



Next morning, the young Prince awoke **resolutely**.

“We shall begin now,” he said. “First of all, I need a couple of ox-carts from the stable.”

“Ox-carts, Your Highness,” echoed the merchant. “Whatever for?”

“My friend, you must help me drag all the weapons down from the **Armoury**. We shall melt them in the blacksmith’s forge, and build a Royal Road instead.”

“Of course!” cried the merchant, thinking of his distant wife. “A road! A great gleaming road winding down the mountain side.”

“And on to Valerdia!” said the Prince.

So much armour and weaponry did they melt down that there was enough copper for hundreds of cooking pots, platters and bowls. There was enough for a cast-iron **cauldron**, a pair of brass **candelabras**, and a set of silverware for each household. There was enough for the church **steeple** and a new set of church bells. Soon every house had been fitted with lead-latticed window frames, copper roofs, and elegant **brass shutters**. At night, the Citadel twinkled like a star on the mountain peak. But the deadly mountain of arms had not all been melted down.

One by one, the townspeople drifted back up the new mountain road in search of their old homes. A few of them were citizens of Valerdia who had intended to **loot** the burnt-out enemy Citadel; instead, they stayed to help rebuild the town.

Rolling up their sleeves, they set to work beside the **frail** young Prince. They marveled at the sight of him patiently dragging **rubble** from the **gutted houses**. They watched him soil his delicate fingers packing fresh **mortar** between the stones.

Before long, a few of the strangers discovered they had distant relatives in Montsuelo that they had never met before. The two Kingdoms had been enemies for so long now, it seemed they had always been so.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Northern Isle of Dreams story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (**resolutely**) having firmly made up his mind; with determination
2. _____
small metal doors that cover window panes
3. _____
a place where weapons are kept
4. _____
a tower on top of a church
5. _____
broken stones and bricks
6. _____
an ornamental lamp with several candlesticks
7. _____
not strong; delicate
8. _____
a deep cooking pot
9. _____
burnt-out, destroyed houses
10. _____
a kind of cement
11. _____
to rob, steal

Northern Isle of Dreams



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 21

- a. Do you think it's a good idea to build a Royal Road?
- b. Why does the Prince want to reach Valerdia?
- c. Why do the citizens of Valerdia help rebuild the enemy Citadel of Montsuelo?
- d. Mont means Mountain; Val means Valley. Can you guess the meaning of Suelo and Erde? Hint: *The first word is Spanish; the second word is German*



Can you draw a picture of the townspeople rebuilding the Citadel of Montsuelo?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





But everyone who traveled the Royal Mountain Road agreed that it was marvelously **engineered**. It stretched from the Citadel of Montsuelo, through rock and forest, to the sandy **shores** of the Valerdian Sea.

And so, of course, it brought all sorts of curious visitors to the mountain top, so the **inns** re-opened their doors to welcome them.

Cattle and horses were brought back to their barns and stables. Workshops began to hum with activity again. The miller, the baker, and the dairyman returned to their trades.

Farmers once again drove their carts, loaded with vegetables and eggs, to the marketplace. And the merchant, as soon as he could get away, **hastened** down the Royal Road in search of his wife.

“Dearest, how long you have been away,” she cried. “I had almost given up all hope of your return.”

“I have traveled many days and nights,” sighed the merchant, “and yet I was not far.”

“But you return on foot! Where have you left your **splendid** carriage?”

“I believe it is somewhere on the Northern Isle,” he said. “It soon shall be **repaired** as good as new.”





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Northern Isle of Dreams story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. **(engineered)** planned, designed and built
2. _____
fixed, mended
3. _____
a hotel; a place to stay overnight
4. _____
coastline, edge of the sea
5. _____
hurried
6. _____
beautiful, wonderful



Northern Isle of Dreams



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 22

- a. Why does the merchant say that he has not traveled far?
- b. Where is the merchant's carriage?
- c. Do you think that the carriage will be repaired as good as new? How?



Can you draw a picture of the shining Royal Road from Montsuelo to Valerdia?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





Gradually, a few inns and **taverns** were built along the mountain slope, and traffic flowed **constantly** between the towns. The watchmaker from Valerdia was delighted with the new clocks invented by the clockmaker of Montsuelo. So they put their heads together and worked on a grand **scheme** to slow down the metal workings even more.

