

Teacher Guide

"The Lady or the Tiger?" by Frank R. Stockton

Suggested Lesson Procedure: ~ 85 Minutes

1) Before Reading Activity (~10 minutes)

- Have students complete the "Word Pair Predictions" activity. In this exercise, students will pair together provided words and make connections.

2) Vocabulary (~15 minutes)

- Teach students the vocabulary words using the Vocabulary PowerPoint.
- Students should copy down the words and definitions into their vocabulary chart/graphic organizer.

3) Reading the Story (~20 minutes)

- Read "The Lady or the Tiger?" together as a class or have students read independently.

4) Comprehension Questions (~15 minutes)

- Students will answer the basic comprehension questions individually to check for understanding.

5) After Reading Discussion Questions (~15 minutes)

- Place students in pairs or small groups to work through the after-reading analysis questions.

6) "Second Chances" Activity (~10 minutes)

- Students complete the *Second Chances* activity.
- In this extension, they imagine an alternate decision made by the princess and discuss how the story might change if a second chance were given.

Name:

The Lady or the Tiger? Vocabulary

Vocab Word	Part of Speech	Synonyms	Definition
Barbaric	adjective		
Exuberant	adjective		
Untrammelled	adjective		
Genial	adjective		
Valor	noun		
Impartial	adjective		
Allegiance	noun		
Retribution	noun		
Tribunal	noun		
Imperious	adjective		

Name:

Date:

Before Reading

Directions: Look at the box of 11 words. Choose 10 of them and make 5 pairs that go together because they are similar, opposites, or connected. One word will be left out. Write 1–2 sentences for each pair explaining why you matched them.

power	beauty	princess	justice	beast	love
king	romance	jealousy	marriage	fate	

Paired Words

Explanation

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What type of ruler is the king?

2. How is the king's arena different from the Roman arenas it was modeled after?

3. What determines the fate of the accused person in the arena?

4. What happens if the accused opens the door with the tiger?

5. What happens if the accused opens the door with the lady?

6. Why is the king so interested in his daughter's love affair?

7. What happens to the princess's lover once the king discovers their relationship?

8. Why does the princess hate the lady behind the door?

9. In what way does the king's theatrical trial shift responsibility away from himself?

10. Which door do you think the princess told her lover to choose, and why do you think that?

After Reading Analysis

1. What big life lesson, or universal theme, do you think this story teaches?

2. How would you describe the mood in the arena on trial day?

3. What is the author's tone toward the king's system of justice?

4. Identify one example of figurative language and explain its meaning.

5. How does the author create suspense leading up to the lover opening the door?

6. Would you consider the king to be a good ruler? Why or why not?

7. If you were the princess, which door would you have told your lover to choose? Why?

8. Describe a situation where you struggled between following your emotions and following your logic. How did you make your decision?

Second Chances

Think about the story “The Lady or the Tiger.” Imagine the princess had made a different choice earlier in the story. Talk with a partner and write a short response (5-9 sentences) explaining:

