**Teaching Material for "The Battle of Kronborg"**

**"The Battle of Kronborg"** *"The Battle of Kronborg"* can be used to teach about one of the many wars Denmark fought against Sweden throughout history. Over several centuries, these conflicts were numerous. *"The Battle of Kronborg"* focuses on the Second Swedish War, taking place between 1658 and 1659. The story provides insight into how brutal the war was for the country and its citizens. Students are introduced to the horrors of war, where life is tough, and major decisions must be made. *"The Battle of Kronborg"* inspires students to learn more about the war and the living conditions of the population at the time. *"The Battle of Kronborg"* consists of 29 chapters accompanied by questions. The questions are designed to be discussed after reading each chapter and encourage reflection and group research.

**Introduction**

*"The Battle of Kronborg"* tells the story of the war between Denmark and Sweden in 1658. King Carl X Gustav of Sweden has occupied nearly all of Denmark, with only Copenhagen and Kronborg left to conquer.  
 Henrik lives in Helsingør (Elsinore) with his family on Skyttenstræde. His father is a soldier stationed at Kronborg.

### **Chapter 1**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What city does Henrik live in, and where is it located in Denmark?
* How many people lived in Helsingør in 1658?
* How many people lived in Denmark in 1658?
* Which cities were the largest in Denmark in 1658?
* What is Henrik afraid of on this warm August day?
* Who does he meet in the town?
* What are the pigs doing?
* Try to describe the street – is it clean?

### **Chapter 2**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Why is Helsingør such an important city in 1658?
* What is happening in the city/The Sound?
* Who receives the money?
* Are there many ships on The Sound when Henrik and Erik sit on the beach?
* What is happening at the piers?
* Are all the people sober?
* What is Henrik’s mother’s name?
* Who teases Henrik and Erik?

### **Chapter 3**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who is fighting whom?
* What are they fighting with?
* Are they all loyal to Denmark?
* Did only Danes live in Helsingør in 1658?
* Which side do the Swedish boys support?
* What is the Swedish king’s name?
* Describe the Swedish king.
* When does he arrive in Helsingør?
* How many men are defending Kronborg?

### **Chapter 4**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who do the boys meet in Kronborg’s courtyard?
* What does the person look like?
* What does he tell them?
* What is Henrik’s father’s name, and what does he do?
* What do the soldiers look like?
* Why are houses burned down in front of the fortress?
* Are there any remnants of these houses today?
* What did Denmark lose in the First Swedish War?
* How much of Denmark was it?

### **Chapter 5**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who arrives in the city in the middle of the night?
* Describe the soldiers.
* What do they hear while eating breakfast?
* Who visits their neighbor Sophie?

### **Chapter 6**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who steps into their home from the street?
* What does the soldier want?
* How does the visit go?
* What do you think about the mother’s defense?
* How do they get the soldier to leave the room?
* What is the next problem?

### **Chapter 7**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who visits Ane?
* What is the role of a bailiff?
* What message does the bailiff give Ane?
* Why is Ane afraid of the bailiff?
* What does the bailiff tell them?
* Who comes to help them?

### **Chapter 8**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who does Henrik meet in the town?
* Describe the sexton.
* What is happening in the classroom?
* What do the boys write with, and on what?
* What happens during the lesson?
* What do the boys do when they hear the bombardment?

### **Chapter 9**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who visits their house in the evening?
* Who carries the dead soldier out on a cart?
* What happens on Skyttenstræde when they go to bed?

### **Chapter 10**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What wakes them up the next morning?
* Who is shouting?
* Find out who this man is.
* What is his role in the Swedish war machine?
* Who knocks on the door?
* What does he tell the family?

### **Chapter 11**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What does the mother suggest?
* Where does Erik live in Helsingør?
* Who do they see on the street?
* Who arrives at the street?
* What do the soldiers do?
* Who arrives next on the street?
* What happens then?
* What does the bailiff ask Ane to do?

### **Chapter 12**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What happens when Henrik is at school?
* What happens to the Clerk?
* Where do they go after leaving school?
* What has happened to Kronborg?
* What are the Swedes busy with?
* Who do they see in front of Kronborg?
* Describe the streets in the town.

### **Chapter 13**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What is Henrik’s mother, Ane, doing?
* What happened to Erik’s father?
* How does Ane calm Erik’s father?
* What news does Ane bring from the castle?
* How is Erik’s father feeling?
* What does Ane ask the boys to do?
* What do they say?

