



# “The Gold Tiara” Teacher Guide



SEASON 4 EPISODE 5

## The Gold Tiara

by an 11 year-old from Delaware named Sydney

### Overview

In “The Gold Tiara” by a kid from Delaware named Sydney, two siblings fulfill their destiny to restore light to their land by putting pieces of a gold tiara back together. And why is it their destiny? A prophecy, of course! This lesson examines how prophecies create dramatic tension in stories, and offers students tools for creating their own. First, students will listen to “The Gold Tiara” and predict how they think the prophecy in the story will come true. Then, students will learn how aspects like rhyme and weird details help readers remember prophecies in fantasy stories. Finally, students will be given tools to create prophecies in their own writing!

### Age Group

Best for 3rd through 5th grade readers and writers

[storypiratescreatorclub.com](http://storypiratescreatorclub.com)

## Common Core Standards

For simplicity, here are relevant 4th grade standards; similar standards for 3rd and 5th apply.

1. [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1](#) Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
2. [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3](#) Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
3. [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3.a](#) Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
4. [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.9](#) Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
5. [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3.a](#) Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Define the term “prophecy” and give an example from the story
- Use examples of prophecy to infer what might happen in a story
- Use rhyme and strange details to create their own prophecy or write a story connected to a prewritten prophecy

## Materials

1. Story Pirates Podcast: Season 4 Episode 5 (story at approximately 3:30)
2. Poetic Prophecies sheet
3. Writer’s Notebook or other place to write down ideas

## Activity Steps

### 1. Intro:

Introduce the lesson to your students with a short discussion.

- **Do Now/Writer’s Notebook:** Give the following to students as a prompt:
  - “*When winter’s chill is almost here, aunts and cousins gather near  
With turkey and pie, like the fable, the family will eat at the table!*”
  - This rhyme is predicting that something will happen. What event do you think this rhyme is predicting? How do you know?
- **Share:** Ask a few students to share what they think the rhyme is about, and how they know:
  - The rhyme is about Thanksgiving! We know because it is in November (*winter’s chill is almost here*), it

mentions things we often eat then (*turkey and pie*) and says it is a time when families come together to eat, “just like the fable”—the original Thanksgiving story.

- **Connect:** Explain to students that the prompt was an example of something that we see a lot in fantasy and adventure stories, which is a prediction with unusual details that rhymes, sometimes called a prophecy. Hearing a prediction that something is going to happen makes readers excited. Sometimes the prophecies contain details we might recognize, and sometimes they seem really strange until they come true in an exciting way!

## 2. Play the Story:

“The Gold Tiara” by a kid from Delaware named Sydney

The story is at around the 3:30 mark on the episode

- **Introduce the story to students:** Let’s listen to a story from the Story Pirates Podcast called “The Gold Tiara” by a kid from Delaware named Sydney. This fantasy story is a song about an epic quest to right the wrongs in a kingdom. And, it contains a prophecy. Let’s listen.

- **Pause 1:** Play the story, and pause after the first big opening verse:

*Have you heard of the prophecy foretold*

*“A warlock splits the tiara of gold*

*The split will plunge the world into night*

*Put the tiara back together and bring back the light.”*

*But there was more from the prophecier’s sight:*

*The one thing that the warlock tried her best to fight:*

*“Beloved by parents, a boy and a girl*

*Born into darkness, destined to save the world!”*

- **Infer:** You may wish to show students the text of the lyrics, or read them out loud for them. Then, ask students: What is this prophecy saying will happen?
  - It is saying that there is a warlock that broke a tiara apart and put the world into darkness. To bring back the light, the tiara needs to be put back together. There will be a boy and a girl who are “beloved of parents” and who are born when it is dark. They will save the world!
- Then, play the rest of the song for the students!

## 3. Check for Understanding:

After listening, you might ask your students some questions.

- **Discuss:** How did the prophecy come true?
  - There were siblings named Colette and Nathaniel. Ambrose the warlock tried to stop the prophecy from coming true by getting rid of their parents! But the kids trained, and recovered the five pieces of the tiara from all over the land. When they did, their parents reappeared, and the light came back!
- Ask students if there was anything surprising about how the prophecy came true. They may mention that the tiara being put back together also made the kids’ parents reappear!

