

BOOK KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – THE IRON MAN BY TED HUGHES

Important Information

Plot

An iron giant appears from seemingly nowhere, feeding on local farm equipment. A trap is set and he is buried, although he eventually escapes. A small boy called Hogarth has the idea of sending him to a scrapyard to feed him metal and keep him out of the way. Meanwhile a giant dragon appears to get larger in space and makes its way to earth. The Iron Man is suddenly called upon to help save the world.

Themes

War Vs Peace, Tolerance, Kindness, Betrayal, Judging Others and Courage.

Setting

The opening to the book is set in an unknown part of the world on a cliff top by the sea. This could possibly be England as this is where Ted Hughes came from. As the Iron Man makes his way inland, he travels over hills and fields but ends up trapped in a giant hole. After he climbs out, he is kept in a different rural town nearby where there is a scrapyard. When the Space-Bat-Angel Dragon appears from space, it lands on Australia, causing tremors all around the world.

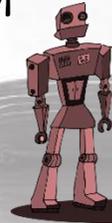
Characters

The Iron Man	Protagonist or Antagonist? - Giant metal man who appears on earth.
Hogarth	Protagonist - Young boy who strikes up a relationship with the Iron Man
Hogarth's Family	Hogarth has a father, mother and sister.
Farmers	They build a giant trap to bury the Iron Man
Armed Forces	Sent to destroy the strange creature from the sky.
Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon	Protagonist or Antagonist? - The giant creature which falls to earth and battles with the armed forces of the world.

Context - Ted Hughes invented The Iron Man as a story for his own small children, and wrote it out just as he had told it over three or four nights. He described the story as "like a kit or blueprint for putting together a little boy", and he said that he felt he should tell his children stories to make things possible for them; stories that allowed them to win. He described The Iron Man as bringing the boy into a friendly relationship with the mysterious world of technology and machines in such a way that he can control it.

Ted Hughes

The Iron Man



What Can the Book Teach Us?

Don't bury what you don't yet understand.
Humanity should try to live in peace rather than create wars and fight one another.

Quotes

"Nobody knew the Iron Man had fallen. Night passed."
"The countries began to think how they could live pleasantly alongside each other, rather than how to get rid of each other"

THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 1 – OVERCOMING THE MONSTER



THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 4 – VOYAGE AND RETURN

Stories like these are of normal protagonists who are suddenly thrust into strange and alien worlds and must make their way back to normal life once more.



Name of Book: The Iron Man

Date Published: 1968

Author: Ted Hughes

Reading 'Reconsidered' Spine: Symbolic Text - Year 3/4

Genre: Fantasy

Key Vocabulary

infrared	rays like light but outside the visible spectrum at the red end / although we cannot see it, we can feel it as heat
torso	the trunk of the human body (ribs, navel etc)
sheer	incredibly steep, almost vertical
harrow	equipment used for breaking up and smoothing out soil
colossal	extremely large or great
unfurled	spread out from a rolled or folded state
hillock	a small hill or mound
jolt	push or shake abruptly
boughs	main branch of a tree
girders	large iron or steel beam often used to build bridges
constellation	group of stars forming a recognizable pattern
astronomers	an expert in or student of stars, planets and space
silhouette	the dark shape and outline of someone or something
blotted	to get in the way of a view of something
pedestals	the base or support on which a statue is kept
lament	passionate expression of grief or sorrow
blissful	extremely happy; full of joy