

# *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*

by Avi



Family Study Guide Answer Key by Jennifer Reed

Illuminations Year 2 - Weeks 30 through 32



**Illuminations**

Family Study Guide

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*Crispin: The Cross of Lead* by Avi  
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~ **Weeks 30 through 32** ~

**Supplies and Preparation**

- *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*
- Copy of the Stromford map and answer key map
- Style Detective form(s)
- “Saint” Word Search
- GO A-2 (Compare/Contrast)
- Bible
- Look ahead to the activities to determine which you will do and the supplies you’ll need.

**Introduction**

With approximately one-third of this book being originally written in poetic form similar to Chaucer, *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* is dripping with imagery. Avi effectively draws his audience into medieval England in the year 1377, allowing us to practically feel, taste, and smell the surroundings as we travel with Crispin on his journey to discover freedom and himself. On this journey, we’ll learn of corruption and oppression, and encounter religion and a worldview in a form that is foreign to many in this modern world. We’ll also experience loyalty, friendship, love, and joy as Crispin (Asta’s son) learns who he is.

**Parent Note**

Along the way, you will find a few warnings in this study guide to pre-read content. Because Avi is exceptionally detailed in his descriptions, you may find that some descriptions are “too much” or that they expose your children to concepts you may feel they are not ready for. Recommendations will be given if content is necessary to the story, but it could effectively be reworded to be less graphic.

**Assignments**

Each day will consist of all or some of the following: reading, activities, and discussion questions. Choose the questions and activities that best suit your children.

**Vocabulary**

While the language in *Crispin* is advanced and sometimes foreign due to the setting, Avi has provided a

glossary in the back of the book. This being so, no vocabulary will be assigned, although you may find that words not in the glossary need to be explained from time to time. It may be helpful to keep a dictionary close by, just in case a word is also unfamiliar to you.

### **Cast of Characters**

**Asta**—mother of the protagonist of the story

**Father Quinel**—the priest of Stromford Village

**“Asta’s son”**—a boy of 13, later know as Crispin; the protagonist

**John Aycliffe**—steward of Stromford

**Lord Furnival**—lord of Stromford and of many other English villages and cities

**Orson Hrothgar (“Bear”)**— juggler whom Crispin travels with

**Widow Daventry**—owner of the Green Man’s Inn and a close friend of Bear’s

**John Ball**—the priest who led the “brotherhood”; the only historical figure in this novel

**Lady Furnival**—wife of Lord Furnival

### **Literary Elements/Terms**

Because this novel provides a fantastic model of stylistic techniques, we will be further exploring the following literary elements through the “Style Detective” form.

**Imagery**—Words the author uses to create a vivid picture in your mind. Often this is achieved through similes, metaphors, and personification.

**Simile**—The comparison of two unlike things, using the words “like” or “as.”

**Metaphor**—The comparison of two objects without using the words “like” or “as.”

**Personification**—The attribution of human qualities to inanimate things.

**Foreshadow**— To hint or suggest that something—usually something unpleasant—is going to happen.

**Reading Schedule** (3 weeks, 4 days per week)

	Chapters	Approximate no. of pages	Notes:
<b>Wk 30</b>			
Day 1	1–5	25	
Day 2	6–10	26	
Day 3	11–16	24	
Day 4	17–21	23	
<b>Wk 31</b>			
Day 1	22–26	25	
Day 2	27–31	26	
Day 3	32–35	24	
Day 4	36–39	25	
<b>Wk 32</b>			
Day 1	40–45	27	
Day 2	46–51	22	
Day 3	52–56	24	
Day 4	57 and 58 and the “Historical Note”	23	You may choose not to read the historical note section aloud depending on age, as younger students may not fully understand it.

## Week 30 - Day 1

Read Chapters 1–5.

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 1

- What was the reaction of the villagers as Asta’s body was carried past them? Why? How did this make her child feel? [They showed her no respect at all—they simply stared. She was shunned in life and death. The child felt as if he contained an unnamed sin that made him less than nothing.]
- In what direction were Asta’s feet placed in her grave and why? [Her feet faced toward the east so she would rise up to face Jerusalem “may God grant it” on the Day of Judgment.]

- If one missed a day of work, failed to attend mass (church), or spoke harshly of his rule, what could John Aycliffe's penalties be? Were these punishments just? [Penalties could include: whipping, a clipping of the ear (appears to be the cutting off of the ear), imprisonment, or a cut-off hand. These were severe punishments for the offense.]
- Describe the mood of the village (joyful, dark, etc.). Is it a place you'd like to be or would you long to escape from it? Provide details why. [Answers will vary but should fall along the lines of its being a dark, dreadful, poverty-stricken place that most would not want to be a part of.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 2**

- Why do you think Asta said curiosity is another name for Satan? [Answers may vary, but they may allude to the tendency for curiosity to get one into trouble.]
- What did Asta's son pinpoint as the reason he was suffering so? According to this revelation, how did he view God? Was God loving, judgmental, merciful, etc.? How does his view of God fit in with your own? [He felt God was punishing him because he had turned from the priest, broken curfew, and stolen church wine for his mother. This revelation indicates that Crispin viewed God as judgmental and unmerciful.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 3**

- What factor determined a person's standing in the world of Asta's son? [Standing was determined by a father's name and rank]
- Asta's son "existed in a shadow" because he had no father. Is this description symbolic of the way he feels about himself? [Yes, he was, in his mind, the lowest of the low, not even human.]
- What was the purpose of Asta's son's frequent confessions? Were his sins the reason for his being constantly taunted and mistreated? Why or why not? [He felt he had to root out some sin that he thought must be embedded in him. No. Answers may vary.]
- What was the main purpose of the villagers in the wintertime? [They tried to stay alive.]
- How did the "Holy Church" manage the lives of those who lived in Stromford (and much of medieval England)? [The tolling of the bells told them what time of day it was; feast days tracked the days in the year; and the church also tracked the daily work schedule.]
- What were the two things that gave "distinction" to the lives of those in Stromford? [Birth and death]
- According to Asta's son's description—"...as we made the journey between the darkness whence we had come to the darkness where we were fated to await Judgment Day. Then God's terrible gaze would fall on us and lift us to Heaven's bliss or throw us down to the everlasting flames of Hell,"—does it seem he was looking forward to Judgment Day? Knowing what you know of him, why or why wouldn't he be looking forward to it? [No, he seems to think of it with fear. He felt he was laden with an unnamed sin that he could not be rid of and therefore was destined for hell.]
- How did Asta's son feel about his lifestyle? Would it continue or was there a way to escape it? Was it the

same for all? [He felt it was inescapable, and that it would continue on that way until the end of time. It was as it was, and there was nothing to be done about it. All would continue on in this manner until the end of time.]

#### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 4**

- Everything in the village belonged to whom? Being considered possessions, were the people of the village considered more valuable than material things? [Lord Furnival. No, they were all put there to serve and benefit Lord Furnival, with no choice in the matter.]
- How was the life of the villagers similar to slavery? [They belonged to Furnival (and the King) and were required to ask permission to be excused from work if ill, to grind wheat, to bake bread, to buy or sell, to travel, to marry, and to baptize their children.]
- Why would the people be given the hope of heaven for following the rules of the village? Was this hope a false hope? [If the villagers followed the rules of the village they were told they had the assurance heaven. Yes, this was a false hope. Consider Romans 13:1–7 and Romans 4. These verses show that salvation comes through faith in Jesus, not by works.]

#### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 5**

- Put yourself in Asta's son's shoes. After all the events that have happened, how would you have felt looking down on your village and seeing that everything appeared completely normal? [Answers will vary.]
- Would you have gone forward into the village or stayed back, like Asta's son did? Why or why not? [Answers will vary.]

#### **>Hands-On Activities**

- Complete the Style Detective form for Week 30, Day 1.
- Label the map of Stromford Village using the following details. (There is also an answer key map if you get stuck.)
  - The River Strom
  - The forest
  - Lord Furnival's manor—along the tree-lined bank of the river and south of the road that runs east and west
  - The mill—across the road from the manor along the river
  - The church Saint Giles by-the-River—where the two roads meet
  - 40 cottages and huts—above and below the church
  - Crispin's cottage—pick a home on the northern edge and near the forest
  - Stocks

- Gallows
- The Commons—Northeast of the village is grazing land
- Archery butts—East of the commons
- Growing Land—South of the commons: three long, narrow strips
- Eastern boundary cross—East of the growing land
- Older students may prefer to draw their own map of the village from scratch.
- Follow a medieval schedule (or a partial schedule) for a day. Ring a bell at each liturgical hour listed below. Some of the hours are not specific, as they would have been determined by the length of the day. Prayer would have taken place at each of these hours.

