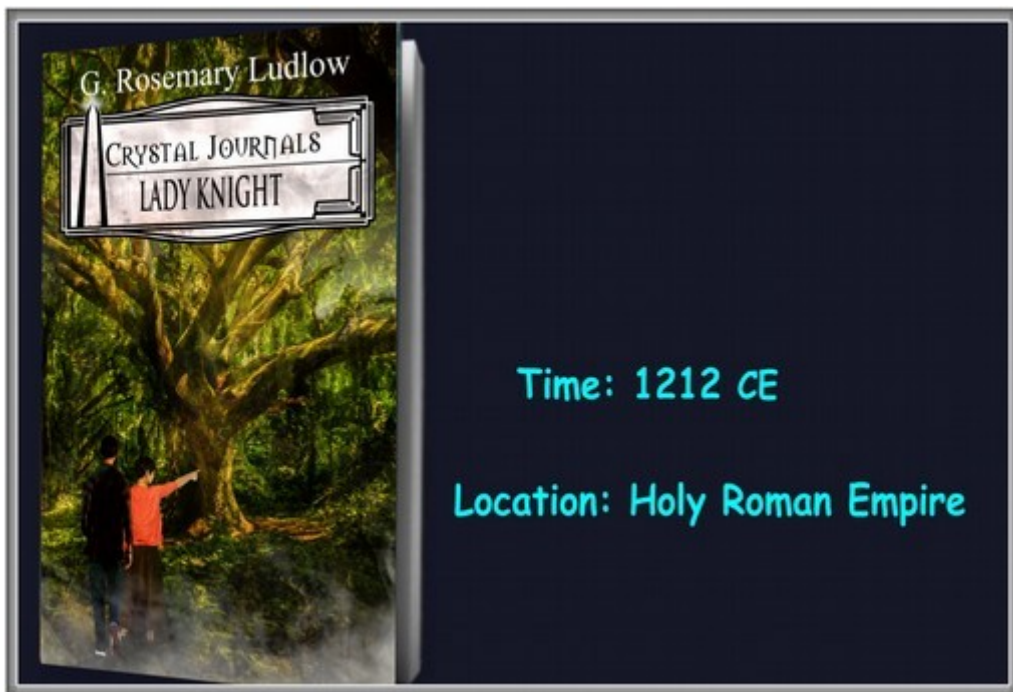
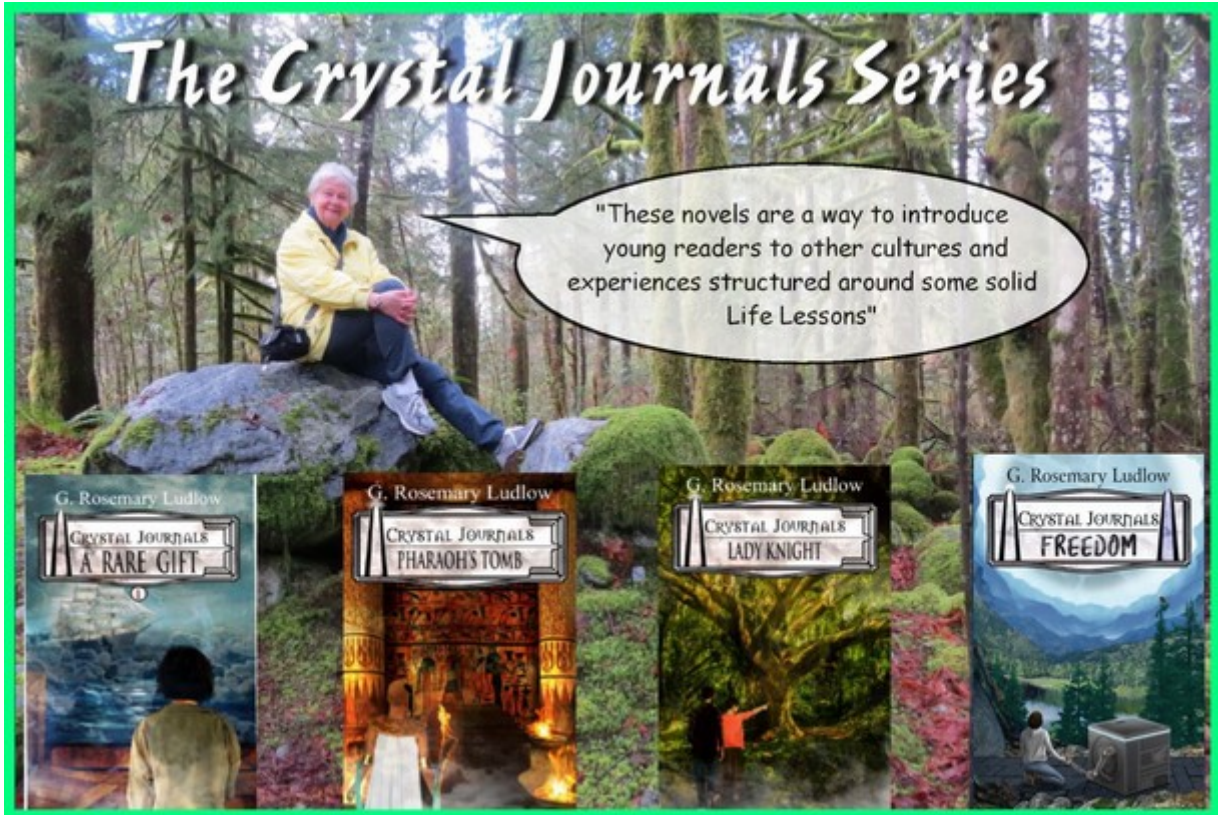


