

# King of the Wind



by Marguerite Henry

## Lit Link Grades 4-6

Written by Miriam Basten  
Revised by Ruth Solski  
Illustrated by On The Mark Press

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# At A Glance

Learning Expectations	Section One	Section Two	Section Three	Section Four	Section Five	Section Six	Section Seven	Section Eight	Section Nine	Skills Reviews
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>										
• Interpreting cover and pictures in a novel	•									•
• Expressing an opinion							•			
• Noting details and events	•	•		•						
• Evaluating characters		•	•						•	
• Recalling events and details	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
• Making predictions						•				
• Evaluating a story										•
• Comparing characters in novel										•
<b>Vocabulary Development, Grammar &amp; Word Usage</b>										
• Word meanings; definitions			•	•	•	•	•			•
• Consonant blends		•								
• Identify synonyms	•	•								
• Writing singular / plural forms			•				•			
• Identify and locate compound words	•									
• Identify root words, suffixes, syllables		•	•							
• Ordering words in alphabetical order				•			•			•
• Using a dictionary to locate meanings				•	•					
• Identify words in a puzzle				•						•
• Locating parts of speech									•	
<b>Reasoning and Critical Thinking Skills</b>										
• Forecasting events and situations	•	•							•	•
• Brainstorming ideas on a topic					•	•	•	•		•
• Labelling a diagram			•							
<b>Mapping Skills</b>										
• Locating and naming places, bodies of water, physical features on a map	•			•	•					
<b>Creative Writing</b>										
• Create an acrostic poem					•					
• Composing questions and answers								•	•	



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## Learning Objectives:

1. To introduce students to some aspects of life in Morocco, France, and England in the eighteenth century.
2. To show students that there are both good as well as difficult times in life and that perseverance and determination can help to overcome, or at least cope with hardship.
3. To learn about horses and horse racing.

## Summary of the Story:

### “King of the Wind”

A tiny foal is born in the stables of the Sultan of Morocco in the early 1720's. He is sickly, however, because the fasting of Ramadan has weakened his mother. Agba, a mute stable boy, nurses the horse to health and names him “Sham,” the Arabic word for sun, because of his golden coat. Agba is delighted to discover that Sham has a white spot on his heel which foretold speed, but on his chest, however, is the dreaded “wheat ear,” a symbol of evil.

Sham does grow up to be a swift runner. Sham is one of six horses selected to be a gift to King Louis XV of France and Agba is chosen to go along too. The horses are poorly fed on the journey and make a poor impression on the young king. Sham is sent to the kitchen to pull the cart that the chief cook uses to drive to market. The cook is unable to control Sham and sells him to a wood carter. Agba is subsequently dismissed by the cook and survives by working at odd jobs in the city, all the while searching for Sham. Eventually he finds Sham working for the wood carter in Paris. Grimalkin, a tomcat, joins the poorly treated pair. The wood carter is observed treating Sham cruelly on one particular cold and icy winter day and a Quaker gentleman from England offers to buy the horse.

The Quaker, Jethro Coke, takes the threesome to England the same week. He has bought Sham for his son-in-law to ride. Benjamin Biggle, however, is unable to ride Sham, and Sham is sent to work at the Red Lion Inn as a relief horse for traveling merchants. Agba's foreign ways unnerve the wife of the innkeeper and so it isn't long till Agba and Grimalkin are sent on their way. Sham remains, but refuses to let anyone ride him, which prompts the innkeeper to attempt to break Sham's spirit by treating him badly. Agba returns secretly one night to visit Sham, but is caught and sent to Newgate Jail for horse thieving.

Agba and Grimalkin languish in the jail until their plight is brought to the attention of the Duchess of Marlborough, a wealthy, elderly woman who helps people unfairly imprisoned. The



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pair are soon freed and the Earl of Goldolphin, her son-in-law, takes Agba, Grimalkin, and Sham to live at his horse-breeding estate, Gog Magog. The threesome thrive there. Agba, however, is unimpressed with the stable's pride-and-joy stallion, Hobgoblin, who is slated to mate with the mare Lady Roxana in a bid to improve the English racehorse. In a rash decision, Agba frees Sham who subsequently defeats Hobgoblin in a physical battle for the right to mate with Lady Roxana.

The threesome are banished to forlorn Fen until Sham's son, Lath, proves to be the fleetest horse at Gog Magog. Agba, Sham, and Grimalkin return to Gog Magog heroes. Sham sires more champion racehorses and lives out his days at Gog Magog in luxury.

## Author Biography:

### Marguerite Henry

Marguerite Henry was born on April 13, 1902, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and attended Milwaukee State Teachers' College and the University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee).

Mrs. Henry has published books about people, places, and animals but she is best known for her novels about horses. Her books have received numerous honors and several have been made into movies. Many of her books, such as *Justin Morgan Had a Horse*, *Misty of Chincoteague*, and *King of the Wind* are based on true stories. She was commended for her ability to bring history to life and to portray animals realistically and in a non humanized way. Writing the *Kind of the Wind* provided a particular challenge because of its setting in three different countries (Morocco, France, and England) in the eighteenth century and because none of the three main characters could speak.