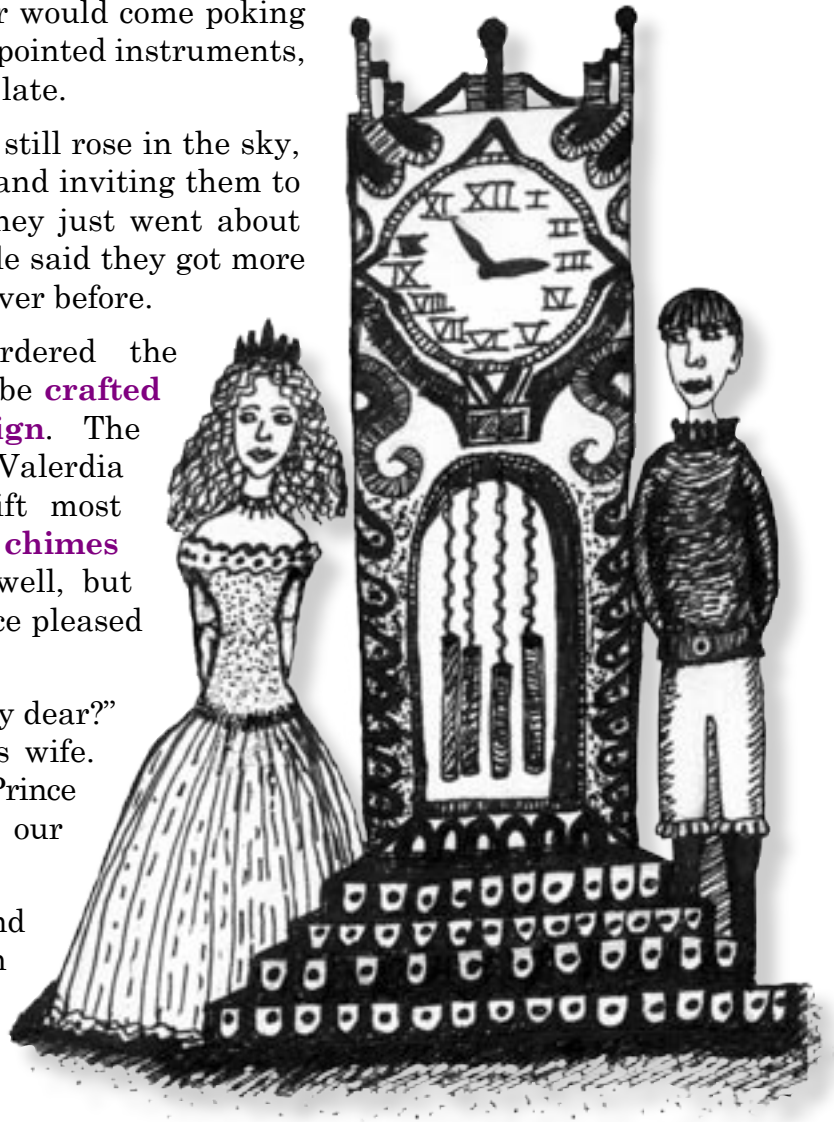
At first, the cuckoo found it strange to change its centuries-old **routine**, but in time it got quite used to the new arrangement. Some mornings, if it felt a little sleepy, **no one objected to** its singing out the hour a little later than usual. Best of all, no busybody of a watchmaker would come poking into its insides with nasty pointed instruments, just because it was a little late.

For the sun and moon still rose in the sky, reminding folks to get up and inviting them to sleep. And, in between, they just went about their business. Some people said they got more work done this way than ever before.

The Prince then ordered the grandest clock that could be **crafted** to this **advanced design**. The old King and Queen of Valerdia received him and his gift most kindly. Its musical **chimes** pleased the Princess as well, but the gentleness of the Prince pleased her far more.

“What do you think, my dear?” whispered the King to his wife. “Wouldn’t this young Prince be the perfect **match** for our daughter?”

The Queen smiled and nodded **discreetly** beneath her tottering crown.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Northern Isle of Dreams story. **Example number one is done for you.**

1. (**discreetly**) quietly, without anyone noticing
2. _____
all the time, without stopping
3. _____
no one minded; no one cared
4. _____
a plan
5. _____
pleasant sounds
6. _____
habit
7. _____
a public place where you can order food and drink
8. _____
built, made
9. _____
husband, partner
10. _____
state-of-the-art, modern concept or idea

Northern Isle of Dreams



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 23

- a. Why does the Prince choose a slow-ticking clock as a special gift for the King and Queen of Valerdia?
- b. Is it possible to make up for doing something wrong?
- c. Is it possible to slow down Time? Is it possible to turn back the clock?