Teaching Activities IDEAS



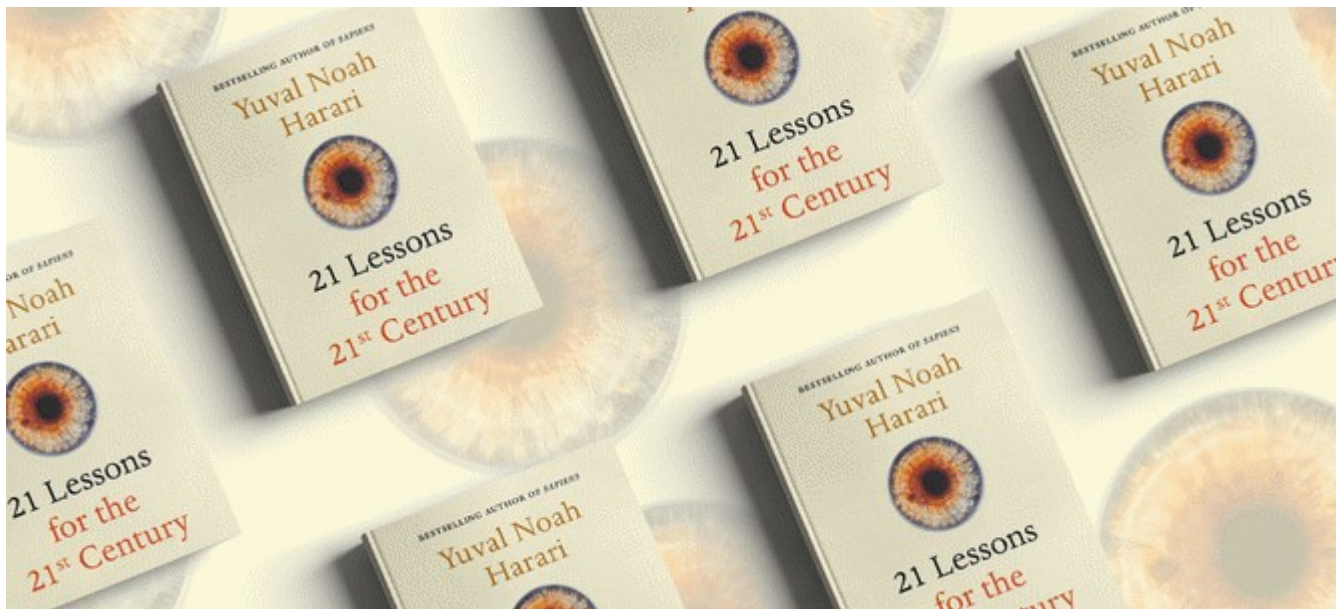
CURIOSITY

CREATIVITY

COLLABORATION

COMMUNICATION

CRITICAL THINKING



[Yuval Noah Harari](#)...feels these are the four skills our children will need to flourish in the world to come. I have taken the liberty of adding “Curiosity”

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Ideas for Teaching Activities

Time : 1212 CE**Location** : Roman Holy Empire**Life Lessons :**

Trust your instincts Page 132. decides she must trust her instincts.

Laughter is good. Page 232. realizes laughter is good for easing tension.

What's in a name? Page 180 Susan, Merit-Amen, Eric. I am all of these. **I am me**, whatever I'm called. How many more will I have?

Family and True Friends are always of value. Page 246.

Susan learns that no matter what time or culture she finds herself in, the sharing of food and companionship with a group of people you trust and are comfortable with always leaves you with the same warm feeling. Family, friendship, and trust are important in every time.

Susan thinks about food arriving in front of you, and realizes that her Mother does that everyday. She resolves to thank her Mother when she gets home.

The importance of market day to the life of a community.

