



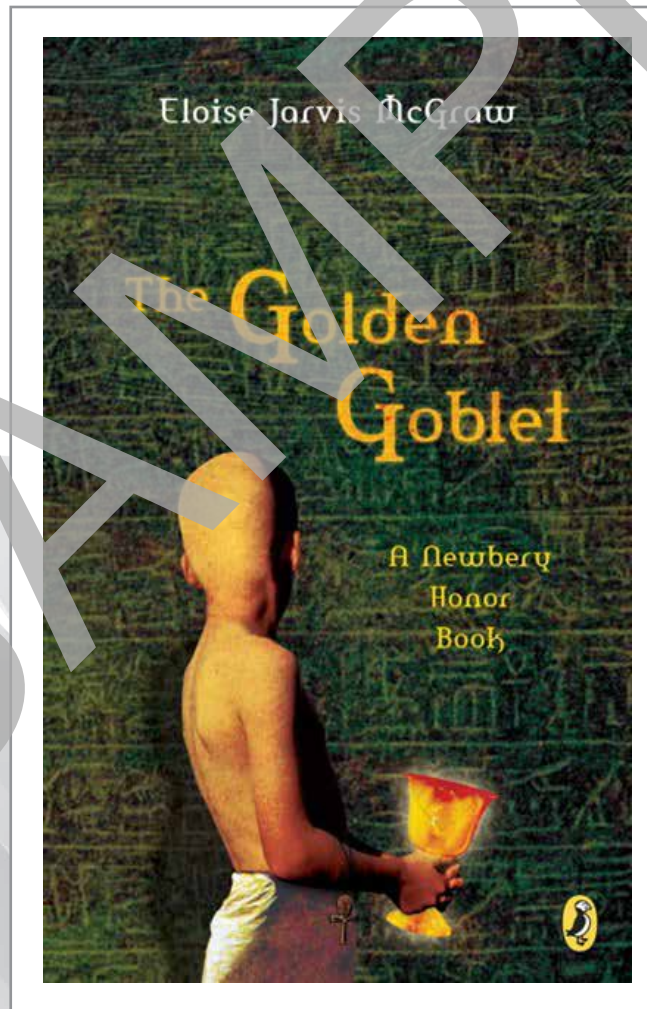
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES 6-8

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

The Golden Goblet

Eloise Jarvis McGraw



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Golden Goblet

Eloise Jarvis McGraw

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Comparing and contrasting,
evaluating, analyzing details,
classifying and categorizing

Literary Elements

Stereotypes, villains, plot,
character, conflict

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,
cause/effect, inference

Vocabulary

Context clues, synonyms

Writing

Narrative, comparison/
contrast paper, similes,
interview, editorial

Listening/Speaking

Participation in discussion
and dramatic activities

Summary of *The Golden Goblet*

Ranofer, orphaned son of the goldsmith Thutra, dreams of making gold jewelry for the nobility of Egypt. His cruel half-brother, Gebu, is willing to let him work at Rekh's gold shop, but only as a hireling, not as an apprentice, and only as long as Ranofer unwittingly brings home stolen gold in a wineskin filled every few weeks by Ibni, another of Rekh's workers.

Fortunately, Ranofer makes friends with Heqet, a new apprentice, and with an old man, "the Ancient" who gets along by gathering papyrus near the river with his gentle donkey, Lotus, to carry the stalks. When Ranofer discovers he is part of Gebu and Ibni's plot to steal gold, he enlists Heqet's help in informing Rekh and getting Ibni removed from the shop.

The plan backfires on Ranofer. Since Gebu no longer needs him to transport the stolen gold, Ranofer is sent to work at Gebu's stonecutting shop, where Ranofer fears his hands will be injured, curtailing his hope of doing fine gold work.

Ranofer continues to see Heqet and the Ancient, meeting them at midday and after work. One evening Ranofer accompanies Heqet on an errand to Zau, the master goldsmith. To Ranofer's surprise, Zau remembers that Ranofer showed promise under Thutra's tutelage. Zau is willing to take on Ranofer as his pupil—but only if Ranofer "reshapes his life" so that he will have the freedom to study with Zau during the day.