<b>Liturgical hour</b>	<b>When bell is rung</b>
Matins	An hour before dawn
Prime	Daybreak
Terce	About 9:00 a.m.
Sext	About midday
Nones	About mid-afternoon
Vespers	Early evening/sunset
Compline	Bedtime

## Week 30 - Day 2

Read Chapters 6–10.

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 6

- What did Asta’s son know when he saw the men leaving the manor with weapons? [He knew that a hue and cry had been raised against him.]
- A hue is defined as a loud outcry, formerly used in the pursuit of someone suspected of a crime. Are you aware of any crimes the boy has committed? Does he seem like the type to stir up trouble? [None have been revealed, and he seems to be an obedient and careful boy.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 7

- Although they behaved loyally in public, how did the villagers Matthew and Luke honestly feel about their steward? [They were bitter and felt he was a tyrant.]
- What specific things were Matthew and Luke bitter about? Did their complaints seem justified? [They were bitter about how the steward had increased their work, taxes, fines, and punishments. He limited their freedom. Because most of the villagers were viewed as property with no rights of their own, the complaints would have justification.]

- When the steward, John Aycliffe, heard that the villagers were complaining about him, what did he do? Do you agree with his logic? Was the punishment fitting? [He informed the villagers that “...such speech went against the will of God; our king; and our master, Lord Furnival.” Those caught would be hanged. The punishment was, once again, extreme.]
- Why did Asta’s son not care about these complaints? [He did not feel their circumstances would change, so he did not waste time thinking about them.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 8**

- Whom did Asta’s son hold as kin and why? [He held St. Giles as kin because he was born on the feast day of St. Giles and because St. Giles was the village’s patron saint.]
- How would the image of St. Giles protecting deer from hunters be a reminder to Asta’s son of what his faith should be? [Answers may vary.]
- What news did Sir Richard du Brey bring to Stromford? [He told them that Lord Furnival had returned from the wars but was ill and expected to die soon.]
- Although his life was in danger, why did Asta’s son struggle with leaving Stromford? [He had lived his entire life bound by the rules of Stromford and could not fathom breaking them.]
- Why do you think Father Quinel suggests that after Asta’s son gained his freedom he could live as a highborn lord or king? Would this seem possible with what you know about their society? [This is a prime example of foreshadowing what is to come, but allow your students to speculate what it may mean.]
- What does Asta’s son mean by “I am what I am”? [All his life he has been “nothing,” a peasant with no future but to do the bidding of John Aycliffe.]
- Father Quinel states, “It’s not for men to know what God does or does not will.” Is this true? Provide Scripture to back up your stance. [Answers may vary. Among other verses, Romans 12:1–2 and Psalm 143:10 may be considered.]
- How did Asta’s son feel about the news he received about his mother? [He was confused, not understanding why she would keep these important things from him.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 9**

- Why did Asta’s son desire his new name of Crispin? [Answers may vary but may point to the idea that it gave him an identity, made him more than “less than nothing.”]
- How did Asta’s son and others view Goodwife Peregrine? Why? [They viewed her with fear and fascination. Answers may vary but may indicate that she was the oldest person of the village and thought to have special powers.]
- How much was the reward being offered for Asta’s son? How much did that amount to in terms of yearly wages? [20 shillings, which was a half a year’s wages]

- Is it possible for a person to provide protection in the manner Goodwife Peregrine did? Why did she do this only because the priest requested it? [Our ultimate protection comes from the Lord, not people. She shunned Asta's son just like the rest of the villagers did, but would honor a request from the priest out of respect.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 10**

- As Crispin looked on the boundary cross, how did he feel and why? [It "moved" him because it meant he was about to leave the village.]
- What was the result of Crispin's following Cerdic's advice? [He was led into a trap.]

### **>Hands-On Activities**

- Complete the Style Detective form for Week 30, Day 2.
- Read more on St. Giles here <http://saints.sqpn.com/saint-giles/> or do a Web search for "Patron Saint Giles." On what day was he born? Why was he associated with protecting the deer from hunters?

## **Week 30 - Day 3**

Read Chapters 11–16.

### **Warning**

Chapter 11: Avi includes the following toward the end of Chapter 11, describing a person who had been murdered. If you have sensitive children, you may choose to skip these two sentences. "I peered closer only to see that his throat had been slit. His blood, made black by night, lay pooled upon the ground."

Chapter 14: This chapter contains graphic descriptions of a man who was hanged. Seeing this man marks a pivotal change in Crispin and it is referred to later, so you should mention that a man was hanged, but the gruesome details could be skipped without interfering with the story. A pre-read of this chapter is highly suggested to determine what is appropriate for your family.

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 11**

- How dark was it on the side of the mill? Have you ever found yourself in this kind of darkness? How did you feel? [It was so dark that Asta's son could have been blind. He could see nothing at all. Answers will vary.]
- Why was Crispin certain that God had abandoned him? Read Deuteronomy 31:6 and Hebrews 13:5–6. Does God ever abandon us? [His one friend in the world was gone. God never leaves us.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 12**

- What about Father Quinel's death was Crispin sure of? [He was sure that it had to do with him and his

mother.]

- What did Crispin think would happen to him if he “died alone, without the benefit of sacred rites”? How does this compare to your beliefs? [He’d “plunge straight to Hell, and (his) torments would go on forever.” Answers will vary.]
- What behaviors or features of the owl cause some to deem it “the Devil’s own bird”? [Answers may include: They are nocturnal; they fly silently, often scaring people; their breasts and the undersides of their wings are pale, making them appear ghostly at night; some owls have white faces and dark eyes, making them look like a skull; they move their heads in unnatural ways; their droppings contain bones; their noises are ghoulish; and they reside in solitary places during the day.]
- Why were the periods of silence in the forest worse for Crispin? [Silence was worse because animals are often still when they fear something. This led him to believe someone or something he should fear was close by.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 13**

- After looking into the pouch given to him by Goodwife Peregrine, why was Crispin disappointed? [Answers may include that he realized there were only seeds in the pouch, and he felt that they (and her magic) offered no protection.]
- What responsibility had been added to Crispin’s life? [He was now responsible for making his own decisions.]
- Why did Crispin stay where he was instead of fleeing the forest as fast as he could? [His life in Stromford was the only one he had ever known and making decisions for himself was new and frightening.]
- What thoughts forced Crispin back onto the road? [His need to escape to some city or town—to freedom. It was also what Father Quinel had told him to do.]
- Earlier, Crispin had stated that dying without the sacred rites would plunge him straight to hell; now he begged God to gather him to heaven. Why the change in thought? [He was terrified, lonely, and very hungry, which led him to a state of desperation.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 14**

- Reread the first paragraph of this chapter. What emotions did it bring to your mind? How did Crispin feel? [Answers may include: suffocating, dark, and depressing. He felt completely alone, just as Adam was before the creation of Eve.]
- What changed Crispin’s mind about wanting to die? Do you think God places things or people before us to teach us? [He felt God had placed the hanged man before him to give him the desire to live—not die. Answers will vary.]
- With this new zest for life, was Crispin’s attitude toward God different as well? [Previously, Crispin seemed to view God as wrathful and angry; now he seemed to view God as his guide and protector.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 15

- How has the mood of the setting changed from the last chapter to the beginning of this one? [Crispin's world had changed from darkness and doom, full of obstacles, to light and thoughts of survival.]
- What was Crispin hoping for in the village? [He was hoping for freedom and to be treated kindly.]
- What was it about the village that scared Crispin? [Realizing something “ghastly had occurred” there, he was quickly returned to his previous thoughts that he was in hell.]
- What did the people think was the cause of the Great Plague or “the Great Mortality”? Do you believe God sends punishment for sins in ways such as that? Why or why not? [“God had sent it as punishment for our sins.” Answers may vary.]
- What could they do to escape “the Great Mortality”? [All they could do was pray to Jesus and run.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 16

- From the description of him, what was the job of “the large man”? [The hat and hose would label him a jester, juggler, and/or entertainer.]
- Why did the large man say Crispin had “a gifted way of speech”? Was he being truthful? [He gave vague answers to the questions asked. He was being sarcastic.]
- What views did the large man have about the officials of the kingdom? [They “are all corrupt gluttons.”]
- Think about the following mottoes: The king's being “It is as it is.” and the large man's being “Let it be as it may be!” What do they mean or indicate? [The king's motto indicates things are the way they are and will not be changed, while the large man's motto indicates change.]
- Tyranny is defined as 1. a government in which all power is in the hands of a single ruler or 2. harsh, cruel, and severe government or conduct. What are your thoughts on tyranny? [Answers will vary.]
- From what you have learned of Crispin's society, how does the definition of tyranny correctly fit his world? [King Edward III was the single ruler. Harsh and cruel conduct may include people being required to ask permission to bake bread and have time off work for illness; or receiving harsh punishments for missing church; not being allowed to leave villages, etc.]

