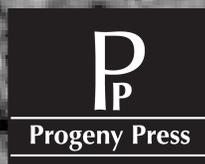


the door in the wall study guide

by Andrew Clausen

For the novel by
Marguerite de Angeli

CD Version



Limited permission to reproduce this study guide

*Purchase of this book entitles an individual teacher
to reproduce pages for use in the classroom or home.*

*Multiple teachers may not reproduce pages
from the same study guide.*

Sale of any printed copy from this CD is strictly and specifically prohibited.

The Door in the Wall Study Guide

A Progeny Press Study Guide

by Andrew Clausen

with Michael Gilleland

Copyright © 1993 Progeny Press

All rights reserved.

Reproduction or translation of any part of this work
beyond that permitted by Section 107 or 108 of the
1976 United States Copyright Act without the written
permission of the copyright owner is unlawful.
Requests for permission or other information should be
addressed to Reprint Permissions, Progeny Press,
PO Box 100, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0100.
www.progenypress.com

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN 978-1-58609-318-1 Book

978-1-58609-218-4 CD

978-1-58609-409-6 Set

Table of Contents

Note to Instructor	4
Synopsis	5
About the Author/Illustrator	6
Background Information	7
Ideas for Pre-reading Activities	8
“Robin drew the coverlet . . .”	9
“As the days grew warmer . . .”	15
“One Friday . . .”	21
“The next morning . . .”	25
“The fog held for days.”	30
Conclusion	33
Additional Resources	35
Answer Key	37

Synopsis

Ever since he could remember, Robin, son of Sir John de Bureford, had been told that like his father, he, too, would learn the ways of knighthood. But Robin is struck down by an illness that leaves him unable to use his legs. Left alone in plague-ridden London, Robin is taken to the monastery of St. Mark's by a kindly monk named Brother Luke.

Robin is saddened that, without use of his legs, he will be unable to become a knight like his father. "Thou hast only to follow the wall far enough," Brother Luke tells Robin, "and there will be a door in it." Recovering at the monastery, Robin discovers that door. He becomes skilled at woodcarving and swimming, and is taught to use his mind as well as his hands. He is also given a more valuable lesson in patience.

Robin is sent to the castle of Sir Peter de Lindsay where he was to learn the ways of knighthood. Robin wonders what sort of page he can be having to use crutches and without free hands for service, but when the castle comes under attack, it is Robin who must help save the townspeople.

“The next morning . . .” and “One day, late in October, . . .”

Vocabulary:

Circle the word or phrase that comes closest in meaning to the underlined vocabulary word as it is used.

1. They filled the punts and barges.
boats barrels troughs
2. gaily caparisoned horses
instructed burdened decorated
3. John filled the leather flagons.
bottles boots backpacks
4. emissaries of the King
servants relatives ambassadors
5. top of the keep
wall tower steeple
6. house on the heath
gardens uncultivated land grassy hill
7. bake thee a bannock
griddlecake soufflé meat loaf

The Door in the Wall Study Guide

3. A heavy mist hung over the valley so thick it was like a white blanket which parted only enough for the next step to be seen, then closed in again. ____

_____ is compared to _____

4. “Only Lindsay stands so, on a mound ringed with hills, like a pudding in a saucer.”

_____ is compared to _____

5. There they found an inn at the edge of town, its thatch pulled down over its eyes of windows. ____

_____ is compared to _____

6. The water was as cold as ice, and swift flowing. ____

_____ is compared to _____

Questions:

1. Why does Robin dread his meeting with Sir Peter de Lindsay?

2. Sir Peter said to Robin, “Each of us has his place in the world. If we cannot serve in one way, there is always another.” What duties was Robin given?

The Door in the Wall Study Guide

3. How does Robin help as the attack on the castle begins?

Thinking About the Story:

4. When Robin shivered at the thought of swimming in the icy water, Brother Luke tells him, “It strengthens thy spirit to do a hard thing.” What do you think he means?
5. When Robin is making keys for the harp, John tells him, “Thou canst but try. Anyone can *not* do it.” Explain his meaning.

