

## Teacher Guide

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

# PREVIEW

**Suggested Lesson Procedure: ~ 85 Minutes**

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### **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.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Lady or the Tiger? Vocabulary*

Vocab Word	Part of Speech	Synonyms	Definition
Barbaric	adjective		<b>PREVIEW</b>
Exuberant	adjective		<b>NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE</b>
Untrammeled	adjective		
Genial	adjective	<b>PREVIEW</b>	
Valor	noun	<b>NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE</b>	
Impartial	adjective		
Allegiance	noun	<b>PREVIEW</b>	
Retribution	noun	<b>NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE</b>	
Tribunal	noun		
Imperious	adjective	<b>PREVIEW</b>	
		<b>NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE</b>	

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.

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power      beauty      princess      justice      beast      love  
king      romance      jealousy      marriage      fate

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**Paired Words**

**Explanation**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What type of ruler is the king?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*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

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Meaning: Uncivilized, wild, or cruel

Synonyms: brutal, uncultured

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

# PREVIEW

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## Exuberant Adjective PREVIEW NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



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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**Untrammelled** PREVIEW  
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Adjective Meaning: Not restricted; free to act without limits

Synonyms: unrestricted, uncontrolled

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

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## **Genial**      PREVIEW

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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**

Noun

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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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## **Impartial** PREVIEW

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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.

# PREVIEW

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## Allegiance PREVIEW NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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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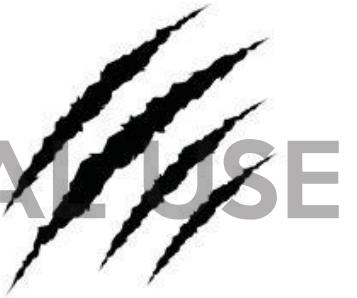
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## Retribution

Noun

# PREVIEW

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Meaning: Punishment for a wrong or crime

Synonyms: payback, revenge

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

# PREVIEW

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## **Tribunal** PREVIEW NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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 PREVIEW **NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE**

Adjective



Meaning: Acting as if you are in charge; bossy

Synonyms: commanding, domineering

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

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