### >Hands-On Activities

- Complete the Style Detective form for Week 30, Day 3.
- Research the owl, and write a poem or draw/paint a picture reflecting the characteristics that cause some to think the owl is evil. The website [www.owlpages.com](http://www.owlpages.com) has basic descriptions of the owl. If you'd like to experience some scary owl noises, YouTube has several videos. Try searching on “owl hissing”.
- Obtain owl pellets and dissect them. What did you learn about them? For \$4.50, Home Science Tools sells a complete owl pellet kit that even includes a bone identification chart. <http://www.hometrainingtools.com/owl-pellet-dissection-kit/p/PM-OWLKIT/>
- Using the description in Chapter 16, draw a picture of the “large man.”

## Week 30 - Day 4

Read Chapters 17–21.

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 17

- What did the large man mean by “Bread is never free”? [Answers may include that, even if the bread did not cost actual money, it cost someone their time, sweat, and tears. He is making another reference to the corrupt ruling power.]
- What could the large man have meant when he said that no man could save himself on his own? Find Scripture to back up your stance. [Only God can save us. See Ephesians 2:8, Titus 3:4–7.]
- According to the large man’s response after Crispin revealed that a priest told him to leave, how do you think he felt about priests? [He seemed not to trust them.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 18

- What do you suspect made Crispin feel that the man was “a true demon”? [His appearance and erratic behavior gave him this impression.]
- Why was Crispin now bound to the large man? [He unlawfully left his previous master and was found by the large man, who claimed him. The man also threatened to return him to his steward if he did not do as he was told.]
- What was the crime of the man who was hanged, and did the punishment seem just? [He kept a pound of wool from his steward to sell in order to feed his sick child. While some could argue that the father knowingly committed a crime for which he knew the possible punishment would be death, most would claim that his punishment was unjust.]
- Why could Crispin not break the vow the man was forcing him to make? [By swearing on the sacred name of Jesus, it was as if making the oath with God.]
- How did the large man judge Crispin, based on his being a wolf’s head? Do you find this similar to “judging a book by its cover”? [He assumed that Crispin was “living filth.” Yes, it is the same concept as “judging a book by its cover.”]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 19

- Why do you suspect Crispin felt it would have been better to die on the road rather than be bound by the oath he took? [Answers may include: He could not gain his freedom; he expected this servitude to be as bad as the last; he was afraid of the large man and of what would happen.]
- Did Crispin believe that someday none would have masters? Why or why not? [No, he believed all must serve some kind of master because God has willed it.]
- What is meant by “when Adam plowed the earth and Eve spun, who then was the gentleman”? [At that time in history, both were equal, with no upper class, none to rule over them.]

- Why does the large man neither trust nor love anyone? [He feels that then it is only himself that can betray him.]
- Is life without smiling and laughter worthless? Why or why not? [Answers will vary.]
- Based on the large man's reaction when Crispin refused to ask him questions, how did he respond to the lack of interest in him? [He acted offended.]
- Although not new to being taunted, how did Crispin respond when the man said he "might as well have been a dog"? Why do you suppose he had such a strong reaction? [He wanted to scream in rage, most likely because he was in unfamiliar circumstances and at the end of his rope. He may also have felt he had nothing left to lose, as his life was already so miserable.]
- Why does the large man say the Lord sent Crispin to him? Does this seem to please the man? [Crispin was sent for him to instruct. Yes.]
- How has Bear exhibited both sides of his nature (sweet/gentle and vicious/brutal)? [Answers may include that he has fed Crispin and was training him to learn a skill; however, he also insults him and easily loses his temper.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 20**

- Crispin mourns over being bound to a man who claims he hates tyranny. According to the second definition of tyranny (harsh, cruel, and severe government or conduct), does Crispin also find tyranny objectionable, but not realize it? [Crispin laments his unfortunate state of life and longs for freedom, which would indicate he is dissatisfied with the harsh and unfair treatment from the ruling people.]
- Although Crispin was miserable because of being bound to Bear, why did he think there would be some advantage in going to Wexly with him? [Father Quinel noted that Great Wexly was one of the cities where he might gain his liberties.]
- Why did Crispin think there might not be any people left in the cities? [The plague/pestilence/"Great Mortality" had wiped out many of the villages, so Crispin expected that the cities might also be wiped out.]
- How does Bear contradict himself regarding being Crispin's master? [He claims to be Crispin's master but does not want Crispin to call him "sir." It might be suggested that Bear seems to want Crispin to treat him as a friend or teacher rather than as a master.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 21**

- Compare Father Quinel to Bear. How were they different? How were they similar? [The differences were vast in regard to size, temperament, and behavior. The biggest difference was that Bear walked away from the priesthood and Father Quinel lived it all his life. They were similar because they both had the training of a priest (reading, writing, praying, etc.).]
- Bear was bitter about his father. What was the cause? [Bear suspected that his father "offered him to God" for a profitable trade or "a sack of wool."]

- Based on Bear's father's actions with his son and what you've witnessed in Crispin's society, what was the value put on most human life? [Many humans, nobles excluded, were seen as little more than a commodity to be used, sold, or traded for gain.]
- What skill kept a person from the gallows and why? [Reading, because when it came to the common people, reading and writing were only taught to priests. If you were a priest, the law forbade hanging.]
- What was meant by Bear's saying, "Perhaps it was the devil himself who took a liking to my soul"? [Answers may vary, but it alludes to the devil's tempting him to leave his life of following God to follow him.]
- What confusion clouded Bear's vision so that he thought God had abandoned him? Do you think it is common for people to transfer wrongs their parents (particularly their fathers) have committed to God? [Bear took his abandonment by his father to also mean abandonment by God. Answers may vary.]

### >**Hands-On Activities**

- Complete the Style Detective form for Week 30, Day 4.
- We couldn't let this day go by without juggling! The site listed below recommends baseballs or even oranges, but a smaller child may want to try something like a Hacky Sack. Use this link for great instructions on how to learn to juggle, beginning with one ball and working up to three!  
<http://www.juggler.com/learn-to-juggle.html> A Web search for "learning to juggle" will also turn up other sites to enjoy.

## **Week 31 - Day 1**

Read Chapters 22–26.

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 22**

- What does "As God in Heaven knows, both wheat and trust take a full season to grow" mean? [Just as wheat doesn't spring up right away, trust isn't usually earned right away. Some people require "proof" that one is trustworthy and that only comes with time.]
- Bear states, "To feed us I've put both our lives in jeopardy. That's the kind of freedom that exists in this kingdom." From this description, how would you describe the amount of freedom the people of the kingdom had? [Obviously, no freedom at all—not even to eat what they wished.]
- Why do you suppose Crispin had only eaten meat a few times? [The poor rarely had meat to eat.]
- How did Crispin's image of Lord Furnival differ from the description Bear gave him? [Crispin had thought of him as a noble knight who would return to Stromford and end the injustices dealt to him and others through John Aycliffe. Bear told of a cruel man who was known for bragging, drinking, and killing; he was a man who did not inspire faith.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 23

- Why did Crispin not feel it was proper for him to tell Bear of himself, even though he had a desire to? [Bear was his master and therefore they were not considered equal.]
- Why did Crispin sometimes think that he might have been the cause of his mother's misery? [Sometimes she seemed to find him repulsive.]
- What kept Crispin from finding out the things unknown to him, such as his surname, his father, etc.? [He did not know how to go about finding the answers to these questions.]
- Did Crispin long to improve himself or his situation or was he content to live as "God had willed it"? [He felt he had little choice and was destined to live as "God had willed it"; he did not intend, or know how, to act on his own.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 24

- How did Crispin's ignorance of the world shape his view of himself? [He thought his actions were responsible for things that had little to do with him and did not realize that others could be the cause of misfortunes.]
- Why are those who bring remorse shunned, according to Bear? [All men have sorrow of their own, and they do not want more.]
- What is meant by "Lose your sorrows, and you'll find your freedom"? Can you find Scripture that demonstrates this in biblical terms? [Answers may vary, but might include the idea that once one quits focusing on all that is wrong or sorrowful, one finds freedom from emotional turmoil, which allows a person to move forward in life. Biblically, it could mean that if we give our sorrows to the Lord, we gain freedom through Him. Scripture may include 2 Corinthians 3:12–18 and Galatians 5:1]
- In regard to his own two parts (good and bad), what was Crispin mistaken about? [He thought he was only bad; that sin was embedded in him and that is why God was punishing him.]
- "Living by answers is a form of death. It's only questions that keep you living." Why? [Answers may include that living solely by the decisions or demands of someone else may lead to the belief that one is unworthy and incapable of making any decision at all. Living by questions means we are seeking out answers, challenging ourselves, and seeking goals.]
- What was Crispin's response when Bear gave him the option to choose whether to join him or not? [He would not make the choice, stating he had no choice because Bear was his master.]
- Why do you suspect Bear gave him the choice? [It appears that Bear wanted Crispin to desire to go rather than being forced to go out of obligation to his master.]
- There seems to be a pattern of what Crispin considers madness when it comes to Bear's conversations. What things did he say to cause Crispin to judge his sanity? [Crispin seems to deem Bear mad when he expresses views or behavior that does not fit within the rules and regulations in which Crispin was brought up. Examples: no masters, laughing/smiling, abandoning God, etc.]