Susan compares it to farmers' markets of her experience and also flea markets. How did people get the things they needed before there were supermarkets and stores. Also the social aspects of the market days. Could stage a market



Ideas for Teaching Activities

What is a shepherds crook? Page 7

What is it used for? Are they still used today? Where might they still be used.
How are sheep herded now? Different in different countries.

Slingshot: Page 8

Are they dangerous? Why would the shepherd have needed one?
Why wouldn't he have had a sword or a bow and arrow? David & Goliath
is the classic story of the deadly use of a slingshot.

Comparison of cultures.

Medieval Europe against others. If Pharaoh's Tomb has also been read then the Egyptian culture makes an interesting comparison.

Grefin's Story

Gives the Christian attitudes of the time. Could require some handling with the Islamic children in the classroom.

Interesting discussion. What was the Islamic attitude towards Christianity at the time? Were the Crusades successful in any way?

Fostering Discuss the tradition of fostering. Why were children fostered around? Where? Why? Who? Also how was it different from foster care in our time.



Governance Because they elect their emperor, Susan thinks it might be democracy.
Watt doesn't know what that is. Who got to vote.

- a. Overall look at feudalism.
- b. There are some signs of aspects of the rise of the middle class in the story.
The town has a blacksmith. Grefin was apprenticed to a cobbler.

Jason How come Jason learned to ride at Christmas time? Brings up the seasonal differences between North and South hemispheres.

An art project

An art project. Find pictures of a bunyip. What are some other creatures that fit into this category? Opopogo, Loch Ness Monster, Sasquatch, dragons. Could be a fun discussion or an art project. It's a cryptid.
Could lead to a discussion of the cultures of native peoples.
Similarities and differences.

Ideas for Teaching Activities

Thatch a problem? When Katerina looked at the roof they had to climb across she was pleased that it was slate and not thatch. Why would thatch have been a problem? What is it? Why was it used? Is it still used today? Where?

Escape route. Katerina points out that every family needs an escape route. Why would the nobility have needed escape plans? The story shows partly why. Raids and assassinations were a lot more common among the nobility than other classes. But no-one was immune to dangers. Could begin a discussion on then and now. Safety issues. What dangers do our families face. Go-bag in case of earthquake, flood or fire. In other parts of the world add, famine, war, disease

Australian slang. There is a little bit strewn through the story.

- Lying Doggo* – means keeping quiet. Pretending to be asleep.
- The Australian on the phone says *G'Day*
- Bunyip* – Aboriginal mythology swamp monster.

I didn't want to get too into slang. Might be fun to rewrite some of Jason's dialogue in heavy Australian slang. Read it out to the class. Could be funny.

River Travel. Hazards of traveling on the Rhine in 1212.

- Shifting sand bars
- Rapids
- Smugglers and Pirates

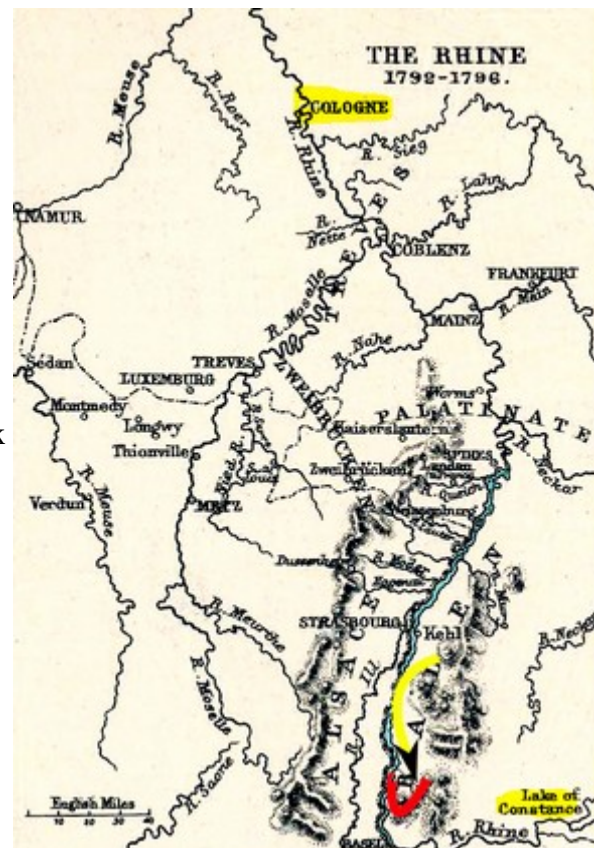
Tolls.

Lords would block the river and charge tolls for passing their castle. Enforced with soldiers and with chains pulled across the river.

Differences. Page 237.

Susan wonders what the river and countryside would look like in her own time. This could make a very interesting point for discussion. Have any of the children or their parents travelled along the Rhine. Do they have pictures, experiences.

