

# **ART & LANGUAGE**

## **Lesson 1**

**Sorcerers Royal**  
by Charis Loke



Visual Arts Circle



## TEACHER'S NOTES

Lesson plan based on the illustration 'The Sorcerers Royal' by Charis Loke

**Language level:** Intermediate (B1) - Upper Intermediate (B2)

**Learner type:** Teens and adults

**Time:** 30-45 minutes

**Activity:** Looking at illustrations, speaking, research and writing

**Topic:** Fantasy novel based on the story *Sorcerer to the Crown* written by Zen Cho. Here you can find more information about the book:

<http://zencho.org/sorcerer-to-the-crown/>.

**Materials:** This lesson is based on the cover picture of a fantasy novel. You can find out more about the illustration here:

<http://www.charisloke.com/blog/2017/12/4/from-sketch-to-sorcerers>.

**Artist:** Charis Loke is an illustrator who also works community arts and culture projects with Arts-ED Penang. She is based in Malaysia. You can find out more about her on her website: [www.charisloke.com](http://www.charisloke.com).

The aim of this lesson is to explore a book cover visually and use it as a starting point to find out more about the story it illustrates. We start with the image as it is easily accessible for most students. By looking closely your students might come up with ideas which are surprising and unexpected for you, and we believe that real discussion start like that.

**There is a range of topics to explore during this lesson.**

- 1) The visual world of the illustration.
- 2) The creative process of the illustrator. You can find more information about it on the Charis Loke's blog: <https://www.charisloke.com/blog/2017/9/30/sorcerers-studies-school>
- 3) History: Regency Era
- 4) History and Geography: Globes and maps, exploring the world
- 5) Literature: Magic and fantasy novels



### Step 1 - Slide 3

These questions are inspired by inquiry-based education and the [Visual Thinking Strategies](#) approach to discussing images.

### Step 2 - Slide 4

Let the students look at the painting for a ten seconds, and without sharing much information, let them explore it and come up with their own ideas.

### Step 3 - Slide 5

Describe and discuss the picture again.

It is a good idea to think in terms of what and who is represented, and how this is represented.

It invites the students to look more deeply and those who are otherwise more silent have guiding questions.

**What?** A discussion is represented between two people. They are in a hall, drawing or sitting room. It invites the students to look more deeply and those who are otherwise more silent have guiding questions.

**What?** A discussion is represented between two people. They are in a hall, drawing or sitting room.

### Step 4 - Slide 6

When you describe the picture, start with things which are easy to identify. There are two people, who are wearing clothes from the 19th century. The illustration was designed for a novel set in Regency London. Here you can introduce a link to History. When was the Regency Era?

The woman is holding a magic wand with a glass bowl. The title of the image is Sorcerers Royal.

Discuss words of magic: sorcerer, sorceress, magic, wand.

Talk about the posture. The woman looks confident and strong, suggesting she is a powerful person.

### Step 5 - Slide 7

The composition is important, too. Half the image is the globe, and the other half is the interior of a room with the two characters.

The huge glass window, the furniture, the curtains are typical of the era.

The globe in the front is significant. It shows the Southeast Asian region with wonderful beasts and animals. What do you think it suggests?



### **Step 6 - Slide 8**

Follow the link in the slide 'Overview of the book' and learn more about the story.

Who is the lady? Who do you think the man is?

What will happen in the story?

### **Step 7 - Slide 9**

How did Charis Loke create this image? If your students are interested in illustrations, art and drawing, there is a lot they can learn from Charis Loke's blog. Follow this link to see how she created this image.

<https://www.charisloke.com/blog/2017/9/30/sorcerers-studies-school>

Your students can create a step-by-step presentation of the creative process.

Using the strategies learnt from Charis, some of your students might be interested in designing their own book cover for a story they like.

### **Step 8 - Slide 10**

The Regency Era was named after the Prince Regent, who later became King George IV, and it lasted between 1811 and 1820. This is the period when most of Jane Austen's novels were published. This fascinating era is famous for its fashion, dances, elegant houses and pastimes. Ask your students to research the Internet and learn more about the Regency Era.