- Why did Bear say Crispin did not need his cross or special words? [God is always near and does not require special objects or words to approach Him.]
- What do you think is meant by “The only cross you need is the one in your heart”? [Answers may include that we only need Jesus, who resides in our hearts.]
- According to Bear, how could it be better “not to know” sometimes? Do you agree? [It is better to know a little bit well rather than know a bit of everything. Answers may vary.]
- Did Crispin think it was possible to have a lot in life other than what he had been given? What did he compare the probability of that to? [No, he felt the probability of that would be the same as the stars going their own way.]
- What questions would Crispin live by? How about yourself? [He would live by the questions about his father, his mother, and his fate.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 25**

- When among most people, why did Bear keep what he thought in his head? [He did so to show reverence.]
- What did Crispin expect Bear to do to him when he could not do what was asked of him? Do you think Bear’s past would allow him to understand this feeling? [He expected to be shunned and betrayed by Bear, just as he was by everyone else. Having been betrayed by his own father, it would be expected that Bear could sympathize with this fear.]
- Did Crispin believe he could have any part in bettering himself? [No, he believed that only God could will him to change.]
- What did Bear do and say to convince Crispin of the possibility that he could better himself? [He had him wash his face, cut his hair, and he said, “And that was only water and a blade. Think what you might become if you were cleansed of thirteen years of dirt, neglect, and servitude.”]
- How did Bear challenge Crispin’s claim that he is nothing (in regard to being noticed in the towns they enter)? [Bear pointed out the contradiction that first Crispin claims to be nothing, but then claims half the world is looking for him.]
- Why did Crispin believe he does not have a soul? Can a person’s feelings betray them? [He’s never felt it. Yes.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 26**

- What did Crispin eventually realize about Bear’s threats? [They were “but a rough kindness.” He would not do the things he threatened.]
- What thought occurred to Crispin after Bear said, “Now you know why I took you on”? How did this seem to make Crispin feel? [He was shocked and joyous to realize that Bear needed him to help him.]
- What did Crispin pray for? [He prayed for a soul, to be able to sing and dance, and that Bear would not

betray him.]

### >**Hands-On Activities**

- Complete the Style Detective form for Week 31, Day 1.
- If you have never exposed your children to a recorder, now is the time! Not only are they relatively inexpensive (generally between \$3 and \$15), but they are also easy to play. Search on “recorder” at [www.rainbowresource.com](http://www.rainbowresource.com) or [www.rocksolidinc.com](http://www.rocksolidinc.com) to purchase one online. Many instructional pages on “how to play the recorder” can be found at [www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com).

## **Week 31 - Day 2**

Read Chapters 27–31.

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 27**

- Why did Bear believe there must be a bigger reason that John Aycliffe and his men were searching for Crispin? [Crispin should have been seen as a nuisance, making them happy he fled. The fact that they were still searching for him meant that there was a more significant reason to find him.]
- Why did Crispin want to learn skills, such as noticing the birds? [He was convinced he must learn these skills in order to increase his chances of survivability.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 28**

- Now that Bear realizes the true danger Crispin’s life is in, has his motivation changed? [Prior to this revelation, Bear’s main goal was to earn money to keep them fed. Now, his motivation has become the protection of Crispin.]
- What indicated that Bear had “found a meaning that he was not prepared to tell” from the cross of lead? [He abruptly handed the cross back and then stated he needed sleep as if he were avoiding sharing what was on the cross.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 29**

- Which of Bear’s actions further confirmed that he might have knowledge of why John Aycliffe was still hunting Crispin? [Bear would stare at Crispin when he thought Crispin wasn’t looking; he was unusually nervous; and he told Crispin that if he was in danger, to go north, out of the kingdom.]
- Most days honoring saints take place on the day of their death, but the feast day of John the Baptist marks the day of his birth. On what day of the year is the Feast of Saint John the Baptist? Pay careful attention to the wording in the book. [The eve (or night before) is June 23, so the actual feast day is June 24.]
- What did the brotherhood that Bear was a part of intend to do? What specific things has he already

mentioned to Crispin? [They intended to bring about some change to make things better. He has mentioned being free of corrupt government, having equality for all people, and that everyone should be their own master.]

- Was Crispin right when he said, “Nothing really changes”? [No, he even admitted that he had changed some.]
- What was Crispin seeking freedom from? [Answers may include that Crispin sought freedom from John Aycliffe and the cruel life he had been dealt.]
- What did Bear claim was the only thing he worried about in general? How does this apply to Crispin? [Bear only worries about things he cannot understand, such as Crispin’s innocence in an evil world.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 30**

- What about the village surprised Crispin? [It was pretty much the same as his village.]
- How did Bear anger the one-eyed youth? [He took his mazer to add to his juggling act. Bear would offer the mazer back to the youth and then at the last minute, toss it into the air again.]
- Why would it have been a great sacrifice for villagers when they gave their pennies and bread to Bear and Crispin? [Just as in the rest of the kingdom, their wages would have been low (perhaps a penny a day, as in Stromford) and bread costly compared to the wages.]
- What news did Bear and Crispin learn of in the village? [Crispin was now being charged with killing Father Quinel, which was being spread along the villages by courier.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 31**

- Crispin has been “trying to notice things.” What did he notice in the village of Lodgecot? [He noticed that the one-eyed youth was paying close attention to him.]
- What about the one-eyed youth makes him seem more ominous? [The fact that he’s “one-eyed” and his angry behavior. Additionally, that no one seems to take notice of him gives the impression that his presence (or lack of) and actions would go unobserved.]
- How do you think Crispin felt about Bear’s calling him his son? How do you think Bear thought Crispin felt? What does this indicate about how Bear thought of himself? [Answers may suggest that Crispin was pleased with it. It seemed that Bear thought Crispin wished for someone better than him, indicating he does not hold himself in high esteem.]
- How could alertness bring more days to your life than worry could? Which Bible verses support this? [We can prepare for possible catastrophes, but worry does not aid us in any way. See Matthew 6:25–34.]
- Along with the penny, what did Bear give Crispin? [The word that they were both free men.]

## **Week 31 - Day 2**

- Complete the Style Detective form for Week 31, Day 2.

## Week 31 - Day 3

Read Chapters 32–35.

### WARNING

Some families may find the following remark at the end of Chapter 35 unnecessary and may skip it without interfering with the story. “If the first marriage is a gift from God, the second comes straight from hell.”

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 32

- How many days did Bear and Crispin travel between Lodgecot and Great Wexly? [Twenty days!]
- Crispin states, “Never had I felt so free. Never had I felt such constant joy.” What changes had taken place to mark these new feelings? [He was discovering he was needed, had skills, and was capable of earning his pay in a manner he enjoyed. He was also not bound by the oppressive rules and regulations that he had lived under most of his life.]
- What “fangs” did the wolf’s head acquire? [He learned the skill of using a weapon.]
- How does Bear say a man’s soul can be observed? [Bear’s claim is that the soul can be observed behind the eyes.]
- Why did Crispin have a servile look? [He kept his eyes down on the ground, as if it was where he belonged.]
- If a person looks away or down when speaking to him, what does Bear assume? Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not? [He’ll assume they have no soul and act accordingly. Answers may vary.]
- How could the devil have as many faces as there are sins? [Answers may vary but may allude to there being numerous evil people and/or temptations.]
- What did Bear offer to Crispin to show he cares for him, and how did Crispin respond? [He asked Crispin to be his apprentice rather than his servant. Crispin was excited but still apprehensive about trusting Bear.]
- Since God had given to Crispin in abundance as of late, Crispin made the decision not to pray to God for guidance but to make the decision whether or not to trust Bear on his own. How did this show he was moving toward changing himself instead of waiting on God? How does this reflect some Christians in modern times? [He was beginning to change without waiting on God, while previously he had stated he could change only if God willed it. It is still common for some Christians to quit seeking God when things go well for them.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 33

- Which tradesman made Bear irate? Read Matthew 18:17, Mark 2:16, and Luke 7:34. Had the opinion of these tradesmen changed since the days Jesus walked the earth? What did they do that made people irate? [Tax collectors. No. They were often corrupt.]

