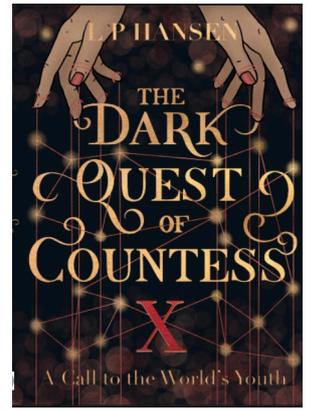


Teacher Resource for **THE DARK QUEST OF COUNTESS X –
A CALL TO THE WORLD’S YOUTH** BY L P HANSEN



Using NZ Curriculum Key Competencies
Social Sciences: Years 8-13

CONSIDERING SOCIAL JUSTICE

CONTENTS:

**THINKING – RELATING TO OTHERS – LANGUAGE, SYMBOLS AND TEXT –
MANAGING SELF – PARTICIPATING AND CONTRIBUTING**

TEACHER TAKEAWAYS & BONUS

THINKING

In the opening pages of the novel, the mysterious Countess X claims that “*few adults have been willing to confront the situation of the missing women.*” Why do people accept the social injustices of the status quo? Discuss your answers with a partner or in a small group.



OR

The various cultural groups involved respond differently to the Countess's Invitation. Choose two groups and consider possible reasons for this. Discuss your answers with a partner or in a small group.

RELATING TO OTHERS

Imagine you are preparing for an interview with ONE of the following characters, to write an article on trafficking. Think about the information you'd like to get from them and why. Write down three questions to ask them. Be prepared to explain your choices to a partner or in a small group. Practice listening to other students in your turn.

- a. Sage
- b. Gavan
- c. Makani
- d. Countess X



LANGUAGE, SYMBOLS AND TEXT

Music and words are often key aspects in activism for social justice. Create a poem, rap or song that reflects your response to the Countess's question about the *"almost two hundred million missing women"* (p. 153).



OR

With another student, choose two of the book's characters and imagine them meeting again in ten years' time. Create a two minute script where they share memories of their time with the Countess.

MANAGING SELF –

How would you respond to such an Invitation from the Countess? Imagine your own attitude and motivation if it happened. Discuss your answer with a partner or in a small group.



Lichtenstein Chateau Vaduz

PARTICIPATING AND CONTRIBUTING

Are you ready for a Heroes' Quest? Complete the Questionnaire below.



Directions:

- For each of the following statements decide whether you tend to agree or disagree. Put an "x" on the scale to the left of each statement indicating how strongly you agree or disagree.
- Choose three statements that you feel strongly about and write one paragraph to explain / defend your perspective (on the back of this sheet.) Include evidence from your life or from other things you have read or learned.

		General Statement
agree	disagree	1. No society is perfect.
A.....D		
agree	disagree	2. I can effect positive change in my community.
A.....D		
agree	disagree	3. Injustice will always exist in a society.
A.....D		
agree	disagree	4. The future will be better than the past.
A.....D		
agree	disagree	5. Technology makes the world better.
A.....D		
agree	disagree	6. There are those who profit from injustice.
A.....D		
agree	disagree	7. Literature can provide insight into injustice.
A.....D		
agree	disagree	8. An individual can influence a whole society.
A.....D		

TEACHER TAKEAWAYS

1. Using appropriate YA novels to teach about social justice allows students shared and immediate **ACCESS** to varied challenging social situations.
2. YA literature gives students a chance to **IDENTIFY** with characters from different cultures and to inequities that young people can relate to.
3. **DISCUSSION** YA novels provide a range of attitudes to problems that students can discuss and actively pursue/explore in different ways.
4. **GROWTH** Just as YA characters grow and change through the challenges they face in the stories, students can arrive at fresh understandings of their own thinking through critical study and discussion of YA novels.

BONUS

See **Resources** at the end of the book. [See also Artwork in the form of murals on trafficking, used for a Competition to launch this book \(click here to download\)](#). At the request of teachers, it remains on the author's website, www.lphansen.com as a further resource for this topic.



L P Hansen is available for author-in-schools visits, directly or through ReadNZ.

For information about visits or discounted class sets of her titles, email info@onepotopress.com.