Can you draw a picture of the Prince's special gift?



Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.





And in time, the Prince of Montsuelo and the Princess of Valerdia were married and lived happily together for many years. During their long and peaceful reign, the **boundaries** between the two Kingdoms disappeared. Gradually, they became one.

Now the youngest great-grandson of the royal family was an **adventuresome** lad, who would often run away from his nanny to explore the woods and fields surrounding the Citadel. One day, he tripped over some strange pieces of metal, an ancient helmet and a sword, half-buried among the carrot tails.

“Hey! Look what I’ve found—a buried treasure!” he shouted to the young farmer who was **hoeing** his patch of land nearby. The farmer shrugged his shoulders. Neither of them knew what it might be.

“Perhaps this is an ancient flower pot,” said the youngest Prince of Montsuelo-Valerdia. He fiddled with the helmet’s rusty **visor**, pulling it up and down. “Or, I know, maybe it’s a box to keep seeds in—look how this part slides closed to keep things dry.”

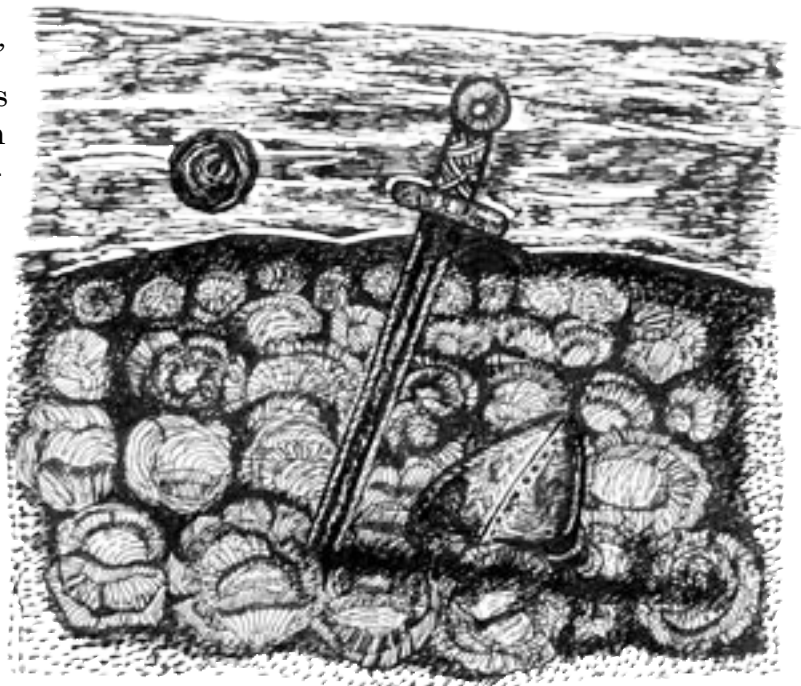
“Perhaps it is,” said the farmer, and then he yawned.

“And this long pointed thing must have once been used to **till the soil**,” said the Prince. He looked puzzled, though, as he ran his finger over the sword’s **carved hilt**.

“*Hmmm*, maybe,” said the farmer doubtfully. He seemed not in the least interested in the Prince’s new-found treasure.

“Well, perhaps I should bury it again,” said the Prince, disappointed.

“Yes, perhaps you should,” said the farmer, gazing across his ploughed field. A fresh breeze cooled his summer-tanned cheeks. His smile was slow and quiet. Indeed, he thought proudly, this crop of cabbages and turnips was more splendid than anyone had harvested in many a year.





Can you write down the word that is missing on each line? If you don't remember, look back at the Northern Isle of Dreams story. **Example number one is done for you.**


1. (**hoeing**) breaking up the earth with a garden tool, a hoe
2. _____
to prepare the earth before planting seeds
3. _____
brave, curious
4. _____
a decorated handle
5. _____
dividing lines that separate two countries; borders
6. _____
the moveable part of a helmet that protects the eyes


Northern Isle of Dreams



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Page 24

- a. Why doesn't anyone recognize the sword and the helmet?
- b. Why isn't the farmer interested in the Prince's new-found treasure?
- c. Do you think the Prince should bury his 'treasure'? Why or Why not?

 Can you draw a picture of the young Prince with his buried treasure?

 Listen to the CD again and imagine what you might see.