- How was what a person wore significant? [It could tell of their trade, where they came from, and/or their status in life.]
- How did Crispin describe the people in their variety of colorful clothing? [“It was as if rainbows had come to earth, draped themselves on these folk, and paraded along the road.”]
- What made Crispin feel proud and safe? [The way people hastily stepped aside and gazed at Bear in awe.]
- What scared Crispin at the gate to Great Wexly? [The presence of many guards caused him to fear they were looking for him.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 34**

- How is fear the worst disguise? [When we are fearful, we act suspicious or behave without thinking, which draws attention to ourselves.]
- Why do you think it worked for Bear and Crispin to perform their way right through the gates? [People were thrilled with the diversion from the monotony of standing, traveling, and their lives in general. It also kept Crispin from behaving suspiciously, not to mention that the guards would not expect a notorious murderer and thief to draw attention to himself.]
- Why did Crispin think the people of Great Wexly lived their lives by entries and exits? [He felt they lived by entries and exits because they had so many doors and windows, which his village did not have.]
- The foreshadowing of the death of an important person was included in earlier chapters. Who do you suspect died? [Lord Furnival]
- What is an indication that the general population could not read? Was this the norm for all? How do you know? [The business signs are in pictures instead of words. The story has already relayed that only nobles and those training for the priesthood were taught to read.]
- What made Crispin realize how poor his village was? [The abundance of food in Wexly gave Crispin the indication of how poor they were.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 35**

- Why would Bear consider it “God’s sweet grace” that let Crispin find him? [Answers may indicate that Bear is pleased to have Crispin as an apprentice.]
- How had Bear known that Lord Furnival had died? [Bear had deduced this from the previous news of his illness, the black cloth, and the extra guards at the gate.]
- Why were extra guards posted at the gate? [“When great men die there’s always unrest.”]
- Why was Crispin jealous of Widow Daventry? [She apparently had more knowledge of Bear’s “business” than he did.]
- What had Father Quinel told Crispin about a moment of silence in the midst of talk? How does this increase the tension in the story? [It meant death’s angel was close at hand. This statement increases the

tension by indicating that someone may die, causing the reader to try to deduce who it may be.]

### >**Hands-On Activities**

- Complete the Style Detective form for Week 31, Day 3.
- Traveling at an “easy” pace, the average person today can walk approximately three miles in 60 minutes. If you walked six hours a day for 20 days, what towns or cities might be your destination? What if you walked at a moderate pace of approximately five miles in 80 minutes for the same amount of time?
- Make a practice of looking people in the eyes when you speak to them. Say “EYES!” whenever a person looks down or away when speaking to another. To practice further, write a speech about freedom and deliver it to a live audience. Questions you may consider are: What is freedom? Why should it be valued? What should be done to remain free?

## **Week 31 - Day 4**

Read Chapters 36–39.

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 36**

- What fears did Crispin have about the building and why? [He feared it would fall down because it was so high.]
- Considering how Crispin thought of himself, why do you think he was surprised when Widow Daventry brought him food? [He was not used to being cared for and still expected to be treated as nothing.]
- What further evidence is there to confirm that Crispin has changed since he first met Bear? [At the beginning of their relationship, Crispin would not even ask Bear’s name; now he boldly asks about Bear’s personal business.]
- What do you suppose Bear would consider heaven “before I die”? [Answers will vary but should include idea of freedom from tyranny and oppression, and equality for all.]

How did Crispin intend to obtain his liberties in Great Wexly? [He intended to do this by disobeying Bear and leaving the Green Man’s Inn and exploring the town. He even armed himself with Bear’s dagger.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 37**

- What was it about traveling the town that Crispin found so pleasing? [Crispin found joy in choosing which way to go and feeling that he was in control of the many choices to be made.]
- How did the white bread differ from the barley bread Crispin normally ate? [“It was light and sweet and took little chewing to get down.” The barley bread would have been coarse and dry, and would have required a great deal of chewing.]
- In regard to social class, what was different about the people of Wexly and those of Stromford? [In Stromford, the wealthy thought it beneath them to socialize with the poor, whereas in Great Wexly—

with the exception of the Furnivals—rich and poor mingled together, appearing not to care about status.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 38**

- What was the biggest building in the town square? [A cathedral]
- What were some of the things that Crispin saw being sold in the town square? [Objects being sold included Moscovy furs, Toledo daggers, Flemish hats, Italian gloves, baskets, boxes, boots, shoes, tools, armor, spices, even a bowl full of peppercorns, and food.]
- Why did Crispin not enter the church right away? [He wasn't sure he'd be allowed in.]
- What was Crispin's reaction to the inside of the church? [It was so large and beautiful that, along with the choir singing, he felt he was in paradise.]
- Crispin had once considered himself a prisoner of Bear, but now he longed to be with him. How has his view of Bear changed? [He now considered Bear his protector instead of his captor.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 39**

- How had Great Wexly been transformed from a place of fascination and wonder to a place of doom? [Crispin realized that instead of escaping John Aycliffe and his men, he had walked into a place where they could easily trap him.]
- Why did Crispin think Bear would not forgive him? [Crispin disobeyed his order to stay in the room at the Green Man's Inn.]
- How did Crispin's state of panic alter his perception of Great Wexly? [Instead of things appearing to be different, his panic caused everything to look the same.]
- How had Crispin's new skill of paying attention paid off in his new predicament? [He remembered Bear's telling him the walls encircled the city, which helped him form a plan to escape Great Wexly. He also slowed down and remained alert to avoid another confrontation with Aycliffe's men.]
- Why would the town have a curfew for all the townspeople? [The curfew kept people from mischief and safe.]
- What did Crispin remember about John Aycliffe? [He was Lady Furnival's kin, which would provide a reason for his being in Wexly.]

### **>Hands-On Activity**

- Complete the Style Detective form for Week 31, Day 4.

## **Week 32 - Day 1**

Read Chapters 40–45.

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 40

- What does Bear's kneeling to peer into Crispin's eyes and asking him, "Did you forget me so soon?" suggest about Bear's feelings toward Crispin? [He was concerned for Crispin and hurt that he disobeyed and stayed away so long.]
- What do you make of the following exchange? Crispin: "God bless you." Bear: "And you also." [Answers may include that it was a thank you and an exchange of love.]
- Why did Bear not need to forgive Crispin? [He claimed there was nothing to forgive because he forgot how little Crispin knew.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 41

- What does Crispin's adding a prayer for Bear's protection mean? [Crispin had previously despised Bear and thought of him as his crazy master. He now considered him family.]
- Do you sense that Bear was hiding John Ball from Crispin or the other way around? [It appears that Bear was protecting Crispin from his "dangerous business" with John Ball, but he may have also been protecting Crispin from Ball using him against the Furnivals. Although they won't know the true answer to this question for several chapters, allow your students to ponder it because it is a probing thought to have in mind as they fit the pieces together.]
- What did John Ball say the people wanted? [The common people wanted better wages and an end to the guild.]
- Becoming a member of the guild had steps to it. Step 1: An apprentice (usually a teenager) lived with a master and learned a trade for two to seven years with no pay. Step 2: A journeyman earned a salary and had to produce a masterpiece on his own time with his own tools to be approved by the master. Step 3: Once approved, he could become a master and a member of the guild himself, but only if the economy was good and he was given permission. If times were tough, no more members would be granted permission. Why would a guild be a bad thing? [It robbed people of years of wages as they often suffered under a master. The masters also dictated who and when others could enter the workforce, often eliminating competition.]

