

Preparing for the Socratic Circle

Recall your experiences in the previous Socratic Circle and remember how having solid, thorough prep can help build confidence when it comes to sharing ideas out loud. Take this time to develop some detailed, thorough responses in prep for the next Circle, on Monday.

Please write **Socratic Circle 2** at the top of your prep notes.

In your comp book, prepare your notes about **at least two** of the following ideas (you can do more, if you like):

1. **Descriptive Writing:** How does Lloyd Alexander do it?? As we have read the book, he has used words to create clear, vivid images in our heads. How does he use descriptive writing to do this?

Choose a descriptive passage from the book that we have not already explored in Exploding Paragraphs.

Identify:

- The page number
- Where on the page is the text? (What words does the paragraph start with?)
- Deconstruct (pull apart) the language and write about how he uses the following to create clear images with words:
 - Precise word choice (the verbs, adjectives, and adverbs)
 - Literary devices: things like alliteration, onomatopoeia, simile, repetition, image-building, personification
 - Structure: how does the image develop? Why does he shape it that way?

2. **Character Development:** how does the character of Taran (or another character of your choice) **change** over the course of the story?

Identify:

- What was he (or the other character) like when we first met him? What evidence from the text can you use to show this?
- What is he (or they) like now? What evidence from the text can you use to show this?
- How did the change occur? What has happened in the story that caused this change or these changes?

3. **The Wisdom of Medwyn:** Medwyn offers a lot of wisdom to Taran and his companions in chapters 13 and 14.

Look back through his dialogue and choose a piece of advice that Medwyn offers (such as the story of the lame ant in chapter 13, or what he says to Taran about Gurgi on pages 119-120, or “Every living thing deserves our respect, be it humble or proud, ugly or beautiful” [p. 119]) and write about what this advice means and how *we* might use it in our own lives, in and out of school.

4. **Action:** there have been a lot of action scenes in chapters 9-14. Choose one action scene and do the following:

Identify:

- The page number
- Where on the page is the text? (What does the paragraph start with?)
- How does he shape the language, sentences, and paragraphs to help make the action clear in our imaginations as we read?

Challenge yourself to be thorough and detailed in your preparation.