**Trundle’s Quest (The Six Crowns, Book 1) by Allan Jones,**

**Illustrations by Gary Chalk**

Louisiana Young Reader’s Choice Nominee 2014

Grades 3 - 5

*Submitted by Catherine Bascle, SLIS Student and*

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**SUMMARY**  
Trundle Boldoak is the lamplighter of Port Shiverstones. It’s a peaceful life that he is more than happy with, but one night, he encounters Esmeralda Lightfoot. She insists that they are destined to travel together to find the Six Crowns of the Badgers of Power. Now, they are both on the run from pirates and the ship they stowed away on has left them in a dangerous mining colony. Esmeralda may be all for adventure, but Trundle needs to figure out if he has what it takes to be a hero. IL: **MG** – BL: **5.4** – AR Pts: **3.0** 151 pages.

Hardcover. HarperCollins. 2011. 9780062006233. $15.99.

Paperback. HarperCollins. 2011. 9780062006257. $5.99.

**E-book Available.**  
  
**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHY**

Allan Jones was born in London, England in 1954. He began writing stories for fun when he was nine years old and finished his first book-length story when he was a teenager. No publishers were interested in it, but he kept writing. His first book was published in 1987, and by 1992 he was able to make writing his main job. He has now written eight book series, over a dozen standalone books, and contributed to many other projects. He now lives in London with his wife.  
  
**ILLUSTRATOR’S BIOGRAPHY**

Gary Chalk was born in 1952 in rural England. He started his career as a graphic designer before working as an illustrator. He has illustrated many of the Redwall books by Brain Jacques along with a wide range of other fantastic creatures. Today, he and his wife Yin live in Normandy, France.

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**  
  
**Writing:**

When writing and illustrating the Sundered Lands, Allan Jones and Gary Chalk show readers a world very different from their own. Imagine if you could create your own universe and write a one page paper explaining how it is different from the one you live in. You can draw inspiration from fantasy, science fiction, or anything else you find interesting.

**Art:**

Trundle and Esmeralda’s quest begins because Esmeralda’s fortune-telling included images that she sees as representing the two of them. Design an image that could represent you, maybe even you on your own adventure!

**Science**:

***Make Coal Flowers:*** In the book there are coal mines in Drune. In the late 1800’s the families of coal miners would grow crystal coal flowers to decorate their homes. You can recreate this fun project in your class by grows crystals on a piece of coal. Step by step instructions are here <http://www.ehow.com/how_4926807_grow-flowers-coal.html>.

***American Coal Foundation:*** Here is a 42 page Coal Related Activity Guide for elementary students with a variety of activities for classes <http://www.iu29.org/resources/Documents/CoalElementary.pdf>.

**Geography:**

In the Sundered Lands towns are built on rocks floating in the air. This can be hard to imagine. Ask your students to picture what that would look like and draw it. Next show your students that there are some unique mountain formations here on earth that almost looks like rocks floating in the air. The **Zhangjiajie National Forest Park** in China featurestall quartz sandstone pillars that have formed over years of erosion. In fact, one of the park’s pillars, the Southern Sky column, which is 3,544 feet high, has been officially renamed “Avatar Hallelujah Mountain” in honor of the science fiction movie Avatar. You can pull up a Google image search and show them pictures of the mountains.

**Social Studies**

The Mines of Drune began to be used for coal mining after the silver was extracted. Research mining to discover how typical this combination is. What valuable minerals have been found together in our world? Are any mines particularly known for being mined for multiple things?

**Vocabulary and Pirate Speak:**

Pirates are a big part of this story. For fun you can log into Mango Languages and learn to speak Pirate with your class. You will need to go to your local public library database page login with your library card and click on Mango Languages, choose Pirate. This is lots of fun and could be incorporated into a program. You can teach your students to say Pirate phrases and listen to examples.

hereditary (p.3) boisterous (p. 49)

antagonize (p.7) pompous (p. 63)

bosun (p. 24) cudgel (p.82)

quay (p. 28) collop (p. 98)

perspicacity (p. 37) gallantry (p.122)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What are the Six Crowns of the Badgers of Power made of?
2. According to legend, have the Sundered Lands always been made up of floating rocks? If not, what was is like before?
3. What is the main crop in Shiverstones?
4. Why does Trundle agree to go with Esmeralda?
5. What is the name of the pirates’ windship?
6. Where does Esmeralda think the ship they stowed away on was heading? Why doesn’t she like where they end up?
7. Which of the Six Crowns do Trundle and Esmeralda find? What else do they find at the same time?
8. What is the name of the squirrel Trundle and Esmeralda meet as they leave Rathanger?
9. Before he meets Esmeralda, Trundle’s idea of a good night is a warm meal and a good book. What is your nighttime routine like?
10. Are Trundle and Esmeralda heroes? Why or why not? Can you see how someone might see them in a different way?