

The Door in the Wall

Reading Guide

by David Kohl

For the book by Marguerite de Angeli



LOGOS PRESS
Elementary Literature Series

Upper Elementary Reading Guides

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Suggestions For Use

This literature guide is designed to be completed by a fifth grade student over the course of one semester. Students may certainly read more than the five books contained in this guide if they are so inclined. Five required books would be a reasonable goal for a school semester, but a lot depends on how much time - if any - you spend on projects, how much time daily you devote to reading, and what else you do in your reading program. For best results, parents may read and discuss the books and the questions with their students.

Books on the fifth grade literature list vary greatly in degree of difficulty. Your students may find some books harder to grasp than others.

Questions fall into three basic levels: literal, inferential, and evaluative; or, as someone put it, “on the lines”, “between the lines”, and “beyond the lines”. Some literal level questions have one right answer, but most questions have more possibilities.

Our typical reading period is about an hour long. First someone reads aloud to the class for 15 minutes from a book not on the literature list. It could be related to something we are studying in history, or it could be just for fun. For the remaining 45 minutes students read and answer the comprehension questions. If they finish early, they read a book of their choice.

Some editions of some books have no chapter numbers, so you may have to number them yourself.

A typical weekly cycle includes four days of new assignments; the fifth day is a catch-up day for students who need the extra time, or a free reading day for those who don't.

I require thorough, accurate answers in complete sentences, and I grade on content - which should include style - and mechanics. The questions should be thought of as more short essay than short answer.

Here are the four vocabulary steps used throughout this guide:

Vocabulary: The Four Steps

- A. Find the vocabulary word; write it in context.
- B. Guess the meaning from context; write it.
- C. Write the dictionary definition next.
- D. Finally, use the word in a sentence of your own.

Enjoy your books!

David Kohl
Moscow, ID
January 2002

The Door in the Wall

by Marguerite de Angeli

Name _____

Date _____

Chapters 1 - 3

1. Read the Bible verse quoted in the front. Read Revelation 3:7-13. Why might the author have chosen the title for the book, and the Bible verse? (As you read on in later assignments, watch for mentions of a “door in the wall.”)

2. What is the plague doing to London?

3. What do we learn about Robin’s mother and father?

4. A. Why does Robin knock over the porridge?

B. Why does he throw the chisel?

C. What do these incidents teach us about Robin?

5. In what ways does Brother Luke help Robin?

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Chapters 4 - 6

1. Why is Robin making a doll? Is this a good thing for him to do? Explain.

2. Why do you think Brother Luke wants Robin to fish and swim?

3. Tell three or more things we learn from Sir John de Bureford's letter.

4. Do the four vocabulary steps with **creeps**.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

5. How does the author hint that the inn is a bad place, and that there may be trouble coming?

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Chapters 7 - 8

1. A. What kinds of things were going on at this medieval fair?

B. How is it like a modern fair?

C. How is it different from a modern fair?

2. Do Sir Peter de Lindsay and Lady Constance seem to be disturbed at the thought of having a crippled page boy? Explain why or why not.

3. Brother Luke says, "None of us is perfect. It is better to have crooked legs than a crooked spirit." What does he mean by this?

4. The Welsh attack at the end of chapter 8. But even before they attack, the author has made the reader uneasy, expecting trouble. How has she done this?

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Chapters 9 - 10

1. Explain in detail how Robin helped to save the castle from capture by the Welsh.

2. A. How is Robin a better person now than he was at the beginning of the book?

B. How did he find his "door in the wall?"

3. Explain why you liked or disliked the book. Give specific reasons to back up your opinions.
