



Artemis Fowl

Written by Eoin Colfer

Presentation by XXXXXXXXXX

Eoin Colfer-The Man Behind the Bestsellers

- Eoin Colfer (pronounced *Owen*) grew up in Wexford, Ireland.
- He first developed a passion for writing in primary school, reading Viking books inspired by his history lessons at the time.
- In 2001 the first *Artemis Fowl* book was published and he was able to resign from teaching and concentrate fully on writing. There are 6 books in the series.
- He describes the series as “*Die Hard* with fairies.”
- He now lives in Ireland with his wife and 2 children.





The Characters

- **Artemis Fowl:** A 12 year old, brilliant criminal mastermind who is determined to restore his family's wealth no matter the cost.
- **Butler:** The bodyguard and “manservant” of Artemis who has been with him since birth. He is the brawn behind Artemis’s brain.
- **Holly Short:** A member of the elf/fairy community with the typical elf-like features. Despite her 3’ tall stature, she is the only female officer of the LEP (Lower Elements Police). She battles it out with Artemis to save her People’s fortune.
- **Commander Julius Root:** Holly’s short-tempered, cigar smoking boss. Although he hates to show it, he deeply cares for Holly in a fatherly way and will stop at nothing to help her.
- **Foaly:** A centaur who is a genius with technology. Thanks to his inventions, Holly is always one step ahead of the humans.



The Settings

- The book begins in the mysterious early twenty-first century Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- The book then describes the **Lower Elements**, a fictional underground universe. The term refers to all areas underground that the humans (referred to as "Mud Men" by the fairies) in general do not know about. The Lower Elements are where most, if not all, fairies and other non-human beings in the series live.
- The main plot takes place at **Fowl Manor**, which is the mansion where Artemis and his family reside. It has been in control by the Fowls since the early 1400s. The manor has “withstood war, civil turbulence, and several tax audits” (p. 126).
- There are also various places in Ireland mentioned, such as Dublin and Emerald Isle.

The Plot

- In the opening of the book, Artemis and Butler trick an intoxicated fairy into giving up the sacred book of the fairy people. This book tells the secrets behind the fairies' magic and their rules. Artemis decodes the book and is determined to capture a fairy and use it for exploitation and obtaining gold.
- Holly Short unknowingly walks right into the hands of Artemis and Butler. She is in fact kidnapped and held hostage in exchange for a ton of 24 karat fairy gold.
- Commander Root and Foaly take action to rescue Holly and attempt to negotiate with Fowl.
- A variety of Lower Element creatures are brought in to accomplish Root's mission, including a troll and dwarf.
- The end of the book is indeed a page turner full of blood, guts, gore, and trickery!

Excerpt 1

- A description of Artemis:

“How does one describe Artemis Fowl? Various psychiatrists have tried and failed. The main problem is Artemis’s own intelligence. He has puzzled the greatest medical minds, and sent many of them gibbering to their own hospitals” (Prologue).

Excerpt 2

- Holly's capture:

“Holly felt the dart puncture the suit's toughened material, depositing its load of curare and succinylcholine chloride-based tranquilizer into her shoulder. The world instantly dissolved into a series of technicolored bubbles and, try as she might, Holly couldn't seem to hold on to more than a thought. And that thought was: How did they know? It spiraled around her head as she sank into unconsciousness. How did they know? How did they know? How did they....” (p. 76).

Pros

- Very action-adventure
- Great descriptions of setting and characters, creates excellent mental images
- Easily lends itself to a movie and sequels
- Would greatly appeal to young male readers
- Perfect example of the Fantasy genre



Cons

- There is a lot of alcohol in this book! The very beginning has a drunk fairy who is scammed by Artemis, and the 3 human characters (including a 12 year old!) drink champagne toward the end of the book.
- A typical 6th grader would not have a clue about some of the references in this book such as Spanish Inquisition, Hindenburg, the *1812 Overture*, and Stockholm Syndrome just to name a few.
- The language!! This book said “damn” roughly 10 times, and there is even an elfish word for cursing, “D’Arvit!”
- Humans, or Mud People, are portrayed as ignorant, harmful to the environment, stingy, barbarians, drunks, etc. It is even a deep insult to the elves to be called a human. I felt this went a little too far.



Academic Uses

This book is excellent for genre studies. It fits perfectly into the Fantasy genre. I think it would also be great to discuss protagonist and antagonist characters. Students could also draw/create a display of the settings because they are so well described in this book.

