions:** Find the main word and the suffix to these words from the story. Try to identify the main word’s part of speech.

**Example:** civilization = civilize + tion    Part of speech of main word: verb

1. believer = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

2. magical = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

3. ornamental = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

4. careless = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

5. purposefully = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

6. circular = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

7. feelingless = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

8. departure = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

9. belongings = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________

10. commendable = __________________ + __________________    Part of speech: _______________
Test of Manhood (p. 43)

Name _____________________________    Date _____________

Part C: Vocabulary

Based on the way each word below is used in the story, write what you think the word means. Then look up the same word in your dictionary and copy the definition that comes closest to the way the word is used in the story. Finally, write a sentence of your own using the word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

Example: convey (p. 44)

A. Your definition: give

B. Dictionary definition: carry from one area to another

C. Your new sentence: At the funeral I conveyed my sympathies to her family.

1. managed (p. 43)

2. advanced (p. 43)

3. projected (p. 44)

4. tradition (p. 45)

5. ornamental (p. 45)

6. scratches (p. 45)

7. treated (p. 45)

8. incredible (p. 46)

9. jealous (p. 46)

10. procrastinate (p. 51)

Part D: Reading Check

After reviewing the story, please answer the following questions:

1. How old is Rorik? ________________________________________________________________

2. How old is Urik? ________________________________________________________________

3. What is the goal of Rorik’s first quest or task? ______________________________________

4. Who kills the sandgorgon of Eagle Peak? ____________________________________________