

A **FREE** RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS!

# Z THE MASK OF ZORRO Z

## – EXTRA

### Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2. Suitable for users of CROWN/TEAM magazines.

### SYNOPSIS

It is 1821. Spain is handing control of California to Mexico after 300 years. Before he leaves for Spain, the cruel Spanish governor Rafael Montero sets a trap in the town square for the man who has caused him trouble for twenty years – Zorro, the people's hero. Zorro escapes the trap with the help of two young orphan boys, Joaquin and Alejandro, but Montero follows Zorro home. Zorro is really Don Diego de la Vega. As Montero and Diego fight, Diego's wife is shot. Montero's men lock Diego in prison and Montero takes Diego's baby daughter to Spain.

Twenty years later, the two young boys, Joaquin and Alejandro, are now famous bandits. Captain Love, in the pay of Montero, traps them and Joaquin is killed. Alejandro escapes.

Montero returns from Spain with his beautiful daughter Elena. He plans to buy California from the Mexicans with Californian gold that his men have secretly been mining, using poor Californians as slave workers.

Knowing of Montero's return, Diego escapes from prison. He realises that Elena is his daughter. He meets Alejandro, teaches him how to swordfight and makes him the new Zorro. While investigating Montero's plans, Alejandro falls in love with Elena.

Montero and Captain Love go to the mine to collect the gold and blow up the mine with the slave workers inside. Zorro follows them. Diego, meanwhile, has convinced Elena that she is his daughter, and together they go to the mine to help Zorro. There is a fight and Diego, Montero and Love are killed. Elena and Zorro live, and vow to carry on Zorro's work.

### THE BACK STORY

Zorro first appeared in 1919 in a book called *The Curse of Capistrano* by Johnston McCulley. Zorro is a fictional character who wears a black mask and cape and rides a black horse. He fights for justice for the people of California against the greedy and harsh Spanish and Mexican rulers. Zorro's favourite weapon is the sword, which he uses to cut his signature Z into walls – and people's throats! 'Zorro' is the Spanish word for 'fox'; Zorro is like a fox because he is fast and clever.

The public loved Zorro, and McCulley wrote sixty more stories about him and his adventures. Hollywood immediately saw Zorro as a movie hero, and *The Mark of Zorro* was the first film ever made by the new Hollywood film studio United Artists, in 1920. Since then, Zorro has appeared in more than 40 films, several television shows, comic strips, video and computer games and most recently a musical. Zorro has appeared in *The Simpsons*, and the Puss in Boots character in the *Shrek* films is voiced by Antonio Banderas and is based on Zorro.

### MEDIA LINKS

**DVD:** The 1998 film, *The Mask of Zorro*, and the 2005 sequel, *The Legend of Zorro*, are available on DVD.

**CD:** A recording of *The Mask of Zorro* is available to accompany the Scholastic Reader.

**Internet:** The official Zorro website is at [www.zorro.com](http://www.zorro.com) and there is background information on Wikipedia.

## HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

### Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have students seen the film? Motivate them with some clips from the DVD. Read out page 7 of the story and ask them to predict what will happen next.

### Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self-Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

### Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

### Using the DVD

Select the English language option on the DVD. Watch the film yourself before class to check that it is suitable for your class. Select key scenes to show in parallel with the class reading schedule. Get students to watch for differences between the reader and the film.

### Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words in class or as homework. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet also practises the new words.

### Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *The Mask of Zorro* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet). Put them into context. Ask students to look out for them as they read.

### Fact Files

These magazine-style sections have the lowdown on the legend of Zorro, the amazing skills that the actors learnt for *The Mask of Zorro*, and the history of California, America's land of gold!

### What did they think?

Students review *The Mask of Zorro*. Compare their opinions. Did they think it was exciting? Did you like it? Let us know at: [readers@link2english.com](mailto:readers@link2english.com)

### COMPETITIONS AND UPDATES

Check [www.scholasticelreaders.com](http://www.scholasticelreaders.com) for competitions and other activities related to the Scholastic Readers.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



THE MASK OF ZORRO  
- EXTRA

People and places

1 Complete these sentences.

- a) ..... *Zorro* ..... practises swordfighting in a secret cave.
- b) ..... loves Zorro and wants to be like him.
- c) ..... is a young soldier.
- d) ..... was in love with Diego's wife, Esperanza.
- e) ..... thinks that Montero is her father.

