

DEMINIUS: THE ORIGINS SERIES • BOOK I

THE SILENT ONE

Free Classroom Taster Lesson

● ○ ○ BOOK I OF III

TRY THIS LESSON FIRST

This is Lesson 1 of a free, complete 6-module classroom curriculum built around *The Silent One* (Deminus: The Origins Series, Book I of III), a mythical, intimate fantasy woven from African (Yoruba) and English traditions.

No prep beyond this page. One class period. No spoilers.

If this works for your class, the full unit, six lessons on identity, silence, found family, power, and self-knowledge, is free to download at irokotreepress.com.

LESSON 1 • FREE TASTER

Worlds Within Worlds

*English (KS3): introducing the novel's setting and real-world inspirations***Duration** 45–60 minutes**Materials** This page, a world map (or online map), chart paper or whiteboard**Book needed?** Not required for this lesson. An excerpt or read-aloud passage is enough**OBJECTIVE**

Students will identify the real-world cultural traditions (Yoruba and English) that inform the novel's fictional world, and distinguish between the two.

CULTURAL CONTEXT NOTE FOR EDUCATORS

The Silent One draws on both Yoruba and English traditions to build its fictional world. The novel is a work of fantasy, not an ethnography. Its magic system, characters, and events are invented, even where inspired by real traditions.

When teaching this lesson, distinguish clearly between the fictional world and real Yoruba culture, and treat the novel as an invitation to learn more about the real tradition, not a substitute for it.

The Yoruba have a documented civilisation stretching back well over a thousand years, including ancient kingdoms such as Ile-Ife, long predating European contact and the British Empire. Approach the material with the same care and respect you would bring to any living culture's traditions.

WARM-UP (10 MIN)

On a world map, locate West Africa (Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Yoruba homelands) and England. Ask students what they already know about either region.

MAIN ACTIVITY (25-30 MIN)

- Introduce the key terms below as a class. Discuss the difference between real Yoruba culture and the fictional world the author builds from it: the novel is inspired by, not a documentary of, Yoruba tradition.
- In small groups, have students brainstorm what a 'pre-modern, post-medieval' fantasy setting might include (technology, social structure, beliefs) and share out.
- Introduce the concept of 'overlords' hunting the protagonist from birth. Discuss what this establishes about the world's power structures before the story even begins.

KEY TERMS

Term	Say it	Meaning
Yoruba	<i>yoh-ROO-bah</i>	A West African ethnic group and language (primarily Nigeria, Benin, and Togo) with a rich oral storytelling, cosmological, and spiritual tradition. Civilisations such as Ile-Ife date back well over a thousand years, long predating the British Empire.
Deminus: The Origins Series	–	The book series that begins with The Silent One.
Mystic realm	–	The place the protagonist is raised in, apart from his birth world, for safeguarding and training.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you already know about Yoruba culture or history before this lesson? What's new to you?
2. Why might an author blend two real-world traditions into one fictional world instead of inventing something from nothing?
3. What does it mean for a world to feel 'mythical and intimate' at the same time?

REFLECTION / ASSESSMENT

Journal: Write 3–5 sentences on what you're curious to learn about Yoruba tradition.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Older students: research one real element of Yoruba cosmology or oral storytelling and present a 2-minute summary. Younger students: illustrate the map locations discussed in class.

WANT THE REST OF THE UNIT?

This is one lesson from a free, complete 6-module classroom curriculum covering identity, silence, found family, power, and self-knowledge, paired with a spoiler-free discussion guide.

Download the full set at irokotreepress.com.