

Sample Pages from

Crispin: The Cross of Lead

by Avi
2003 Newbery Medal Winner

A Novel Teaching Pack
by Margaret Whisnant



with
**Chapter-by-Chapter Summaries, Prereading Activities,
Vocabulary, Short Answer Questions,
Chapter-by-Chapter Objective Tests, Whole Book Objective Test,
Think, Write, Create Activities (Chapter-by-Chapter and Whole Book),
Graphic Organizers for Writing,
Full Answer Keys**

ISBN 978-1-934538-23-4

Copyright © 2008 Margaret Whisnant
US Copyright Office

Permission to copy for classroom use only.

Electronic distribution limited to classroom use only.

All rights reserved by author.

Taking Grades Publishing Company
Conover, NC

England A.D. 1377

Within hours of his mother's funeral,
Asta's son must flee for his life
from the village of his birth.

Possessing only his newfound name
and his mother's
cross of lead,
fourteen-year-old **Crispin** goes forth in search of his freedom.

His quest is interrupted by

Bear,

the juggler,
the priest,
the soldier,
the new master,
the man who turns his world upside down.



Table of Contents

	Pages
Chapter Summaries	1-22
Before You Read	
Living Medieval	23-24
Something to Think About	25
Bulletin Board Idea	25
Vocabulary	
Alphabetical Word List	26
Word Lists with Definitions	27-30
Dictionary Digs	31-38
Word Forms	39-40
Sentence Sense	41-42
Analogies	43-44
Reading Assessment	
Short Answer Questions	45-49
Objective Tests	
Chapters 1-2	50
Chapters 2-4	51-52
Chapters 5-6-7	53
Chapters 8-9	54-55
Chapters 10-11-12-13	56
Chapters 14-15-16-17	57
Chapters 18-19-20	58-59
Chapters 21-22-23	60
Chapters 24-25-26	61

Chapters 27-28-19	62
Chapters 36-37-38.	65
Chapters 39-40-41-42	66
Chapters 43-44-45-46	67
Chapters 47-48-49-50-51.	68
Chapters 52-53-54-55-56.	69-70
Chapters 57-58	71-72
Whole Book Test	73-76

Think, Write, Create

Chapter Activities	77-98
Whole Book Activities	99-103

Graphic Organizers

Curiosity.	104
1377 and Now	105-106
Inside the Hut	107
Survival Requirements	108
Bear and Crispin on Tour	109
Two Small Towns	110
The Green Man Tavern/Inn.	111
Parallels	112
Lord Furnival, the Phantom Character	113
Widow Daventry of Great Wexly	114
Orson Hrothgar—the Bear	115
Turning Points	116

Answer Keys	117-125
------------------------------	---------

Chapter Summaries

England. A.D. 1377

1

- The day after my mother dies, the priest and I take her to the village and bury her amongst the paupers' graves. Her name was Asta.
- My mother is shunned by the villagers in death as she was in life, with only the priest for a friend. I feel ashamed, as if I contain an unnamed sin that makes me less than nothing.
- John Aycliffe, the steward of the manor, appears and calls me. He has treated me with contempt, kicks, and sometimes blows. In the absence of Lord Furnival, he is in charge of the manor. He dispenses justice to his liking, from whippings to hangings.
- Aycliffe stares at me for a long while and then commands that I deliver my ox to the manor house the next day as a death tax. I protest that I will not be able to work the fields. Aycliffe is not concerned that I will starve.
- Father Quinel asks me to come to the church and pray, but I run into the forest, stumbling as I go. Deep into the woods, I fall and strike my head on a stone. Stunned, I lie on the earth in the cold rain as daylight fades.

2

- I awaken in the night to a sound. Confused, I do not know where I am, and I cannot see. I recall my mother's death, the cemetery, and my run into the woods.
- In the trees, I see a flickering light. Night is the time for outlaws, wolves, and the Devil, but my curiosity pulls me to investigate. Two men are standing in a clearing. One is John Aycliffe.
- I do not recognize the other man, who is older and dressed like a gentleman. The stranger hands a parchment packet to Aycliffe. He reads the document, makes the sign of the cross, and asks, "When will it happen?"
- The stranger answers that it will come soon and, as her next of kin, Aycliffe should act immediately or face the consequences. It is a great danger to all.
- Aycliffe turns and sees me. He draws his sword and runs in my direction. I am caught in the brambles when I try to run. Aycliffe swings his sword in haste, missing me and cutting the brambles so that I can rip myself free. I run, eventually tumbling over a short cliff.
- I lie still as I see Aycliffe's torch and face above me. When he leaves, I run until I have no more strength.
- The rest of the night I think of my mother's death, how I have turned from the priest, and about the wine I have stolen from the church to ease my mother's pain. I am certain God is punishing me. I pray for forgiveness.

