



# DREAMWORKS TROLLHUNTERS TALES OF ARCADIA

FROM GUILLERMO DEL TORO

**Target Audience:** Students in grades 3-5

## Program Components

- This teacher's guide
- 3 reproducible student activity sheets
- A classroom wall poster
- A reply card for your comments or comment online at [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-trollhunters](http://ymiclassroom.com/feedback-trollhunters)
- Standards alignment available at [ymiclassroom.com/trollhunters](http://ymiclassroom.com/trollhunters)

## Dear Educator,

Transport your students to Arcadia, where Jim Lake, Jr., an ordinary teenager, discovers a world filled with fantastical, whimsical, and amazing creatures living right beneath his sleepy small town. What's more, Jim finds himself transformed into the Trollhunter — the only one who can protect the troll and human worlds against the most vile and evil trolls imaginable.

Created by acclaimed filmmaker Guillermo del Toro, *DreamWorks Trollhunters* takes young viewers into a world where the ancient battle of good and evil plays out — right after gym class. Season 2 of this award-winning Netflix original series is available now.

This study guide brings *Trollhunters* into the classroom to help students learn story elements such as character, setting, and plot as they use their writing skills to create new *Trollhunters* adventures of their own.

This study guide was developed by the curriculum experts at Young Minds Inspired (YMI) in cooperation with DreamWorks Animation Television. Students can complete the activities even if they have not watched *Trollhunters* before. In addition, all activities meet Common Core Language Arts Standards.

The materials are copyrighted, but you may make as many copies as necessary to meet your students' needs.

Please comment online at [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-trollhunters](http://ymiclassroom.com/feedback-trollhunters) to let us know your thoughts on this program. We depend on your feedback to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in students' lives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley  
Editor in Chief  
Young Minds Inspired

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## How to Use This Program

Photocopy this teacher's guide and the three activity sheets before putting the poster on display in your classroom. Use the poster to introduce *Trollhunters* and as a visual focal point throughout the lessons.

## Activity 1 - Character

### Meet the Team that Saves the World (after Gym Class)

Start by asking students to brainstorm what they think makes them want to know how a story ends: An exciting plot? An emotional ending? A story with a lot of humor? Point out that no matter how interesting the plot or how funny the dialogue, readers or viewers have to care about the characters.

Explain that in most stories, the main characters complement each other, each with his or her own weaknesses and strengths.

Ask students to list some common character traits, and write them on the board or on a large piece of paper. Talk about how each trait can help the reader identify more with the character. When finished, tell the students that today they are going to look at some of the main characters in *Trollhunters* and decide how each character's unique traits could help the team in tricky situations. Refer to the poster and discuss each character. Ask the students to think about their own character traits and how those traits could benefit Jim and his friends. Then have them complete the activity sheet.

## Activity 2 - Setting

### What Lies Beneath Your Town?

Ask students to come up with ideas about what else is important in storytelling besides the characters. Explain that a story's setting creates a mood and gives clues about the characters and what might happen in the story. For example, a sullen and dangerous character would probably not live in a rainbow-colored house, but might instead lurk under a shadow-filled bridge.

A shadowy bridge plays an important part in *Trollhunters*, where it acts as a portal through which the evil Gumm-Gumms — who live in the Darklands — can invade our world. *Trollhunters* also features other imaginative settings, such as

the colorful Heartstone Trollmarket, which lies beneath the small, peaceful town of Arcadia, and Arcadia Oaks High School, where Jim's history teacher happens to be a changling spy! Refer to the poster so the students can get a good idea of what the settings in *Trollhunters* look like.

Begin Part 1 of the activity by asking students to think about where they live. What makes the "setting" of their lives special? Pass out the activity sheet, and have the students complete the graphic organizer using their own hometown as a reference. Have them think about peaceful areas of their town and some places that seem like they could be occupied by fantastical creatures such as those in *Trollhunters*. Then ask them to imagine an amazing, fantastical world beneath their hometown. Have them use the graphic organizer again to brainstorm a setting for magical creatures.

For Part 2 of the activity, have students expand on their brainstorming to write a description of their *Trollhunters*-like setting. What does the world feel, smell, and look like? Is it a welcoming place, and where is the exit to the world of humans above?

## Activity 3 - Plot

### Escape from the Darklands!

Tell students that now they will be learning about plot. The plot drives the action and serves as a map of the most important events. In every great story, the plot rises, climaxes, falls, and resolves.

At the end of Season 1 of *Trollhunters*, Jim enters the Darklands, leaving his Trollhunter team behind in an effort to protect them. Tell the students that this plot device is sometimes called a *cliffhanger* — the point where the audience is left in suspense. Cliffhangers usually happen near or at the climax, and they make the audience want to keep reading or watching.

Tell students that in Season 2 of *Trollhunters*, Jim fights alone and becomes trapped in the Darklands. Based on what they know about the characters, what else do the students think might happen in Season 2? Will the evil Gunmar escape into our world? Will Jim's friends be able to find him?

Pass out the activity sheet. Ask students to pretend they are screenwriters and that they need to create a story arc for Season 2. Tell them to use their imagination and knowledge of the characters to complete the graphic on the sheet.

Then have students write a short story using their plot for Season 2. Tell them to include themselves as a valuable member of the *Trollhunters* team!