Dig Deeper:

6. How has Robin changed since the beginning of the book?
7. Do you think he would have changed as much had it not been for his disability? Explain your answer.

The Door in the Wall Study Guide

8. Have you seen yourself change because of a hardship? How?

The Door in the Wall Study Guide

Answer Key

“Robin drew the coverlet . . .” and “May came in . . .”

Vocabulary:

Dictionary definitions: 1. annoyance; 2. faithful, loyal; a feudal lord; 3. decayed, rotten; 4. persuading, cajoling, coaxing; 5. food fit for human consumption; 6. horse; 7. a book containing the hymns, offices and prayers for the canonical hours; 8. a light porous rock used as an abrasive and polish; 9. disrespectful, brash.

Monastery terms: b-chapel, a-refectory, e-choir, g-scriptorium, d-almonry, h-hospice, c-cell, i-cloister, f-postern.

Questions:

1. Robin spent the time in bed listening to the sounds outside and looking at the carvings on the ceiling.
2. Robin’s parents thought he had gone to the castle of Sir Peter de Lindsay. He was to learn the ways of knighthood there.
3. Dame Ellen became ill with the plague.
4. A poor widow from the hospice of St. Mark’s knew that Ellen had become ill and that all the servants had fled, leaving Robin alone.
5. Hundreds of travelers were at the hospice seeking rest and shelter. Many of the poor people of London were at the almonry seeking clothing and food
6. Brother Luke gave Robin a piece of wood to carve. The days seemed to pass more quickly because, unlike while he was lying in his bed at home, Robin was keeping busy by doing something he found interesting.
7. Answers will vary. Should include the idea that if one searches hard enough, one can find an answer to a problem.
8. No. Answers will vary. He may have been used to the idea, and he seemed to be able to keep up with the other boys.
9. Answers will vary. Robin may have rebelled against using crutches if told to do so.
10. Answers will vary. He is alive, he has people who care for him, his family is wealthy and influential, etc.
11. Answers will vary. Robin felt very sad, lonely, and sorry for himself at the beginning. At the monastery his feelings changed to happiness and excitement over finding the ability to carve wood. Developing this skill helped change his feelings.
12. Answers will vary. Robin realized he was capable of doing some things for himself, which helped Robin feel better about himself.
13. Answers will vary.

“As the days grew warmer . . .” and “June passed . . .”

Vocabulary: 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. a; 5. a; 6. c; 7. d; 8. c.

Questions:

1. Robin learned to carve wood, read, write, and swim. He studied history, the stars, and turned the pages of the missal during choir rehearsals.
2. Robin carves a wooden doll for a little girl. He shows the other boys how to make boats.
3. Answers will vary. Brother Luke is drawing a similarity between Robin’s crutches and Jesus’ cross. Robin must endure having to use crutches like Jesus had to endure the cross. “We all have our crosses to bear,” is a saying that means we will all have trials in life. Point out Matthew 16:24.
4. Taking a swim daily helps Robin strengthen his arms. It also helps his disposition in that he is doing what the other boys are doing.
5. Robin is given the duties of turning the pages of the missal during choir rehearsals and helping Brother Matthew in the carpentry shop.
6. Answers will vary. Robin’s mischief shows that he is feeling fine and has practically forgotten about his illness, so it may be that his illness is gone.
7. Answers will vary. Reading is another way that Robin can get beyond his disability. Robin’s disability is like a wall in that he must find a way to not let his disability hold him back from a full life.
8. Answers will vary. Learning to move around on crutches will open up a whole new variety of activities for Robin.
9. Answers will vary. Robin would be proud to use crutches that he made. He then might not show any embarrassment about having to use them. Making and using them also makes it his choice rather than something imposed on him.