Gebu begins showing mysterious signs of prosperity—new sandals and clothes, better food, plenty of beer—and Ranofer notices that he often leaves at night. With the help of Heqet and the Ancient, Ranofer learns that Gebu is involved in some sort of smuggling scheme with a man named Wenamon and a river boat captain, Setma. The three friends continue to watch Gebu, Wenamon, and Setma, hoping to discover exactly what is going on.

It is while Ranofer is hungrily searching for food that he discovers, hidden in Gebu's room, an exquisitely crafted golden goblet. From the hieroglyphics on the goblet, Ranofer can tell the goblet was stolen from the tomb of Thutmose, pharaoh of Egypt over a century before. The penalty for tomb-robbing is death—and Ranofer knows that if Gebu is found out, his own problems will begin to be solved. Ranofer fears that if he goes to the authorities no one will believe him, and that Gebu will kill him for telling. He leaves the goblet in its hiding place, only later realizing that the goblet itself is the only way he can prove Gebu's crime. By the time he decides to retrieve it and take it to the palace, Gebu has hidden it in the scroll room at the stonecutter's shop, and Ranofer can't find it. Without proof, Ranofer is too afraid to tell even Heqet and the Ancient that Gebu is a tomb-robber.

Ranofer decides to follow Gebu at night—something he has been terrified to do because of the spirits that supposedly prowl the streets after dark. By putting together clues gained from the Ancient and Heqet, Ranofer realizes that Wenamon and Gebu plan to rob another tomb on the day of a great public festival—a festival to be held the following day.

Before dawn the next day, Ranofer follows Wenamon and Gebu to the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings. They disappear into a shaft leading to the tomb, and when a vulture startles Ranofer, he tumbles into the shaft behind them. A long passageway leads to the tomb of the queen's parents, and Ranofer

Chapters 1 and 2

Vocabulary

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| molten (7) | crucible (7) | kilt (7) | ingot (7) |
| amulets (8) | beneficently (8) | fathom (9) | ingratiatingly (10) |
| sibilant (10) | revered (11) | servility (11) | sidle (12) |
| adder (12) | treacherous (15) | humiliating (16) | annealing (17) |
| aghast (18) | surly (20) | brusquely (22) | awesome (27) |
| guttural (28) | artisans (28) | jocular (29) | irresolute (29) |
| papyrus (29) | hewn (33) | extricated (33) | temerity (34) |
| speculative (34) | ingrate (36) | reproach (42) | deigning (42) |

Vocabulary Activity

Divide the class into four groups, and assign one column of vocabulary words to each group. Students should find words from their column during reading, and formulate context definitions. Later, these definitions can be checked with a dictionary by having each group member look up one or two words and write a definition and a sentence using the word. Definitions should be shared briefly with the whole class.

Discussion Questions

1. What element of the story do you learn in the first sentence? (*setting—Egypt*) What other basic information do you learn in the first six paragraphs? (*The main character is Ranofer, who works in a goldsmith's shop and dreams of being a master goldsmith like Zau. Ranofer's father, Thutra, died, and Ranofer was sent to live with Gebu, who he hates.*)
2. Is Ranofer learning to become a goldsmith? (*No, he is only a hireling, not an apprentice. His job is to melt down gold and make ingots for the smiths and apprentices to fashion into jewelry.*)
3. Who is Gebu, and how does Ranofer feel about him? (*Gebu, Ranofer's half-brother, beats him and refuses to let him be apprenticed. Ranofer calls him Accursed One and blames him for making his life miserable.*)
4. Why does Ranofer think there is something strange about Gebu's reaction to the wine? (*He is always pleased to get the wine, even though he pours it out.*) What possible clues to this mystery are there? (*Ibni's job is to wash the raw gold; he always gives Ranofer the wineskin secretly; the gold weights have not been tallying properly and Rekh thinks someone in the shop is robbing him.*)
5. How is Rekh like and unlike Zau? (*Both are goldsmiths. Unlike Zau, Rekh is not a genius, but he is honest and kind and seems concerned about Ranofer.*) Why do you suppose Ranofer does not tell Rekh that Gebu beats him? (*Ranofer is humiliated and ashamed.*) Have you known or heard of anyone in a similar situation who didn't reveal that he or she was being abused by a family member?
6. What seems to bother Ranofer most about his suspicions that gold is being smuggled out in the wineskin? (*If it is true, he has been a part of the plot himself.*)
7. What does Heqet have that Ranofer wants? (*an apprenticeship*) What does Ranofer have that Heqet wishes he had? (*Ranofer knows a good deal about the goldsmith's trade. Heqet knows nothing, and the craftsman he is supposed to assist doesn't explain anything.*)