### **Chapter 14**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* How do they get out of the town?
* What is the name of the road they walk on?
* Who do they meet first?
* Where do they hide in the forest?
* Who do they see first on their way through the forest?
* Who do they see next?
* What else happens?
* Explain what a *snaphane* is.
* What are they looking for and want to take with them?

### **Chapter 15**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Do they find the letter?
* What does it look like?
* Which noble figure passes through the forest with their entourage?
* Describe this person.

### **Chapter 16**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who are they visiting in Espergærde?
* Where does she live?
* Have Swedish soldiers visited her?
* What does Henrik show her?
* What does the letter say?
* What should they do with the letter?
* What falls to the floor?

### **Chapter 17**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Where are Henrik and Erik heading now?
* Which route do they take?
* Which road leads to Helsingør?
* Describe it.
* Who do they see when they reach the fishing village?
* What happens to the fishermen?
* Who do they meet on the beach?

### **Chapter 18**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* When do they leave in the fishing boat?
* What do they see further out on the The Sound?
* What do they spot on the Swedish warship?
* What does the warship do next?
* What do they eat onboard?
* What happens to the boys later?
* What do they see in front of Copenhagen’s harbor?

### **Chapter 19**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who does the fisherman sell fish to?
* How do they manage to enter the harbor?
* What happens before they get in?
* Where do they dock?
* What is the place called today?
* Who is the fisherman treated by?
* What was the role of such a person in the past?
* Who do they ask for at the barber-surgeon’s?

### **Chapter 20**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Where do they take the fisherman?
* What do the streets of Copenhagen look like?
* Why is that?
* What is the name of Copenhagen’s commander?
* Describe him and his career.
* How large is Copenhagen’s defense force?
* Who is in charge?
* What is happening at Copenhagen’s ramparts?
* Has Copenhagen already been attacked?
* How?
* Where do they find the commander?
* What does he look like?
* What does he say to the boys?

### **Chapter 21**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Where do they sleep in Copenhagen?
* What do they agree on?
* Who does Henrik find?
* Where is he from?
* What has happened to him?
* When did Denmark lose Skåne, Halland, and Blekinge?

### **Chapter 22**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* How does it go when they try to leave the harbor?
* How is the fisherman doing?
* How do they manage to get through the Swedish blockade?
* What happens as they head north?
* What does Andreas decide?

### **Chapter 23**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* How is the fisherman doing, and what does his gunshot wound look like?
* What do they decide to do?
* What does Henrik do for the fisherman?
* What does she ask Henrik to retrieve from the sea?
* Who stays to take care of the fisherman?

### **Chapter 24**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What does the mother say when they return home and tell her about the letter?
* What does she tell them about the Swedish occupation?
* Do Swedish soldiers trade with Ane?
* Who has she spoken to?
* How is Erik’s father doing?
* Who has said something to him?

### **Chapter 25**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What wakes them up during the night?
* What is the relationship between the Swedish king and Field Marshal Wrangel?
* What does Kronborg look like?
* How are the town’s citizens handling the situation?
* What does Andreas tell the Swedish soldiers?
* What has happened to the Latin school on Sophie Brahe Street?

### **Chapter 26**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Who do they meet when they turn onto Skyttenstræde?
* What is lying on the street, and what do they throw at each other?
* What do the boys shout at each other?
* What happens to Gustav?
* Who comes and interrupts the fight?
* What does the mother say when she sees the three boys?
* What does Andreas tell about his experiences in Skåne?
* What does Henrik promise Andreas?

### **Chapter 27**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* Where does the stream run in Helsingør?
* Who returns to Helsingør?
* What does he bring with him?
* How does the bombardment sound?
* What do the boys see when they go to look at the castle?

### **Chapter 28**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* How long do the bombardments last?
* What do they catch down on the beach?
* Do they still hope that the Swedes can be stopped?
* What does the mother think of the Danish kings?
* What suddenly happens?
* Where do the boys and Petrus go?
* What does the younger man tell them?
* Where do they run to?
* Do this gate and drawbridge still exist?
* Who crosses the bridge?
* Describe the whole scene.
* What do the Swedish soldiers do?
* Find the date of the surrender.

### **Chapter 29**

*Read the chapter and discuss in groups before presenting in class.*

* What do the citizens of Helsingør say about the surrender?
* What is Erik afraid of?
* Who approaches them as they reach Skyttenstræde?
* Who returns home to the family?
* Describe the situation.
* What does Henrik drop?
* Where will Andreas live?
* Who won the Second Swedish War?