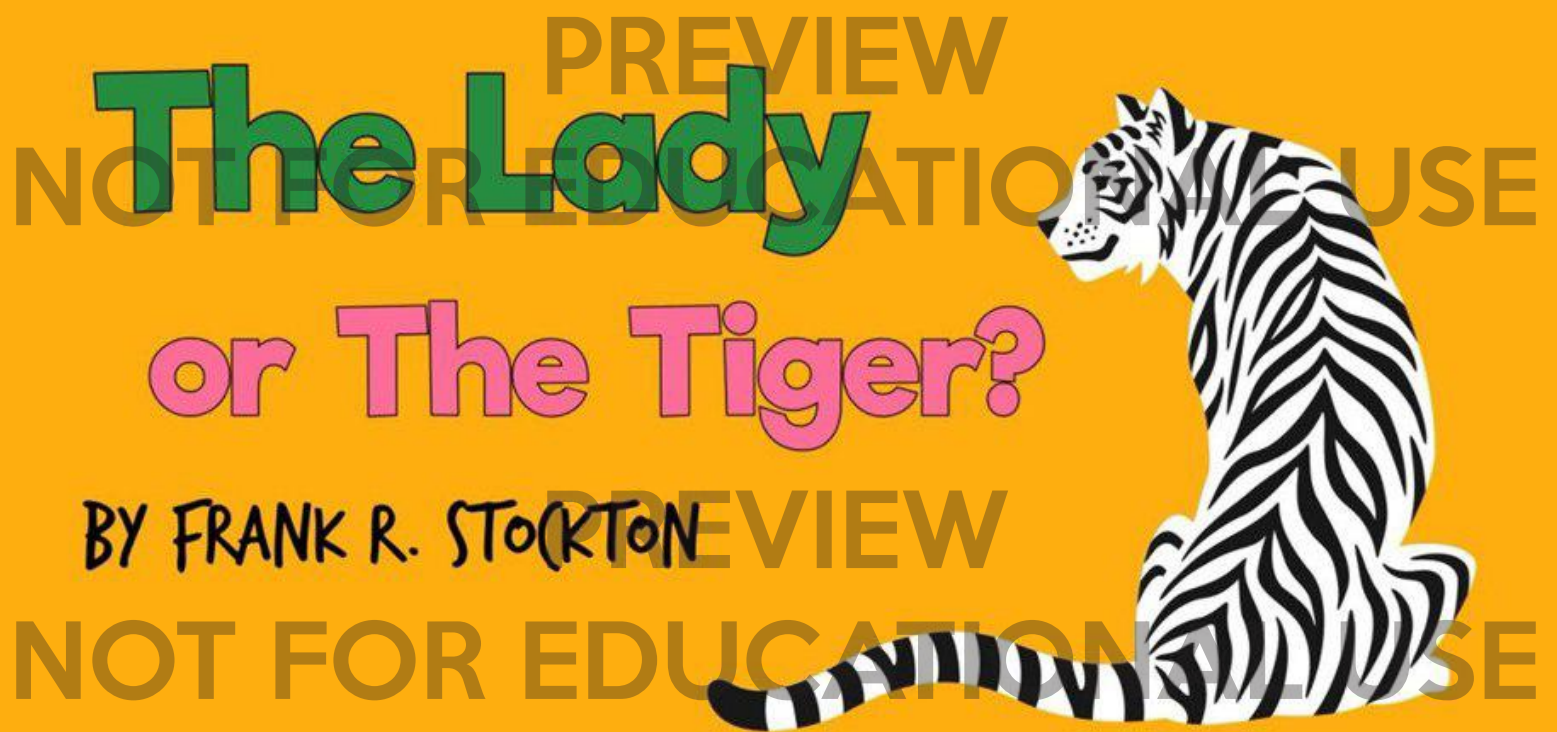
- What different decision she could have made
- How that decision might have changed the events or the ending of the story
- Share at least two specific ways the story would be different

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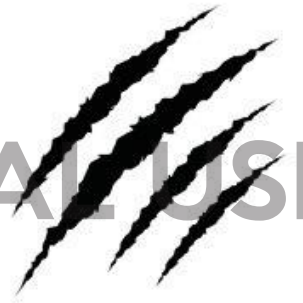
Barbaric PREVIEW

Adjective

Meaning: Uncivilized, wild, or cruel

Synonyms: brutal, uncultured

Sentence: The king's punishments seemed barbaric to the people from more modern lands.



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Exuberant

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Adjective



Meaning: Very full of energy, excitement, or joy

Synonyms: lively, enthusiastic

Sentence: The crowd gave an exuberant cheer when the wedding bells rang.

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Untrammeled

Adjective

Meaning: Not restricted; free to act without limits

Synonyms: unrestricted, uncontrolled

Sentence: The king ruled in an untrammeled way, doing whatever he pleased.



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Genial

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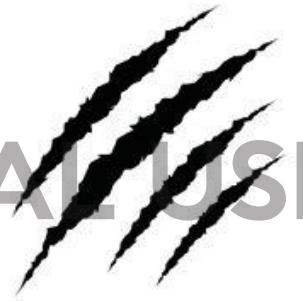
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Adjective

Meaning: Cheerful, kind, and friendly

Synonyms: warm, pleasant

Sentence: When the teacher was in a genial mood, the students were not afraid of him.



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Valor

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Noun



Meaning: Great courage in the face of danger

Synonyms: bravery, heroism

Sentence: The gladiators showed valor by fighting fearlessly in the arena.

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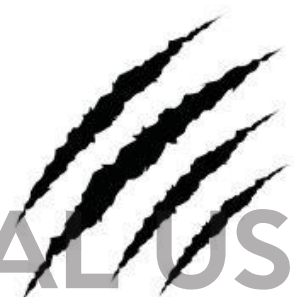
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Impartial

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Adjective



Meaning: Treating everyone fairly; not favoring one side

Synonyms: unbiased, neutral

Sentence: The referee tried hard to be impartial and not favor either team.

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Allegiance

Noun

Meaning: Loyalty or commitment to a person, group, or cause

Synonyms: devotion, faithfulness

Sentence: FBI demands its employees promise allegiance to the bureau and swear to defend the Constitution of the United States.



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Retribution

Noun

Meaning: Punishment for a wrong or crime

Synonyms: payback, revenge

Sentence: The court ordered the thief to return the stolen goods as retribution.



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Tribunal

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Noun

Meaning: A court of justice or place where decisions are made

Synonyms: council, panel

Sentence: The king's arena acted as a tribunal where guilt or innocence was decided.

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Imperious

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Adjective



Meaning: Acting as if you are in charge; bossy

Synonyms: commanding, domineering

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Sentence: The imperious queen waved her hand, expecting her subjects to immediately kneel.

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