

“The Legendary King”

Resource Title: Was This a Good Choice?

Resource Summary: Students will become acquainted with Lester’s life on San Miguel Island as depicted in the tale, “The Legendary Kind,” and then write a persuasive essay where they argue for or against Herbert Lester’s choice to build a life there. Students will decide their position, then support it with evidence.

Subject Areas: Language Arts, History

Grade Level Range: 4-6

Standards:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1](#)

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.7](#)

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.9](#)

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1](#)

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.7](#)

Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.9](#)

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.1](#)

Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.7](#)

Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.9](#)

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Resource Provided By: Brendan Fereday, 6th grade teacher, McKinley Elementary, Santa Barbara Unified School District

Resource Details:

Phase I: Develop student understanding of the Channel Islands, the Lester family, and their life on San Miguel.

- Vocabulary Sort: Begin by allowing students to cut out the vocabulary words and the definitions, then sort them, without gluing, on a piece of paper.
- Character Sort: Split students into groups and task them with cutting out the pictures of the characters and the names, then task them with sorting them all the best they can. Each character has multiple pictures. As they are cutting, distribute a piece of construction paper or anything else that could serve as a poster. Have them arrange the pictures and names on the poster as best as they can.
- *Both these sorts lend themselves towards student comprehension of the tale. They may have difficulty keeping track of the people and developments in the story without prior information or a way to keep track of names and relationships, which is what these two activities try to establish.
- Before showing the tale, display the map of the Channel Islands in the resource section so students have some geographic awareness of where this is taking place.
- Have students sit in their groups with their poster and individual vocabulary sorted in front of them. As they watch the tale, “The Legendary King,” allow them to modify their sorts. At the film’s conclusion, give them additional time to talk with their groups, modify their choices, then glue them down.
- Next, task groups with coming up with three characteristics or pieces of information for each character, to write below their pictures and names, followed by connecting them with labeled lines to illustrate their relationship (for example, a line between Herbert and Elizabeth Sherman labeled, “married”).
- Allow students to share their work with the class or merely have a discussion around the relationships so students have an accurate understanding.

Phase II: Identifying problems and questions

- This is a nuanced issue that affords students multiple viewpoints to consider from.
- Find a way to identify and record student questions. In a 1:1 classroom, use a question asking or polling app for students to submit their questions. This can also be done whole group while recording on the board.
- After you have assembled a class bank of questions, ask the question, “Was this a good way to grow up?” or “Was Herbert Lester’s choice to live on San Miguel

and raise his family there a good choice?" The complexity of this issue allows students to develop their own opinion. This prepares them for the persuasive essay.

- Some of the embedded issues:
 - The girls grew up without any other children, yet Betsy Lester says she "wouldn't have traded her nine years [on the island] for anything else." Is this a good way for children to grow up?
 - Herbert seemed happy with his life on the island, yet took his own life. Would this have still happened if he had lived around other people?
 - The Lester's lived on the island for many years, but then the Navy put young men on the island and said they were going to make the Lester's move. Even though they owned the island, was this right (or just) for the Navy to do?
 - Why would Robert Brooks require Herbert Lester to get married before he lived on San Miguel?
- This conversation is meant to expose the diverse positions a student can take in understanding the Lester's lives on San Miguel.

Phase III: Compare and Contrast

- Explore the stories: Robinson Crusoe, the Swiss Family Robinson, and the real story of Sealand.
- With the Chalk Talk thinking routine, group presentations, or whole class discussion, bring out the commonalities and differences in each case. Compare these experiences with the Lester's experiences with the purpose.

Phase IV: Persuasive Essay

- Students will write a persuasive essay that makes an argument for or against the Lester's choice to live on San Miguel.
- Student prompt is located in the resource section.

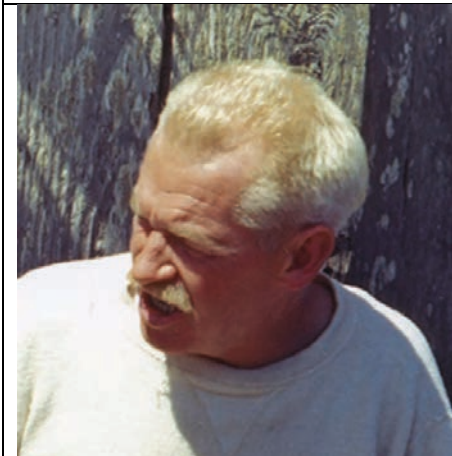
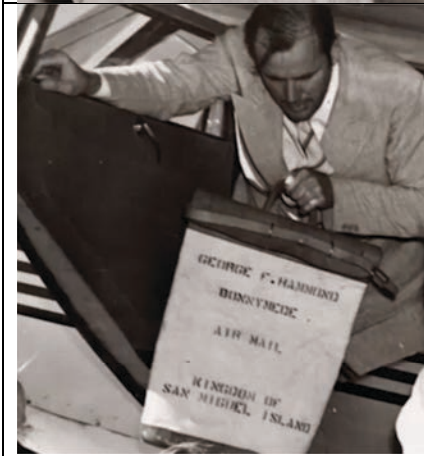
Additional Resources:



Vocabulary Sort

Venture	A person's behavior or manners
Capable	A device for stopping the flow of blood through a vein or artery, typically by putting pressure on a body part with a cord or tight bandage
Kerosene lamp	Having a broken, rocky, and uneven surface
Rugged	A pilot
Flare	Kicking someone off or out of a property
Debutante	A risky or daring journey
Department	A signal from a ship, aircraft, or person in danger
Posterior	A sudden brief burst of bright flame or light.
Tourniquet	The hind or rear end
Distress signal	Able to achieve efficiently whatever one has to do
Aviator	A type of lighting device that uses kerosene as fuel
Eviction	An upper-class young woman making her first appearance in fashionable society.

Character Sort





Betsy Lester Roberti	George Hammond	Herbert "Herby" Lester
Elizabeth Sherman	Robert "Bob" Brooks	

Student Persuasive Essay Prompt

After watching and learning about “The Legendary King,” do you think Herbert Lester made a good decision to live on San Miguel Island? You will write an essay that explains what you think. Think about the lives of his daughters, wife, and his own life, and then decide whether you think this was a good or a bad decision. Think back to our class discussions.

- Include three pieces of evidence that support your claim.
- Break your essay up into an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs (one for each reason), and then a concluding paragraph.

Additional Resources

Sealand

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150414-i-rule-my-own-ocean-micronation>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99uvmq2P7kU>

Robinson Crusoe Abridged

http://www.kidsgen.com/stories/classic_stories/robinson_crusoe.htm