### Discussion Generators for Chapter 42

- What woke Crispin and what thought crossed his mind because of it? [The bells from the many churches announcing the Feast of John the Baptist woke Crispin. The noise was so loud that, for a moment, he thought the Day of Judgment had arrived.]
- What things did Crispin observe as he first stepped down the stairs into the tavern? [He observed people eating bread dipped in wine, a good deal of talk about the market, Widow Daventry working and socializing with her customers, some mangy dogs and even a pig eating what had fallen to the floor.]
- Who stepped into the tavern and scanned the room? Who or what do you think he was looking for? Why? [The one-eyed youth stepped in and scanned the room. Answers will vary.]

- What was Crispin's prediction of events to come? [He had the feeling something dangerous was going to happen and they were like the birds caught in Bear's snares.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 43**

- Crispin chose to trust Widow Daventry because Bear did. What does this indicate about his trust in Bear? [Crispin obviously trusts Bear's judgment fully. Upon first meeting Bear, Crispin continuously suspected ill will of him, but now he trusts Bear with his life.]
- What foods and spices did Crispin find in the kitchen? Are any of these things familiar to you? [He found meat pies, bread, a large piece of meat covered in flies, parsley, sage, rosemary, onions, leeks, turnips, cabbages, and grain.]
- How did Crispin feel about the pie he ate? [He felt guilty and embarrassed for eating it, but he also enjoyed the taste and feel of it in his stomach.]
- What did Widow Daventry do with what remained in the tankards? [She dumped the left over ale on the floor.] Remembering that the floors were wooden planks covered with rushes (reeds, similar to straw), that animals frequently wandered in, along with the infrequent bathing of the patrons, describe the smell. Was a typical medieval village or city a healthy environment? It was learned in later years that the plague was spread through fleas (and rats). How did their environment encourage the spread of the plague? [Answers will vary, but obviously the smell was terrible and the environment extremely unhealthy. The use of rushes on the floor along with unhygienic practices (such as the disposal practices for human waste and the lack of bathing), not to mention sleeping on flea-infested straw, encouraged the presence of both rats and fleas, which explains why the plague was so widespread.]
- What did Widow Daventry request of Crispin about Bear? [She asked that he keep Bear focused on juggling and music and away from those who would cause trouble, such as John Ball.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 44**

- Why would Widow Daventry not be pleased about keeping Crispin busy while Bear was gone? [She knew he was being hunted, which would cause trouble for her if he should be found there.]
- What has caused Crispin to now "notice too much" of the world? What did Crispin think should change? [He has more experience and has learned to notice details that may foretell danger. Bear has been protecting him, but Crispin thinks that perhaps he should be protecting Bear.]
- What was Bear suggesting by saying he liked the thought of Crispin protecting him when he is old? [Bear is suggesting that he and Crispin will be together for a long time.]
- What evidence supports the belief that the one-eyed youth was following Bear? [He stepped out after Bear and pointed in the direction Bear had taken.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 45**

- What did each of the men do before going into the boot shop? What did Crispin determine from this?

[They looked about carefully before entering, indicating to Crispin that this was more of “Bear’s dangerous business.”]

- How did John Ball’s words startle Crispin? [He described Crispin’s life as he lived in Stromford, how it was wrong, and the way it could be made right by seeking a rebellion against England.]
- Who was the one-eyed youth working for? [John Aycliffe]

### >**Hands-On Activities**

- Complete a portion of the Style Detective form for Week 32, Day 1.
- Widow Daventry served meat pies and fresh-baked bread to her customers; take some time to enjoy your own medieval meat pie and fresh-baked bread, using the recipes below.
  - An authentic recipe can be found at the link below. Before making your own meat pie, read the authentic version. Notice what was sometimes used in place of a top crust.  
<http://www.godecookery.com/goderec/grec11.htm>
  - Here is a modern adaptation of the meat pie, which is found at  
<http://www.recipezaar.com/Medieval-Meat-Pie-8680>.

### **Medieval Meat Pie**

Makes one pie that serves 6–8

#### **Ingredients**

1½ lbs meat (any or all of beef [sirloin is the best], pork, rabbit, or venison)  
1 cup grated cheese of your choice  
½ cup currants or raisins (or any other dried fruit)  
4 egg yolks  
½ teaspoon ground cardamom  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
½ teaspoon black pepper  
½ to 1 cup broth (of whatever most of the meat is)  
1 dash cooking wine  
Two 9-inch pie shells

#### **Directions**

- Broil the meat until very rare, but cooked through.
- Cut it into small cubes.
- Mix with all other ingredients except the pie shell.
- For the broth, just add enough to make the mixture a little wetter.
- Put the mixture into the pie shell.

- Be sure the shell lid is sealed, and punch some holes in the top with a knife.
- Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes to an hour, until the shell is golden brown.
- It's easiest to cut when cold.

## **Bread**

The website [www.godecookery.com](http://www.godecookery.com) states, “In Medieval times, loaves were generally round, with a cross-shape cut in the top.” It also notes that few recipes were written down, but those that do survive show that very little has changed in the process.

As Avi has pointed out, barley was a common grain for the bread of the lower class. Other grains used were rye, wheat, and oats, all of which made a thick, crusty, and hearty bread. It was common for a person to eat two to three pounds of bread a day.

Below is a link for “Bob’s Hearty Peasant Rhy Bread” that is written in a manner similar to medieval style. Bob suggests you grind your own flour, but you could surely buy it pre-ground. You may even decide to substitute barley flour for the rye. [http://www.reciperascal.com/hearty\\_peasant\\_rhy.html](http://www.reciperascal.com/hearty_peasant_rhy.html)

If you prefer a similar recipe written in modern style, try one for “European Peasant Bread.” This site has some fabulous pictures of the dough and finished product.

<http://www.peterandrewryan.com/baking/2008/11/european-peasant-bread/>

Here is an interesting Web page that estimates the daily calories a medieval peasant might ingest and burn. It also notes the number of calories in one modern fast-food meal for comparison.

[http://people.eku.edu/resorc/Medieval\\_peasant\\_diet.htm](http://people.eku.edu/resorc/Medieval_peasant_diet.htm)

## **Week 32 - Day 2**

Read Chapters 46–51.

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 46**

- Why did Crispin feel guilty after the soldiers grabbed Bear? Was this true? [He felt he let Bear down by not protecting him. Answers will vary.]
- What did Bear claim that John Aycliffe and his soldiers wanted? [Crispin]
- What did Crispin do after Bear was taken? Was this act brave, foolish, or both? [He went back into the boot shop to see what had become of Bear. Answers will vary.]
- What prediction of Crispin’s had come true? [They had been trapped.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 47**

- Who did Crispin consider Bear to be to him now? [Bear was his one true friend.]

- How does Crispin show growth in his ability to make decisions? [Instead of rushing to Widow Daventry, he takes the time to think through the situation himself first.]
- What could Crispin have meant by “Silence was the only voice that could speak to me”? [Answers may vary.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 48**

- What did Widow Daventry mean by “Beware all men who confuse their righteousness with the will of God”? [John Ball arrogantly suspected that the men were after him, when really they sought Crispin.]
- Was it true that “so much bad” had happened because of Crispin? [Answers will vary, but most would agree that Crispin did not create the circumstances but rather, he was a “victim” of them. At this point, he isn’t even aware of why they want him.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 49**

- Why did Widow Daventry share the information about the loss of her family to Crispin? [Answers may include that she was afraid she was going to lose Bear as well or that the soldiers’ attack had caused her to dwell on all she had lost.]
- Who was Crispin’s father? [Lord Furnival]
- What do you learn of Crispin’s mother, Asta? [She was the youngest daughter of Lord Douglas, who could make a claim to the throne through Crispin if he knew about him. Everyone was told that Asta had died, when in fact she was sent to the village and orders were given that she never be allowed to leave.]
- Why was the noble blood in Crispin poison? [If Lord Douglas knew he had a grandson related to Lord Furnival, he would use him to make a claim to the Furnival wealth. Lady Furnival would do whatever necessary to remain in her powerful position.]
- What did Widow Daventry reveal about how Bear feels about Crispin? [He thinks of him as a son.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 50**

- After processing what he learned about his mother, how did Crispin react? [He realized that he was all she had, but he was also the reason she was destined to live a destitute and tortured life. Her behavior, as well as their circumstances, finally made sense.]
- What did Crispin finally understand about his influence on his circumstances? [Crispin finally realized that it was not him, but who his parents were, that had caused the misfortune surrounding him.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 51**

- In light of this new information about his father, how did Crispin begin to think about himself? [He no longer believed he was nothing; he was the son of Lord Furnival and was now worthy of his noble name, Crispin.]