Some of the books written by Marguerite Henry include:

- Justin Morgan Had a Horse - Newberry Honor Book, 1946
- Misty of Chincoteague - Newberry Honor Book, 1948
- King of the Wind - Newberry Medal, 1949
- Sea Star: Orphan of Chincoteague
- Brighty of the Grand Canyon
- Black Gold
- Mustang, Wild Spirit of the West
- Gaudenzia: Pride of the Palio
- San Domingo: The Medicine Hat Stallion



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## Section Four

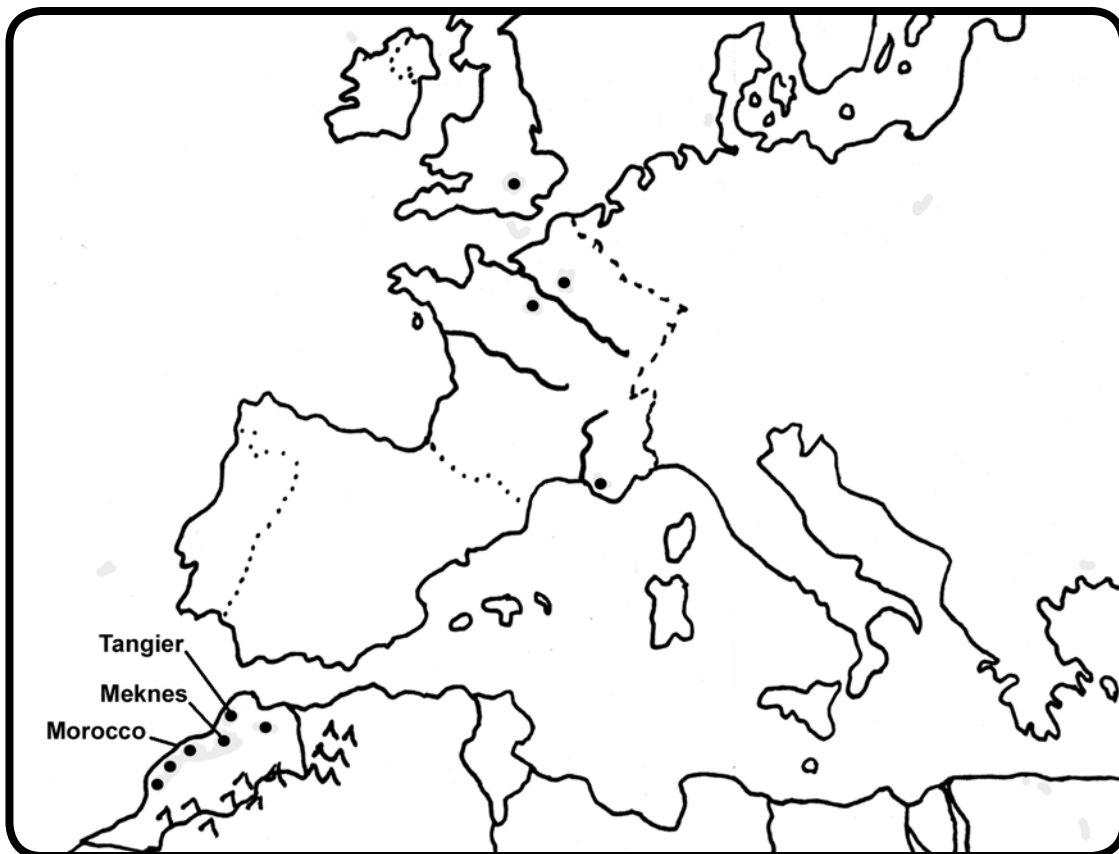
**Chapters Ten to Thirteen:** The Boy King; The Thieves' Kitchen; Agba Becomes an Awakener; A Strange Threesome

**Before You Read the Chapters:**

### A. Mapping Skills:

On the map of Western Europe and Northern Africa complete the following:

1. Label the country of France and color it green.
2. Label: Bay of Biscay, English Channel
3. Label these cities: Paris, Versailles, Marseilles
4. Label these rivers: Seine, Rhone, Loire
5. Using a red colored pencil crayon, draw a line from Meknes to Tangier, through the Mediterranean Sea to Marseilles and to Versailles to show the path Agba and Sham may have taken to France.





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**Chapters Ten to Thirteen:** The Boy King; The Thieves' Kitchen; Agba Becomes an Awakener; A Strange Threesome

**Before You Read the Chapters:**

### B. Vocabulary:

Use a dictionary to find the meanings of the following words:

1. **agitated** (*agitated with excitement*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **gaunt** (*the horse was gaunt*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **vigor** (*he got back his vigor*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **vicinity** (*in the vicinity of the shop*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **squalid** (*lived in squalid conditions*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **garments** (*the garments he bought*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. **livid** (*the person was livid*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **agape** (*his mouth was agape*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **paltry** (*of a paltry six more*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. **rapture** (*a silent rapture in the way he worked*) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Chapters Ten to Thirteen:** The Boy King; The Thieves' Kitchen; Agba Becomes an Awakener; A Strange Threesome

**After You Have Read the Chapters:**

**A.** Use the given words in sentences that tell something about what happened in these chapters.

1. **foot:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **cook:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **cat:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **wood:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. **shed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. **ice:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. **harness:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Add mores examples to the chart found on the worksheet called "Good Luck and Bad Luck."

**C. Word Study:**

Words can be divided into parts called syllables. For the words below, first tell how many syllables there are in the word. Then copy the word, breaking it into parts.

- |                 |       |       |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| 1. carter       | _____ | _____ |
| 2. gentle       | _____ | _____ |
| 3. fountain     | _____ | _____ |
| 4. excitement   | _____ | _____ |
| 5. company      | _____ | _____ |
| 6. stories      | _____ | _____ |
| 7. intermission | _____ | _____ |