Prologue and Chapters 1-2

1 Write *is* or *isn't* in the space to make correct sentences.

- a) California ..... *is* ..... now part of Mexico.
- b) Santa Anna ..... governor of California.
- c) Rafael Montero ..... governor of California.
- d) Almost everyone in California ..... happy that Montero is leaving.
- e) Zorro ..... the people's fighter!

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a) The people are in the square to say goodbye to Montero.  F
- b) Montero gives some land to his friend, Don Luis.
- c) Montero's plan is that Zorro will try to rescue the three men in the square.
- d) Alejandro and Joaquin save Zorro from the trap.
- e) Zorro doesn't know that the boys have helped him.
- f) Zorro gives Montero a nice present.

3 Find the answers.

- a) What has Esperanza put around Elena's bed? ..... *flowers* .....
- b) What does Esperanza see on Diego's arm? .....
- c) What does Montero do to his soldier after Esperanza dies? .....
- d) As the fire fills the house, what does everyone hear? .....
- e) Where is Montero sending Diego? .....

4 Work with another student. You are Montero and one of his soldiers. In a few minutes, you are going to go into Diego's house (see page 12). Discuss your plans. Start like this:

Montero: Right. Inside, we will find Diego and Esperanza.

Soldier: Then ...

Chapters 3-6

1 Match the numbers to the sentences.

0	2	3	<del>20</del>	200
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- a) The number of years that have passed since chapter 2.
- b) The number of fingers on Jack's left hand.
- c) The price in pesos for the Murrieta brothers.
- d) The number of bars of gold in the soldier's box.
- e) The number of men Captain Love hits with his gun.

2 Who says or thinks these things? Match the names and speech bubbles.

a) My name is Zorro!  
 b) I won't move, and the soldiers will think I am dead.  
 c) Why has Montero come back? Will he want his land back?  
 d) You've never cared about the people of California! You care only about yourself!  
 e) Why do I know this smell? I have never been here before.

- i) Don Luis
- ii) Father Felipe
- iii) Elena
- iv) Diego de la Vega
- v) a prisoner

3 Answer the questions.

- a) What does Alejandro want to buy with Zorro's medallion? ..... *drink* .....
- b) Who does Alejandro want to kill? .....
- c) Why does the old man want to help Alejandro? .....
- d) Where does the old man take Alejandro? .....
- e) How does Alejandro learn to be a good swordfighter? .....
- f) What must happen before Alejandro can kill Captain Love? .....

4 Circle the correct words in *italics* in these sentences.

- a) Alejandro sees a fantastic (horse) / sword when he comes to town.
- b) Alejandro meets *Elena* / *Diego* in town later that night.
- c) When Alejandro first gets on the horse, it *takes him back to the cave* / *goes wild*.
- d) Alejandro hides in *the church* / *Montero's house*.
- e) *Elena* / *Captain Love* tries to shoot Alejandro in the confession box.
- f) Alejandro cuts a big 'Z' into *Captain Love's clothes* / *a wall*.
- g) Diego is *pleased* / *angry* when Alejandro returns.

5 Alejandro is not a gentleman. Do you think he will seem like a gentleman at Montero's party? Have you ever tried to talk, eat or walk in a new way? Was it easy?

## RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### Chapters 7–11

**1** A newspaper writer was at the party and wrote about it the next day. Complete the story with these words.

as beautiful clouds except good-looking guests  
important interesting ~~party~~ very with

Don Montero's a) ..... *party* ..... was wonderful. All the  
b) ..... people in Los Angeles were there. The garden  
looked c) ..... , with lights in all the trees. But it was  
not d) ..... beautiful as Señorita Elena Montero!  
She looked fantastic. One of the e) ..... was a new  
gentlemen. He wore very fine blue and white clothes and he was very  
f) ..... ! He danced g) ..... Señorita  
Elena. It was a h) ..... exciting dance! Everyone  
watched them. And everyone enjoyed it i) .....  
Don Montero and his friend, Captain Love. Their faces were like storm  
j) ..... I think there's an k) .....  
story there – I will tell you more when I find out!

**2 Put the correct names in the sentences.**

- a) Montero is planning to buy California from ... *Santa Anna* ...
- b) Alejandro's old friend ..... is at the gold mine.
- c) ..... learns who Alejandro really is.
- d) Captain Love plans to explode the mine with ..... inside it.
- e) Zorro and ..... fight and he cuts off her clothes.

**3 Answer these questions.**

- a) Who are Elena's real parents? .....
- b) What does she remember about her life with Diego? .....