8. What things from his life-before-Gebu does Ranofer miss the most? Use a T-chart like the one below to compare the two.

| What Ranofer Has Now | What Ranofer Had Before |
|---|--|
| work as a hireling rather than an apprentice being beaten by Gebu worrying about the wineskin | his father's house, garden and gold shop Marya making date cakes playing with his dog going to school |

9. Why do you think Ranofer finally told Heqet to leave him alone rather than answering his many questions? *(Perhaps the answers, which seemed to make so little sense, were embarrassing to Ranofer.)*
10. Why doesn't Ranofer just tell Rekh what he suspects about Ibni? *(He feels guilty about his part in the scheme, and also fears Gebu's wrath. Also, he has no proof that his suspicions are correct.)*
11. In what part of what town is Ranofer's world? *(Ranofer lives in Thebes on the western bank of the river, in an area known as the City of the Dead. South of him are the noblemen's homes and the palace.)* How did the City of the Dead get its name? *(The articles crafted here usually end up in the tombs.)*
12. Describe Gebu's "split personality." *(He can be noisy and jocular or ferocious and quiet.)* Why would it be hard to live with a person like that? *(There is no way to know which kind of mood he'll be in.)*
13. Who does Ranofer meet at the river? *(a kindly old man gathering papyrus)* Does walking by the river help Ranofer to make a decision? *(He decides to tell Gebu what he knows and threaten to tell Rekh if he doesn't stop.)* Do you think the scene which follows at home is what Ranofer pictured as he walked back from the river? *(Ranofer may have hoped that Gebu would be worried or afraid, but instead Gebu beat him, demanded that he continue to bring the wineskins, and pointed out that he could easily be convicted of the crime himself.)*
14. How does Gebu taunt Ranofer by picking on his softest spots? *(He reminds him he has no money to pay for an apprenticeship, and calls him Fatherless One and Homeless One.)* In addition to beating and berating Ranofer, what other method does Gebu use to control him? *(He feeds him very little. Ranofer is always hungry.)*
15. Ranofer does have one way to escape from the unhappy situation he finds himself in. What is it? *(He daydreams about what things will be like when he is a man and has his own gold. He dreams of finding gold.)* Does this remind you of any modern-day daydreams? *(example—the lottery)*
16. Why does Ranofer shrink back from Gebu's two visitors? *(Setma, the riverboat captain, is drunk. Ranofer is sure that Wenamon has the Evil Eye.)* From the context of the story, what can you gather about Ranofer's belief in superstition? *(He believes Wenamon can cast an evil spell over him, thinks amulets have special powers.)*
17. Does Ranofer have much self-esteem? *(No, he thinks of himself as a coward.)* Do his plans to discover a hidden cave full of gold offer a practical solution to his problems?
18. **Prediction:** Will Ranofer run away? Will he tell Rekh about Gebu and Ibni?

Writing Idea

Everyone has daydreams. Sometimes the daydreams we have when we are young even become a reality later on. Our daydreams often begin with the thought, "If only..." Write about a daydream you have had that begins in this way.

Story Map

The Golden Goblet is about a boy who reshapes his life to attain goals that at first seem like impossible dreams. This framework may be used throughout the reading to trace Ranofer's progress from fearful and hopeless to courageous and hopeful. Students should jot down details about the important events which occur as the story progresses, and add a few words describing Ranofer's mood after each.

Describe Ranofer in the beginning.

Summarize important events in the boxes below. Describe how _____ feels after each one.

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Event #1: | Ranofer feels... |
| Event #2: | Ranofer feels... |
| Event #3: | Ranofer feels... |
| Event #4: | Ranofer feels... |
| Event #5: | Ranofer feels... |
| Event #6: | Ranofer feels... |

Describe Ranofer at the end.