



Lydia

the Warrior Princess

Discussion Questions & Activities

1. What are some of the values and qualities that Lydia demonstrates throughout the story?

Here are some hints:

Courage
Strength
Loyalty

Respect for parents
Determination
Perseverance

Compassion
Gentleness

- a) How does Lydia demonstrate them?
 - b) Can you think of times when you applied them in your life?
2. What would have happened if Lydia hadn't listened to her parents and refused to play the harp?
 3. How does the experience of learning the harp help Lydia to become more broadminded?
 4. Why do you think music and compassion were such powerful forces in destroying the ancient monster?
 5. Can you think of a time when you solved a problem by being gentle and kind?





Learn More

I. Medieval Knights

Did you Know?

During the Middle Ages in Europe, many of the elite warriors were known as knights. These warriors not only trained hard to develop strength and battle skills but the most respected knights also sang, played musical instruments, and recited poetry. Knights were also required to have good manners and follow the code of chivalry, which included values such as courage, honour, generosity, faith, and loyalty.

Research Project – Learn about medieval knights

1. What were the requirements to become a knight?
2. What weapons and armour did knights use?
3. What were jousting and tournaments and how did they help prepare the knights for battle?
4. Why was it important for knights to learn more than battle skills? How did that make them better warriors and better individuals as a whole?

Useful Resources to Reference:

[Medieval Knight -World History Encyclopedia](#)

[Medieval Knights Facts for Kids Medieval Knights Facts for Kids \(historyforkids.org\)](#)





II. Female warriors

Did you Know?

Most warriors in history were male, but there were some outstanding female warriors as well. One of the most famous European heroines, Joan of Arc lived in 15th-century France, and she was only a teenager when she helped King Charles VII of France defeat the English and gain his throne.

Many centuries before Joan of Arc, the ancient Chinese heroine Mulan went to war to protect her elderly father, and came back victorious after 12 years of fighting. The best-known version of her story, the Ballad of Mulan, was written during the Northern Wei Dynasty (between the fourth and sixth centuries).

Joan of Arc and Mulan were not only extraordinary military figures but they were also remarkable because they fought for a higher cause. Joan of Arc led the French king to victory because of her faith in God. Mulan went to war to save her ailing father and ended up protecting her country. Both heroines left deep impressions on people's minds through their courage, determination, and faith.

Research Project – Learn about female warriors

1. Why were Joan of Arc and Mulan extraordinary figures?
2. What were their greatest achievements?
3. Why do you think we still remember them today?
4. What lessons can we learn from them?


Useful Resources to Reference:

[Mulan and Joan of Arc: Shen Yun Performing Arts | Famous Parallel Figures 3/10: Mulan and Joan of Arc](#)

[Joan of Arc: Joan of Arc: Facts, Passion, Death & Sainthood](#)

[Joan of Arc – World History Encyclopedia](#)

[Mulan \(includes the Ballad of Mulan\): Shen Yun Performing Arts | Mulan – Shen Yun Stories From Chinese History](#)





III. The Power of Music and Compassion

Did you Know?

In myths, stories, and legends throughout history, music has had the power to tame wild beasts and help heroes overcome challenges. One famous example is the Greek myth of Orpheus, a young man whose beautiful music subdued both earthly and otherworldly creatures.

Orpheus went through many adventures that proved his worth, but one of the most famous was his journey to the Underworld (the world of the dead) to bring back to life his beloved wife Eurydice, who had been killed by a snake's bite.

In the story, Orpheus's music is so beautiful that he even softens the hardened heart of Hades, the lord of the Underworld. The latter agrees to release Eurydice back to the world of the living under one condition: that Orpheus does not look back to see whether she is following him.

Keen to reunite with her, Orpheus looks back at the last moment and ends up losing his beloved Eurydice. Despite this failed test, Orpheus's ability to bring beauty to hardened hearts through music has become legendary, inspiring people for countless generations.

Research Project – Learn about the power of music and compassion

1. Why do you think beautiful music is so powerful that it could potentially tame wild beasts (as in the case of Orpheus) or destroy evil monsters (as in Lydia the Warrior Princess)?
2. Have you ever experienced being angry and agitated and then calmed down after listening to beautiful, gentle music?
3. When are gentleness and kindness more powerful than physical strength? Have you experienced this yourself or seen someone else experience it?
4. Why do you think the story of Orpheus still lives on, thousands of years since it was first told?

Useful Resources to Reference:

[Myth of Orpheus and Eurydice – Greek Myths | Greeka](#)

[Orpheus – World History Encyclopedia](#)

