

Irish Magic Teacher's Notes

A2

Originally, *Artemis Fowl* was the first of eight fantasy novels by Irish author Eoin Colfer. It was adapted for the cinema by Kenneth Branagh and finally released on Disney+ after being delayed by lockdown. It features first-time actors as well as experienced and even very experienced actors like Judi Dench who plays the part of the leader of the fairy police. We think the story is motivating for A2 pupils and a good starting point for interaction. Pupils will discover the trailer, a clip and an article.

Culture

- Irish mythology

Vocabulary and grammar

- supernatural creatures
- writing numbers
- passive, simple past, present perfect

Pronunciation

- Artemis Fowl /'ɑ:tɪmɪs faʊl/, creature /'kri:tʃə/, human /'hju:mən/, leprechaun /'lɛprə,kɔ:n/, gnome /nəʊm/, lower /'ləʊə /...
- Fowl; foul//low(er)
- General rhythm of English

Listening, speaking, writing

- We suggest starting with two easy vocabulary activities to get everyone ready for the trailer.
- Make sure numbers and supernatural creatures are pronounced correctly. Then, show the trailer without giving any information about the movie. Just say "Ce're going to watch a trailer. Before watching, read the questions in Activity B". The questions are all about visual elements, so don't try to work on the words, although some will probably recognise "our world...in danger" or "you are not prepared". To finish Activity B, have pupils report to their group or the class what they know up to now

about the hero and the places.

Reading, writing, acting.

- Assuming you are actually in class, we suggest working in groups (some pupils might prefer to work on their own until they get to the acting activity) and gradually sharing the information with the class.
- The role play should not take up too much time. Your help will be required to check the pronunciation and fluency.

Transcripts

The trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXlBep9uFjI>

Voiceover: Our world has never been in more danger. Human greed is what drove us underground all those years ago to escape from your rapacious appetite. I warn you, boy. You are not prepared for the truth behind what you seek. Now you will believe, Artemis Fowl.

Film clip: The Irish Blessing (old Gaelic poem):

You can download this for offline use, or we've made it available online on our website:

<https://www.speakeasy-news.com/artemis-fowl-the-fairy-blessing>

Butler: He always shared his discoveries

with me. The only thing he kept private was his journal.

Artemis: Then that's what we have to find.

Butler: I wouldn't know where to begin to look. Could your father have ever given you a clue as to where to start?

Artemis: He never told me how to start but he may have told me how to end.

Butler: End?

Artemis: Yeah. He read the same poem to me every night before bed and every time he left. "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rains fall soft upon your fields."

Butler: Who wrote this poem, Arty?

Artemis: Nobody knows. That's just it.

Butler: Then how do you find it?

Artemis: It's known as "The Irish Blessing".

It's a journal. It's Dad's journal

(*"The Irish Blessing" is an old Irish Gaelic poem. The last part is: And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*)

Solutions

A. 1. 12: twelve; **14:** fourteen; **15:** fifteen; **80:** eighty; **84:** eighty-four; **100:** a hundred; **200:** two hundred; **1,000:** one thousand; **2,000:** two thousand; **2020 (year):** two thousand and twenty/twenty twenty.

2.

humans	supernatural creatures
man, person, child, boy, woman, girl, teenager	gremlin, fairy, dwarf, gnome, leprechaun, elf, troll

B.1.a. Artemis Fowl b. Artemis Fowl

2.a. forest, city, tall buildings, lots of people, traffic

b. flying vehicles (haven city express), advanced technology, flying creatures

3.a. I think he is / in my opinion he is / he may be / he must be...12, 13, 14...

b. He's wearing sunglasses, a black coat and a tie. He's dressed like a man/an adult.

c. He looks like the heroes of *Men in Black*... *James Bond*...a businessman...

C.1.a. flying creatures, strange creatures

b. flying vehicles

c. the fighting, the way Artemis walks...

2.a.

Artemis Fowl: twelve, Irish, criminal mastermind, human

Holly Short: eighty-four, Irish, member of the Lower Elements Police, supernatural (elf)

b. Artemis Fowl: on the Earth

Holly Short: underground / in the lower elements

c. She looks young, she looks about fifteen, she has pointed ears, she's wearing a green uniform and a helmet.

She's supposed to be eighty-four, but she looks like a human teenager. So 84 is probably young for an elf.

She's called Short because she's small.

d. In LEPrecon the letters "LEP" stand for Lower Elements Police. "Recon" is short for reconnaissance (espionage).

But LEPrecon sounds like a leprechaun, which is a famous Irish supernatural/imaginary creature.

e. nasty, horrible. "criminal mastermind", "villain".

3. Artemis decided to find his father: 5
There was a war between humans and supernatural creatures: 1

Artemis's father was kidnapped: 4

The fairies moved underground: 2

Artemis kidnapped Holly Short: 6

Artemis's father offended the fairies: 3

4.a. in a book

b. Eoin Colfer is the writer/author who

created Artemis Fowl.

He compares Artemis to a James Bond villain.

D.1. Artemis is in a library. He is thinking. He looks intrigued.

2.a. They're looking for his father's journal.

b. "He read the same poem to me every night before bed and every time he left."

c. The Irish Blessing.

E.1.

	Actor	Character	Actress	Character
Name	Ferdia Shaw	Artemis Fowl	Lara McDonnell	Holly Short
Age	fifteen	twelve	fourteen	84
Nationality	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish
Experience/Activity	beginner actor	criminal mastermind	experienced actor	Fairy police officer

b. The following text is an example of what your pupils may write.

Ferdia Shaw is older than Artemis Fowl, whereas / while/but Lara McDonnell is a lot younger than Holly Short, but she's not an elf, so maybe she's the same age as Holly Short. Both actors are Irish, like their characters. Lara McDonnell is more experienced than Ferdia Shaw (at acting).

F. The following texts are examples of what your pupils might want to write.

I'd like to see Artemis Fowl because I like action films/movies, and I think a young James Bond must be funny. I'm sure the underground world is full of surprises and my favourite stories are fairy tales.

I'm not sure I'd like to see this film/movie because I don't like science fiction and fighting. I prefer romantic films.

I've seen this movie. I liked it because there's a lot of action and I think the characters are funny.

F. Examples of words and phrases that can be

used in the role play:

My fatherkidnapped....I want....my prisoner....

Your father....offended.... Our world.... danger....underground

If you don't....I will / won't.... You must....