#### 4. MiniLesson: Playing with Prophecy

- **Define a prophecy:** a prophecy is a prediction that is made in a story. They often rhyme, and can have strange details in them that may seem confusing, but come true in unexpected ways! Once you have a prophecy in a story, the rest of the story is almost like a game the author plays to put the pieces in place to make it true.
- You may ask the students about some stories they have read that contain prophecies:
  - Students may mention prophecies in other fantasy stories they have read, like in the Harry Potter series, the Percy Jackson series, and the Warriors series
- **Techniques for prophecy writing:** Prophecies usually contain a few different elements:
  - *Prediction:* prophecies all predict that something will happen
  - *Unusual Details:* they often include details that might not make sense at first, or might refer to places and people in vague or strange ways
  - *Rhyme:* Many prophecies are like poems that rhyme! This helps the characters in the story (and the reader!) remember them, and it also makes them feel a bit like a magic spell
- **Read:** Pick one of the prompts from the Poetic Prophecies sheet. Read the prompt to students, and display it for them so they can read it, or give them a copy of the sheet to look at.
- **Infer:** Ask students to underline unusual details they notice. What are things that the author would need to explain or make happen?
  - For example:

*Go to the mountain if you dare,  
and you will see a monster there.  
Bring with you the purple bear  
to curl the monster's straw-like hair!*
- **Question:** Ask students what questions the prompt raises in them as readers.
  - For example: *Where is the mountain? What monster lives there? Who or what is the purple bear?! Why does the monster's hair need to be curled? Why does the purple bear have to be the one to do it?*

#### 5. Group Practice: "We Do": Writing a Brand-New Prophecy

- As a class, write a short 4-6 line prophecy with the following attributes:
  - Predicts something
  - Has a few weird details
  - Rhymes!
- Feel free to use the examples on the Poetic Prophecies sheet for inspiration!
- Remind students that they have Permission to Get Weird! Many prophecies in stories seem very strange and even improbable until they happen.

## 6. Independent Practice: “You Do”

- **Write:** Have students try to write a short prophecy of their own! They can follow the same process as above.
  - Rhyming may be difficult for some students, but you can encourage them to just try their best. Sometimes writers come up with the end line rhymes first, and then work backwards from there.

## 7. Sharing:

Students can share their poetic prophecies with the class!

## Extension Activity: Writing the Story

- As a next lesson, homework, or extension activity, you can have students write a story that fulfills a prophecy on the Poetic Prophecies sheet, or the ones you wrote in class! Students can work on this in groups, or exchange poetic prophecies with each other.
- **Underline and Question:** As above, have students underline key words in each prophecy, and write down questions they have. These are the questions that they will have to answer as an author. Explain to students that they are like problem solvers or detectives working backwards from the ending.
- **Write:** Then, give students time to write a story where that prophecy comes true! Explain to students that when an author uses a prophecy in a story, it makes writing the rest of the story like a game. They have to make the prophecy happen by the end, but can make it happen in a weird way. The story doesn't need to be overly elaborate; just by responding to the prompts and working backwards to write a story, students will be strengthening their inference skills.
- **Share:** Students can share what they wrote. It may be especially fun for students to see how completely different stories were written from the same prophecy prompt!

**Want to learn even more about how to write a great fantasy story? Check out the Story Pirates book *Quest for the Crystal Crown* for more writing tips!**

# Poetic Prophecies!

Read the following rhyming prophecies. Underline any strange details in them. Write down what questions the prompts make you think of, and then write some of the answers to those questions by continuing the story. Or, you can write your own by including these three elements:

- **Prediction:** prophecies always predict that something will happen
- **Unusual Details:** they often contain strange details that might not make sense at first
- **Rhyme:** they often rhyme, which makes it easier for the characters and reader to remember them!

*Go to the mountain if you dare,  
and you will see a monster there.  
Bring with you the purple bear  
to curl the monster's straw-like hair!*

*When red circle rises in the east,  
Prepare ye for an ample feast  
Eat only green, do not eat red  
For if ye do, you'll wind up dead.*

*The day the queen's dress tears  
Will be the start of many years  
Of darkness, stress, and fears  
Broken only by blue gears.*

*The water shall sink in the pond  
And purple shall rise in the dawn  
The treasure, which was once concealed  
Shall, with these changes, be revealed.*

*The wrong one is crowned!  
Day will be night and night day.  
A royal turnaround  
Restores nature's true way.*