Even in their heads children should be able to discuss differences between how it was in 1212 and what would be there now. Type of boats. Infrastructure on the banks. Types of agriculture. Modes of travel



Ideas for Teaching Activities

The Forest : The Forests Susan and her companions travel through in this adventure are very different from the forests Susan is familiar with in the North American Pacific Northwest.



The trees that Susan and Jason are experiencing are oak and beech. Except for charcoal burners the forests were largely still untouched. Farmers allowed their swine to range through the forest. Mostly the forests are made up of large trees which keep the understory in the dark, allowing for low shrubs but very few small trees.

They make use of clearings cut from the forests along the roads. I envisioned these as convenient stopping places where travelers have collected firewood and so enlarged what was probably a natural clearing to start with.

For further interest on European forests I would suggest the book ‘The Hidden Life of Trees’, by Peter Wohlleben.

Ideas for Teaching Activities

Expression. Going off half cocked. Refers back to the old-style flintlock and caplock firearms. The half-cocked position was for loading and also acted as a safety of sorts. So, if the firearm was fired with the hammer in that position it would result in a misfire or a less powerful shot. So any time you are going to do something without full preparation became a time of going off half-cocked.

Duties of a chatelaine. *Page 240.* Katerina talks about what she would have to do. What her responsibilities would be. It’s a different take on this than the often shown idea of the noble woman of total leisure. Everyone works.

St. George: Patron Saint of England. His story of slaying the dragon. Also his cross on the Union Jack. (Medallion on Robert’s harness)
Note: There is a huge stained glass window depicting St George. It situated in the Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. UK



Warming Pan. Lady Beatrice swings out at Susan with a long-handled pan full of burning coals. What was that used for? Why did she have it there?

Frederick II. He was a real person. A quick study of his life. Where he was born. Why he reached the throne at such an early age. Who kept him there. How did the Pope come into it.



Lady Knight: Where Lady Knight touches actual history.

- a. There was an assassination attempt on Frederick when he visited the French Prince. It’s a mystery how he knew about it in advance.
- b. He marched into Constanz just ahead of the Welf army and the town stood for him. It was a big surprise.
- c. The timing of the story is about right for his crowning etc.
- d. King John of England was the Uncle of Otto IV. John’s sister was Otto’s mother. Otto was brought up in the English court.
- e. The pilgrim children did meet Nicholas in Cologne in August of that year.
- f. The pilgrim children were offered places in Genoa if they wished to stay.

Ideas for Teaching Activities

The Red Stag: Why did the Inn’s sign have a picture rather than words for the name of the inn? There’s art possibilities here. Make up the name for an Inn and draw the sign. Class has to guess what the name of the Inn is.

Window glass:

It’s described in detail at the window of the sitting room. This is the richest room that Jason and Susan have been in where there has been an opportunity to notice such a thing. The window is made up of small panes.

Why? Not perfect. Bumpy and giving a distorted view. A look at how glass is made would quickly lead kids to see why in 1212 each little piece could have been less than perfect and why it was made in small pieces & fitted together.



Proof Reading opportunity: There is a chance here to set an exercise for the class. Find the typo in *Chapter 49 - Refreshment Surprises-*. The typo is on the first page where the word scone appears. It should be sponce. Once found this could lead to an conversation about what a sponce is. Find some contemporary ones.

King John. This is the king of Robin Hood fame.

He was very unpopular. He’s been slagged throughout history, but apparently he was quite an able administrator. However, his elder brother Richard the Lionheart, (who obviously had much better PR), went off to the crusades.

He left John in charge in England and then continued to demand great sums of money from him to keep his army in the field. John was forced to raise taxes again and again to cover the costs of Richard’s wars. This is what made him very unpopular.

Then Richard got himself captured and held for ransom so John had to tax everyone even further to get the money to ransom his brother. King John was the one forced to sign the Magna Carta. And there’s another whole subject right there.

Ideas for Teaching Activities

Clothing: Tied on. Jason’s leggings are held up with ties. Susan has to unlace Katerinas dress to get her out of it. Why not elastic? Well where did elastic come from? Needed rubber to begin with. Rubber comes from South America originally. Inca and Maya culture had rubber balls to play with.

Jason of Adelaide: Where is Adelaide? Why would that be what they call him. Lots of people have surnames which originally were places. Even the author named Ludlow. This is a city in England and now, in several other places as well. Who in the class has a name that is a place. This could even lead into the discussion of trades. Smiths and Clarks, etc. Even children from other cultures, may have surnames which mean something. Schmidt for instance.

Apprenticeships: Grefin mentions that he was an apprentice. We still have apprenticeships now, but they are very different. How are the different and how are they the same?

Videos to Come

1. Making a bag from a piece of cloth.
2. Double tight shoe laces.

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Ideas for Teaching Activities