- Why did it take the death of his mother, Father Quinel, and the threat to his own life to give Crispin the desire to claim a life of his own? [Answers may vary but may include that he didn't know any different before—just as Bear claimed, he was ignorant. He lived by the answers others gave him rather than allowing himself to ask questions and seek those answers.]
- How did John Ball's words, "that no man, or woman either, shall be enslaved to any other, but stand free and equal to one another," have an impact on Crispin now? [He realized he had lived the life of the enslaved, being taught that he was nothing, and all because he was the illegitimate son of Lord Furnival.]
- How had Bear helped Crispin? [He showed him what freedom was and helped him obtain it.]

### >**Hands-On Activities**

- Complete more of the Style Detective form for Week 32, Day 2.
- Many saints are mentioned in this story. Read about them below, then find and circle their names on the "Saint" Word Search page.
  - Giles: Patron of beggars, the disabled, and lepers. Feast day of September 1.
  - Sixtus: Former pope. Feast day of August 6.
  - Gregory: Patron of teachers, students, and musicians. He was the first monk to be elected as pope. Feast day of September 3.
  - Anthony: Patron of lost things and missing persons. Feast day of June 13.
  - Arnulf: Patron of brewers, millers, music, to find lost things. Feast day of July 18.
  - Crispin: Patron of shoemakers, tanners, cobblers, glove, saddle and lace makers, leatherworkers, and weavers. Feast day of October 25.
  - John the Baptist: Patron of baptisms, conversions, and tailors. Feast day of June 24.
  - Margaret: Patron of women, women in childbirth, and peasants. Feast day of July 20.
  - Remigius: Bishop. Feast day of October 1.
  - Paul: Apostle. Feast day of June 29 (feast day of the apostles Peter and Paul).
  - Pancras: Patron of children and oaths. Feast day of May 12.
  - Barnabas: Apostle. Feast day of June 11.

## **Week 32 - Day 3**

Read Chapters 52–56.

### **WARNING**

Chapter 53 has the following sentence that can be omitted if you choose. "Bear told me you're Lord Furnival's bastard son."

**NOTE:** Look over today's activity prior to reading in order to enhance your experience of Chapter 54.

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 52**

- Why did Crispin choose to withhold the information that John Ball had told Bear to meet him at the White Stag? [The widow seemed to hate John Ball.]
- What might Widow Daventry have been thinking as she hugged Crispin goodbye? [We can't know for certain, but it wouldn't be out of line to speculate that she was thinking of the children she had lost before, fearing that Crispin would have the same fate.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 53**

- According to John Ball, how had Bear changed in the last year? Why might this change in Bear have happened? [Ball claimed that Bear had changed his mind about joining the brotherhood, and that he'd grown weak. Bear had previously mentioned that he didn't think the time was right to act, but perhaps his change of heart also had to do with now having Crispin and the desire to protect him.]
- What was Bear's real reason for traveling about the country? [He was a spy.]
- Why was John Ball angry with Bear? [Bear was no longer a willing follower and had swayed some to believe that the time was not right for the rebellion.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 54**

- What is Crispin's goal in this chapter? [His goal is to free Bear, or lose his life trying.]
- How has he changed from the time he was a wolf's head? [Before, he ran from danger to save his life; now he faces danger head on with no thought to his safety.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 55**

- Why was Crispin unfamiliar with some of the items he saw at the table? [People of his status did not use such things when they ate.]
- How did the picture Crispin saw of his father differ from what he knew of him? [The picture portrayed him as a devout, adoring man, while Crispin knew him as a lofty, unkind, uncaring lord and father.]
- What did seeing this image convince Crispin of? [He knew he was nothing like his father.]
- What had Crispin become? [Himself—he was now a caring young man who was willing to risk his own life for those he loved.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 56**

- What was John Aycliffe's response when Crispin declared he was Lord Furnival's son? [He paled and then compared the picture of Lord Furnival to Crispin.]

- What did Crispin claim John Aycliffe feared the most? Would you agree with this assessment? [He claimed that Aycliffe feared Crispin would become his lord. Answers will vary.]
- How did John Aycliffe view the order of things in the world? Who else previously held this view? If their statuses were reversed, do you think John Aycliffe would have held the same view? [Aycliffe said, “There’s an order to things which God Himself has put in place. It can never be changed.” Crispin grew up thinking so, but has come to feel otherwise. Answers will vary.]
- Why would it have been painful for John Aycliffe to swear to Crispin’s terms? [He wasn’t in control of the situation, and the fear that Crispin would not abide by his oath would have loomed in his mind.]
- Why did John Aycliffe hate Crispin so much? [We can’t know for sure, but speculation may include that he was also a prisoner of Stromford because he was charged with making sure Asta and her son did not leave, or that he envied Crispin’s royal ties.]

### >**Hands-On Activities**

- Complete more of the Style Detective form for Week 32, Day 3.
- YouTube has several videos of the Gregorian chant, *Media Vita*, part of which is given in the book. Search on “Media Vita.” It would add even more depth to the setting if you are able to play the video instead of reading the chant. It is very beautifully sung. Close your eyes and transport yourself before Lord Furnival’s palace. The translation for the entire chant is below.

#### **MEDIA VITA**

Media vita in morte sumus: quem quaerimus adiutorem nisi te Domine? Qui pro peccatis nostris juste irasceris.	In the fullness of the life we are dead. To whom do we look for as our help but to You, Lord? Who because of our sins is angry.
Sancte Deus, sancte fortis, sancte misericors Salvator, amarae morti ne tradas nos.	Sacred God, strong Saint, merciful Saint, Saviour: don’t give us to the bitter death.
In te speraverunt patres nostri, speraverunt et liberasti eos.	Our parents waited in You, they waited and You liberated them.
Ad te clamaverunt patres nostri, clamaverunt et non sunt confusi.	Our parents clamored to You, they clamored and they were not confused.

## **Week 32 - Day 4**

Read Chapters 57 and 58 and the “Historical Note.”

### **WARNING**

There is a graphic description of a man dying in Chapter 58. Please preread it to determine if the

content is suitable for your children.

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 57**

- Where did the servants of the Furnival palace sleep? How does this fit in with the typical view of servants or peasants? [The servants slept on the floor because they were seen as nothing and therefore deserved not even a bed.]
- What did Bear admit to Crispin, and what did he fear he had done? [Bear admitted his love for Crispin and expressed the fear that he had betrayed him.]
- As Bear and Crispin leave the palace, "a whirl of agitated blackbirds circled through the air." What mood does Avi set with this description? [He sets a dark mood, filled with dread.]

### **Discussion Generators for Chapter 58**

- How did John Aycliffe attempt to get around the vow he made? Was he actually keeping the oath at all by doing this? [Aycliffe offered a reward for someone else to kill Crispin. Answers may vary.]
- How did Crispin fulfill his vow to John Aycliffe? Why did he do this even though Aycliffe was dead? [Crispin left his lead cross on Aycliffe's chest. Vows were taken seriously, and he intended to keep his word to Christ.]
- For most of the novel, the lead cross is Crispin's most treasured possession. Why did he not need it any longer? [Crispin now had Bear, a new identity, and his freedom, which meant he no longer needed to cling to his past. Furthermore, he remembered what Bear had said, ". . . the only cross you need is the one in your heart."]
- What did Bear mean about the new truth they'd made, "In the midst of death, there is life"? [Answers may include that many people (Asta, Father Quinel, Lord Furnival, John Aycliffe) died allowing Crispin to discover who he was and to gain his freedom. Crispin also experienced the "death" of his old self and now found his life.]
- At the beginning of the book, Crispin's descriptions of God focus on His anger and punishment. How does he see God now? Why is this? [He sees Him as the ever-loving God. Answers may vary.]
- Is Crispin changed in mind or heart from when we first met him? How do you know? [Yes, he is. His "heart was full of more joy than (he) had ever felt before." He was eager to live his life, to explore. He was alive and free and felt it. He knew who he was, and he was not a nothing—but Crispin—a boy with worth who was loved by Bear.]
- What does this story suggest a good life is? Has Crispin obtained that? [Answers may include that a good life is one with freedom, love, and/or friendship. Most would agree that Crispin has obtained that.]

### **>Wrap-Up Activities**

- Complete any unfinished sentences on the Style Detective form.
- Using GO A-2, compare and contrast Crispin's view of God with Psalm 103.

### **Psalm 103 (NKJV)**

A Psalm of David.

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
And forget not all His benefits:
- 3 Who forgives all your iniquities,  
Who heals all your diseases,
- 4 Who redeems your life from destruction,  
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
- 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things,  
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness  
And justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known His ways to Moses,  
His acts to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
- 9 He will not always strive with us,  
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father pities his children,  
So the LORD pities those who fear Him.
- 14 For He knows our frame;  
He remembers that we are dust.
- 15 As for man, his days are like grass;  
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
- 16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

And its place remembers it no more.