**4 Number the sentences in the order they happen.**

- a) Diego dies with Elena at his side.
- b) Elena stops Diego from killing Montero with his sword.
- c) Captain Love locks the workers in the mine.
- d) Montero fires his gun at Diego and Diego falls.
- e) Montero and Captain Love die.
- f) Zorro and Captain Love fight on the lift.
- g) Zorro and Elena rescue the workers.

**FINAL TASKS**

- 1** You are Elena. Write the story of your life.
- 2** After many years as Zorro, Alejandro is ready for a quiet life with Elena and their four sons. Write his advert for a new Zorro. What must the new Zorro be good at? What must he/she be like?
- 3** Work with a partner. One of you writes for the *Los Angeles Times*. The other was a worker at the mine and was there when it exploded. Roleplay an interview. Then work together to write a newspaper report.

### VOCABULARY BUILDER

**1 Complete these sentences with words from the box.**

confession gold mine neck prison rope  
~~soldiers~~ swords trap wild

- 1. In Zorro's time, *soldiers* often fought with .....
- 2. Never put a ..... around your ..... – it's dangerous!
- 3. If you want to catch a ..... animal, use a .....
- 4. We've heard your ..... of the terrible things that you've done. Now you must go to .....
- 5. The ..... goes deep underground and it's full of .....

**2 Circle the correct word in italics in these sentences.**

- 1. He put on a (mask) / *flower* and went into the bank with a gun.
- 2. The town has a party every summer in the main *cave* / *square*.
- 3. Arnold Schwarzenegger is the *governor* / *gentleman* of California.
- 4. Blood comes out of a *cut* / *mask*.
- 5. I don't like going into *jars* / *caves* because they're dark and scary.
- 6. The family didn't turn off the cooker when they went on holiday. You could hear the *explosion* / *cut* ten kilometres away!
- 7. In Zorro's time, a *medallion* / *gentleman* could ride a horse, fight with a sword and speak French; he was usually rich.
- 8. The *flowers* / *explosions* in the garden are beautiful this summer.
- 9. Some men like wearing a *square* / *medallion* around their neck.
- 10. What do you keep in that glass *jar* / *governor*?

**Casual language**

- **'Long live ... !'** (p.9). Groups of people shout 'Long live' and a person's name to show that they like that person.
- **'Look who's here!'** (p.16). You say this when someone arrives. It shows you are surprised, excited or pleased.
- **'Shut up!'** (p.17). This means 'Be quiet!'; it isn't a nice thing to say.
- **'You're not bad.'** (p.40). This means 'You're very good, but I don't really want to say anything nice about you!'
- **'He's not right in the head.'** (p.42). This means 'He has a problem inside his head.'

**What do you say at these times?**

- 1. You're trying to talk on the phone but your friends are being too noisy. '.....'
- 2. The Queen is passing through your town on a special day. '..... the Queen!'
- 3. Your brother is good at the guitar, but he thinks he's fantastic at everything. '.....'
- 4. You and your sister think that your dad is doing something really stupid. '.....'
- 5. You're at a party. You suddenly see a friend who moved away a year ago. '.....'

### ZORRO: THE LEGEND LIVES ON! (pages 48–9)

#### Write and act out a scene

In small groups, students write a short scene about Zorro, with a part for each student. Set a time limit for the finished work, for example two minutes. They learn their lines and rehearse, before performing for the class. Suggest ideas if students are stuck. For example: *Montero is throwing a family off their farm because he wants their land; Zorro rides in and soon he's pointing his sword at Montero's neck; Montero has to pay the family a good price for their farm, so they can buy land somewhere else.*

### THE MASK OF ZORRO: THE STARS (pages 50–1)

#### Skills presentation

Find out what skills your students have. Ask them to choose one of their skills and write a few sentences about it, answering these questions: *What is it? How did you learn it? How good are you? Do you enjoy using it? Why/Why not? Will you continue to practise it in the future?* Students take turns to present their skill to the class.

### CALIFORNIA (pages 52–3)

#### Project: My region

Students use the Fact File about California as a model for a magazine-style article about their own region or country. They can write about an important event from their region's history, a famous person, a traditional dish and a popular festival, for example. They could include an interview with a local person, and fact boxes, maps, charts and photos.

#### Quiz

In pairs, students write five quiz questions based on the information in all three fact files, noting down the answers. Pairs take turns to ask the class their questions.

### DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP

#### Quiz

Choose an exciting scene from the film. Prepare some questions in advance, but don't give them to students yet. Tell students to watch and listen very carefully. Play the scene. Afterwards, give students your questions, then finally check answers with the class.

#### Choosing scenes

If you don't have time to show the whole film in class, write a list of key scenes on the board. Students vote for the scenes they would most like to watch. Examples:

- Zorro saves the three men in the main square.
- Captain Love and his men trap the Murrieta brothers.
- Montero visits Talamantes Prison and Diego escapes.
- Alejandro learns to swordfight.
- Alejandro hides in the church.
- Alejandro and Diego go to the ball.
- Zorro and Elena rescue the workers at the mine.

#### CD: What happens next?

Choose a key moment on the CD in the section that students are going to read next. Play part of the scene, but stop it before something dramatic happens. Students decide what they think will happen next. They can check their ideas when they read.

#### CD: Missing words

Photocopy a page from the book. Blank out key words (for example, all the verbs, the important nouns or the prepositions) on the photocopy. Make enough copies for the class. Play the same section on the CD. Students listen for and write in the missing words.

### ANSWER KEY

#### Self-Study Activities (pages 54–6)

- 1 a) mask b) gold c) rope d) square e) trap f) cave g) neck h) medallion i) flower j) cut k) prison l) sword m) mine
- 2 a) governor b) soldier c) gentleman
- 3 a) Diego de la Vega b) Alejandro Murrieta c) Elena Montero d) Rafael Montero e) Captain Love f) Tornado g) a cave h) a gold mine
- 4 a) Mexico b) Zorro c) another soldier d) a large house e) angry f) Montero
- 5 Open answers.
- 6 a) wild b) confession c) explode
- 7 Open answers.
- 8 a) a dead cat b) He kills himself. c) Zorro's medallion d) They think he is dead. e) Montero
- 9 a) T b) F. Diego is going to teach him. c) F. He remembers the medallion. d) T e) F. He goes to get the horse. f) F. She talks to Alejandro.
- 10–12 Open answers.
- 13 a) Diego to Alejandro b) Alejandro to Montero c) Elena to Captain Love and his friends d) Captain Love to Alejandro e) Montero to Alejandro f) Montero to the other landowners
- 14 a) They are poor men, women and children who disappeared from their homes. b) Three-Finger Jack c) Joaquin Murrieta's d) It means that Zorro knows about the secret mine. e) Because she likes (OR is in love with) him. f) Because she can see a father's love in his eyes.
- 15 a) Elena and Alejandro rescue them. b) They die after the explosion in the mine. c) He dies after Montero fires at him with his gun. d) They marry and have a son.
- 16 Open answers.

#### Resource Sheet Activities

##### People and places

- 1 b) Alejandro Murrieta c) Captain Love d) Montero e) Elena Montero

##### Prologue and Chapters 1–2

- 1 b) is c) isn't d) is e) is
- 2 a) F. They are there because he is going to kill three poor men. b) T c) T d) T e) F. He jumps onto the roof and gives them his medallion as a thank-you present. f) F. The 'present' is a 'Z' cut into his neck.
- 3 b) blood c) He kills him. d) a baby crying e) prison
- 4 Open answers.

##### Chapters 3–6

- 1 b) 3 c) 200 d) 0 e) 2
- 2 b) iv c) i d) ii e) iii
- 3 b) Captain Love c) because Alejandro once helped him d) Zorro's cave e) Diego teaches him, and he practises again and again. f) The landowners must believe that Alejandro is one of them.
- 4 b) Elena c) goes wild d) the church e) Captain Love f) a wall g) angry
- 5 Open answers.

##### Chapters 7–11

- 1 b) important c) beautiful d) as e) guests f) good-looking g) with h) very i) except j) clouds k) interesting
- 2 b) Three-Finger Jack c) Captain Love d) the workers e) Elena
- 3 a) Diego and Esperanza b) the smell of romania flowers and the sound of her father's voice
- 4 The correct order is: c, b, d, g, f, e, a.

#### Vocabulary Builder

- 1 1. soldiers, swords 2. rope, neck 3. wild, trap 4. confession, prison 5. mine, gold
- 2 2. square 3. governor 4. cut 5. caves 6. explosion 7. gentleman 8. flowers 9. medallion 10. jar

#### Casual language

1. Shut up! 2. Long live 3. You're not bad.
4. He's not right in the head. 5. Look who's here!