

"That which concerns all should be approved by all."
"I am a minstrel. I want to be on the road with you."
"You have done well, son."

Reading Notes

Warden

a governing official at a college

Friar Bacon

Roger Bacon; a famous scholar who taught at Oxford

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each **bold** word or phrase.

1. an enchanted city filled with **meditative** peace contemplative; thoughtful
2. "Who goes to parliaments?" he asked **indignantly** bitterly
3. but with corners **partitioned** off divided
4. a half-finished chapel with **scaffolding** over it a structure that holds workers and materials while a building is under construction or being repaired

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. What do the students discuss at the dinner table? They discuss the king's messenger and the Parliament at Westminster.
2. How do the scholars compete before meals? They see who can pray in Latin the fastest.
3. Why is this parliament different? It is the first time that the Commons are going to attend, two citizens or burgesses from every city.
4. Why does Adam say a scholar's life is easy compared to a minstrel's? A student can forget what he has studied with little consequence. If a minstrel forgets, he doesn't eat.
5. How did Roger know that Adam was at Oxford? The Steward of the Abbey of Bec told him.

Discussion Questions

1. Who said the first quotation? King Edward
2. Who said the second quotation? Adam To whom? Roger
3. What other option was he turning down? Staying at Oxford to study
4. Who said the third quotation? Roger To whom? Adam
5. The song of the cuckoo has special significance for Adam. It is referred to in chapter 2 as well as here in the last chapter. Do you think the author did this on purpose? Why?
6. What do you think Roger means when he says, "You have done well, son"? Why do you think the author chose to end the book with these words?

Activities

- Recite all of England's Sovereigns in Verse from memory.
- Think of all the characters in Adam of the Road. Which one is your favorite? Why? Write your answer in the space provided. Be thorough and use correct spelling and punctuation.

- Read "Meter and Rhyme in Poetry" on the next page. Apply what you learn by finding the meter and rhyme scheme of the poem which precedes chapter 1 at the beginning of the book.