## Resources

- *Trollhunters*: [www.netflix.com/trollhunters](http://www.netflix.com/trollhunters)
- YMI: [ymiclassroom.com](http://ymiclassroom.com)



# Meet the Team that Saves the World (after Gym Class)

*DreamWorks Trollhunters* is an animated epic adventure about an ordinary high school student, Jim Lake, Jr., who discovers that he's been chosen to battle a group of Evil Trolls who are threatening to invade our world and destroy the world of

the good Trolls who live beneath Jim's hometown. With his buddies, both human and fantastical, Jim rises to the challenge — and still manages to finish his homework! You can watch Season 1 and 2 of *Trollhunters* now streaming on Netflix!

**Part 1.** Meet the main characters of *Trollhunters*. Read the characters' descriptions, then imagine how each would deal with the situations described in the chart, based on their character traits. Write your answers in the chart.



**AAARRRGHH!!!:** A giant troll with incredible strength who prefers not to fight, but will fight to protect those he loves.



**Toby:** Jim's best friend, who is a bit clumsy, but is always optimistic, faithful, and really good at telling a joke.




**Jim Lake, Jr.:** An average high school student, Jim yearns for adventure. He gets that and more when he becomes the first human protector of a secret world of Trolls living beneath his hometown. Jim is brave, loyal, and a talented cook whose skills with a knife lend themselves to sword fighting.



**Claire:** Intelligent, talented, and a martial arts expert, she's the voice of reason and the brains behind many of the team's plans.



**Blinky:** Jim's chief Troll advisor. With lots of enthusiasm, he's wise and has a heart of gold.

	In Season 1, Steve wants to show how important he is so he picks on Jim. They get into a fight, and Jim knocks out Steve's tooth. How do you think each character would react to being treated this way?	In Season 2, Jim tries to rescue Claire's baby brother Enrique in the Darklands, but finds that the portal back home is closed! How should the rest of the team use their powers to save them?
<b>Jim Lake, Jr.</b>		
<b>Toby</b>		
<b>Claire</b>		
<b>Blinky</b>		
<b>AAARRRGHH!!!</b>		

**Part 2.** Imagine you are part of the *Trollhunters* team. How would your unique character traits benefit the group? List your three best character traits below. Then, on the back of this paper, write a story about how you would use your skills to help the *Trollhunters* escape a dangerous situation.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_





# What Lies Beneath Your Town?

How do you think a magical setting is different than an ordinary one? In the award-winning animated series *DreamWorks Trollhunters*, the people who live in the peaceful town of Arcadia are unaware of a fantastical, magical world beneath their feet.



Here's some information about Arcadia and important sites in the world of *Trollhunters*:

- *Arcadia*: A small, peaceful town with tree-lined streets, well-kept houses and yards, and sunny weather.
- *Arcadia Oaks High*: The school Jim and his friends attend. Much like the rest of the town, it is modest but still well-kept and attractive.
- *Heartstone Trollmarket*: Located below Arcadia. The hub of

the Troll World, Heartstone Trollmarket is where Trolls come from near and far to find comfort and remedies. Its many streets are lit by glowing gemstones and its bridges and walkways are lined with shops where a Troll will find most anything he needs.

- *The Darklands*: A shadowy realm where Gunmar and his Gumm-Gumm army were exiled. It can be entered or exited, but not easily.

**Part 1.** Now, describe your hometown in the spaces below. What makes your town special, and magical?

**Name of my town:**

**Some natural characteristics of my town:**

**Magical places to explore in my town:**

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Now, imagine that a *Trollhunters*-like world is hidden under your hometown! Fill out the chart again, this time with an imaginary, magical, underground world as your focus. Be creative!

**Name of the hidden world under your town:**

**Some natural characteristics of the hidden world:**

**Magical places to explore in the hidden world:**

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**Part 2.** Using these ideas, write a paragraph on the back of this paper describing your underground world. Be sure to write what the world feels, smells, and looks like. Is your setting a welcoming place, a magical place, a fantasy place? Where is the exit to the world of humans above? How do you get through the door?





## Activity 3 – Plot

Reproducible Master

# Escape from the Darklands!

Imagine you are a writer for the animated fantasy adventure series *DreamWorks Trollhunters* on Netflix. It's your assignment to create a story arc for Season 2. If you can, watch an episode of Season 2 to get inspired. Fill in the graphic organizer below, thinking about how the plot should move throughout the season, and using your imagination and knowledge of the characters and plot points from Season 1.



- Jim enters the Darklands to fight Gunmar alone.



- Jim risks everything for one chance to rescue baby Enrique and escape the Darklands.



- Gunmar discovers Jim's friends are in the Darklands and both the Trollhunters and Gunmar try to escape.



- Jim and friends are at detention when Draal (possessed by Gunmar) arrives and Jim is arrested.

### Rising Action

1. What do you think might happen at the climax? Write your ideas on the lines below!

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### Climax

2. What do you think might happen after the climax? Write your ideas on the lines below!

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3. What do you think might happen at the end of Season 2? Write your ideas on the lines below!

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On the back of this paper, use the information in the graphic organizer and your creative writing skills to describe what might happen in Season 2. Include yourself as a character and a valuable member of the *Trollhunters* team!