17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting

On those who fear Him,

And His righteousness to children's children,

18 To such as keep His covenant,

And to those who remember His commandments to do them.

19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven,

And His kingdom rules over all.

20 Bless the LORD, you His angels,

Who excel in strength, who do His word,

Heeding the voice of His word.

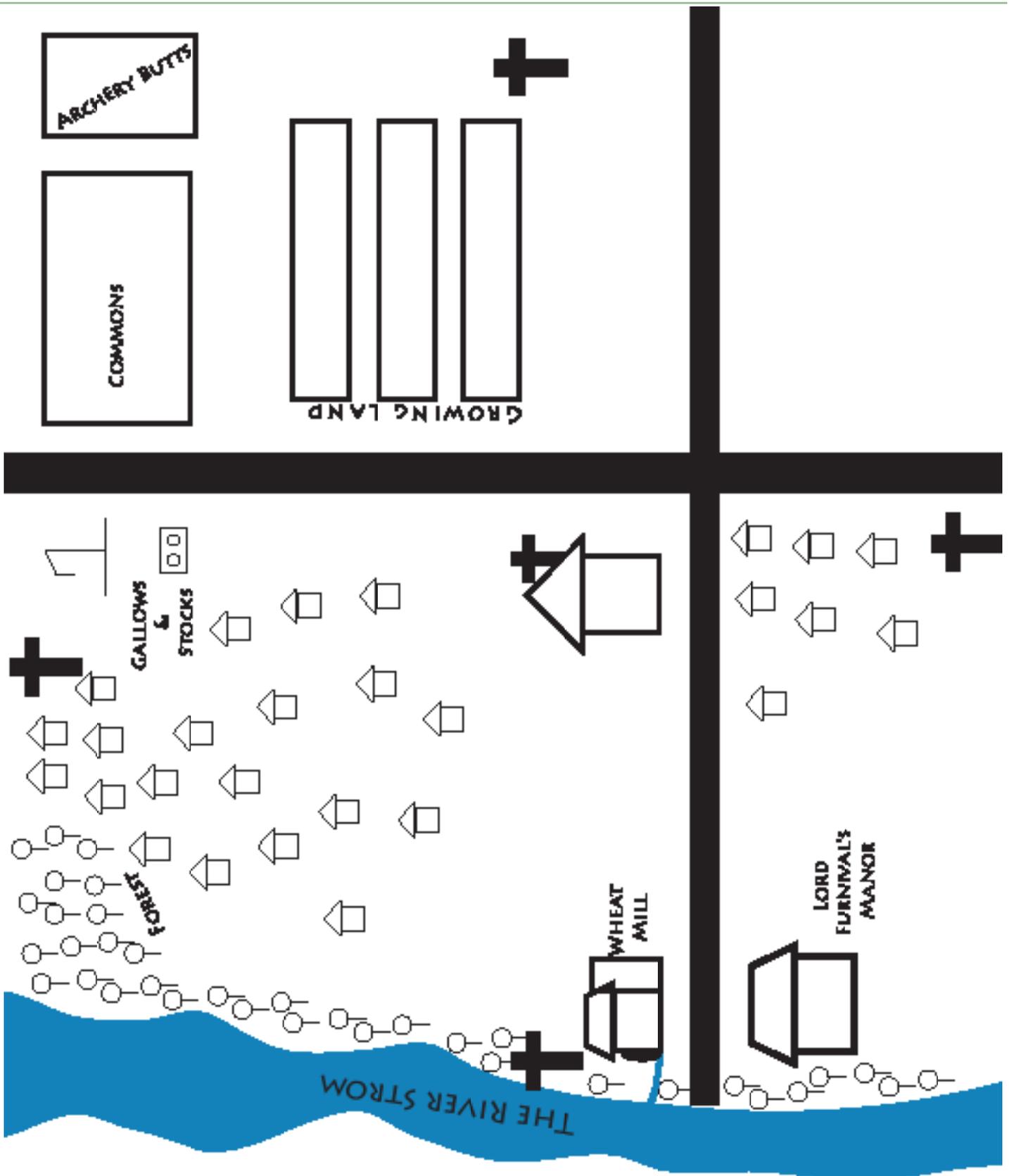
21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts,

You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

22 Bless the LORD, all His works,

In all places of His dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!





## ***Style Detective***

Identify each stylistic technique by checking the appropriate box for each example. Some may include more than one technique.

Week 30 Day 1

	Imagery	Metaphor	Simile	Personification
But save that flame, all was murk and midnight mist, and silence lay as thick as death.			as thick as death	silence lay
Night was a mask for outlaws, hungry wolves, the Devil and his minions		night was a mask		
But no sooner did I than I became ensnared in brambles that caught me in their thorny grasp.				brambles caught me in their thorny grasp
Thus our lives never changed, but went round the rolling years beneath the starry vault of distant Heaven.	starry vault of distant heaven			
Time was the great millstone, which ground us to dust like kernelled wheat.		Time was the great millstone	ground us to dust like kernelled wheat	

## *Style Detective*

Week 30 Day 2				
	Imagery	Metaphor	Simile	Personification
But once the day was truly over, when the curfew bell had rung and all lay still as stone, I crawled from my hiding place.			all lay still as stone	
The things the priest has said made my heart feel like a city under siege.			heart feel like a city under siege.	
It was rather like a new garment that replaces an old: desired but not yet comfortable.			like a new garment	
Smoke thickened the air, making the herbs that hung from the rafters look like dangling carcasses.	Smoke thickened the air		like dangling carcasses	

## *Style Detective*

Week 30 Day 3				
	Imagery	Metaphor	Simile	Personification
Thick and clammy air embraced me like the fingers of some loathsome toad.			(air) like the fingers of some loathsome toad	air embraced me
Solid shapes were soft as rotten hay.			shapes were soft as rotten hay	
I walked as solitary as Adam before the creation of Eve.			walked as solitary as Adam	
But as I knelt, the mist seemed to ensnare my body like a sticky shroud, intent on dragging me down.			(mist) like a sticky shroud	mist – ensared...intent on dragging me down
...he was a mountain of flesh, a great barrel of a fellow, whose arms and legs were as thick as tree limbs, and with a tublike belly before all.	Now, that gives you an image in your head!			
Week 30 Day 4 – No detective work today!				

## *Style Detective*

Week 31 Day 1				
This time, you will hunt for the style. I will give you the technique you're looking for and a few hints. You find the sentence and write it in the space provided.				
	Imagery	Metaphor	Simile	Personification
Bear's red beard seemed to glitter in the firelight, so that his face – despite the dark was equal to any sun.	Chapter 22 beard...glitter ...	(same sentence) equal to		
His bald head gleamed like a moon.			Chapter 22 gleamed like	
Indeed, he was big enough to fill the entire sky.	Chapter 22 fill...sky (This one is also exaggeration. )			
Week 31 Day 2 – No detective work today!				

## ***Style Detective***

Week 31 Day 3				
	Imagery	Metaphor	Simile	Personification
It may seem odd, but it made me think the town had long hair, and each strand blown by the wind was yet another color.				Chapter 33 town...hair
Behind them, a portcullis had been raised halfway up, looking like teeth prepared to bite.			Chapter 33 like teeth	(same sentence) prepared to
(It was hard to know who was taking to whom.) It all appeared to my ears like a flock of crows screaming at one another in a crowded field of new-threshed wheat.			Chapter 34 like a flock	
No, it was more like a dense forest, not of trees, but people.			Chapter 34 like...forest	

## *Style Detective*

Week 31 Day 4				
	Imagery	Metaphor	Simile	Personification
Whereas the church rose high, this building seemed to cling to the earth with a weight and bulk that bespoke earthly power.				Chapter 38 building...cling...spoke
Through sweet and smoky air, great columns rose to dizzying heights, while enough multicolored light poured down through stained glass so as to turn the hard stone floor into pools of liquid hues.	Chapter 38 air....heights...multicolored...pools of liquid			
As night thickened, people put up their shutters.	Chapter 39 night...shutters			

## ***Style Detective***

Week 32 Days 1-4				
It's your turn to create your own sentences using the stylistic techniques you've searched out the past few weeks. Try to write at least one sentence for each technique. Keep it relevant to the book by using the characters, food, work, church, setting, etc. to write on.				
	Imagery	Metaphor	Simile	Personification