3

- My life begins in 1363, during the reign of England's great warrior king, Edward the Third. My mother and I live in Stromford village with one hundred and fifty other souls.
- My mother calls me "Son," and my common name becomes "Asta's son." My father has died before my birth during a recurrence of the Plague. Without a father, I exist in a shadow. My frail mother rarely mentions him, and she never takes another husband.
- We are poor, and I am often the butt of jokes and relentless hounding. I am convinced that there is some sin embedded in me. Father Quinel suggests that I accept my fate as did the Blessed Christ, but I am filled with caution and suspicion.
- My mother and I are serfs, bound to Furnival, Lord of Stromford Village, who has been off to war for so many years most villagers have never seen him.
- My mother and I, like every other villager, work the fields and survive the winter. My mother is paid—by King Edward's royal decree—a penny a day. My pay is a farthing.
- Our lives never change. Birth and death alone give distinction to the passage of days. The Holy Church tells us that we are fated to Heaven's bliss or the lasting flames of Hell on Judgment Day.

Word Lists with Definitions

Arranged in Story Order

(Some words may appear on more than one page.)

Set One

Chapters 1-11

- shunned** Kept away from a person, place, or object because of dislike, caution, etc.; were careful to avoid; left alone; cast aside. (p. 2)
- taunted** Spoken to in a mocking, insulting, or contemptuous manner; jeered; ridiculed. (p. 2)
- pauper** A very poor person; a person with no means of support, especially one who depends on aid from public welfare funds or charity. (p. 2)
- contempt** Disrespect; scorn; the feeling or attitude of regarding someone or something as inferior, base, or worthless. (p. 3)
- transgression** A violation of a command, a law, or a duty; a sin; the action of going beyond or overstepping some boundary or limit. (p. 4)
- forfeit** Lost or subject to loss; surrendered as punishment for a crime, an offense, error, etc. (p. 4)
- sole** Being the only one; belonging or pertaining to one individual or group to the exclusion of all others; only. (p. 5)
- relentless** Never changing or yielding in severity or harshness; cruel; unstoppable. (p. 13)
- mercenary** A professional soldier hired to serve in a foreign army; working or acting merely for money or other reward; venal; greedy; miserly. (p. 14)
- tolling** The sound made by a bell, especially a large one, when struck; ringing; bonging. (p. 16)
- muted** Silent; not emitting or having sound of any kind; refraining from speech or utterance. (p. 16)
- ascent** An upward climb or movement; movement upward from a lower to a higher state, degree, grade, or status. (p. 19)
- pinnacle** The top; a lofty peak; any towering, pointed part or formation, as of rock; the highest or culminating point, as of success, power, fame., etc. (p. 19)
- meandered** Followed a winding and turning course, as a stream or path; moved aimlessly and idly without fixed direction; rambled; turned. (p. 19)
- impenetrable** Impossible to pierce, break through, pass through, or enter; impervious; incapable of being understood; unfathomable. (p. 20)
- fallow** Land plowed and left unseeded for a season or more; not in use; inactive. (p. 22)
- pealing** The ringing of a set of church bells; a deep prolonged sound, as of thunder or large bells; sounding loudly. (*Homophone: peeling*) p. 24
- rank** Having an offensively strong smell or taste; highly offensive; disgusting; vigorous and tall in growth; utter; absolute. (p. 31)
- devour** To swallow or eat hungrily, voraciously, or ravenously; to destroy, consume, or waste, as by fire; to take in greedily with the senses or the intellect. (p. 34)
- faltering** Speaking hesitantly; stammering; behaving unsteadily in purpose or action, as from loss of courage or confidence; wavering. (p. 36)
- distraught** Deeply agitated, as from emotional conflict; crazed; mad; insane. (p. 36)
- sullenly** In a manner showing irritation or ill humor; gloomily; broodingly. (p. 41)
- scrutinized** Examined in detail, with careful and critical attention; investigated; observed. (p. 41)
- wretched** Very unfortunate in condition or circumstances; miserable; despicable, contemptible, or mean; worthless. (p. 42)
- pondering** Thinking deeply and seriously; contemplating; considering. (p. 44)
- loomed** Came into view as a massive, distorted, or indistinct image; appeared; emerged. (p. 50)
- illuminated** Supplied or brightened with light; made lucid or clear; threw a light on; decorated with lights, as in celebration. (p. 50)
- lumbered** Walked or moved with heavy clumsiness; moved with a rumbling noise; plodded. (p. 51)
- flailed** Moved vigorously or erratically; thrashed about; lashed; pounded; fluttered; flopped. (p. 53)
- tumult** Violent or noisy commotion or disturbance of a crowd or mob; uproar; excitement; racket; pandemonium; hullabaloo. (p. 54)
- imploring** Begging urgently or piteously, as for aid or mercy; beseeching. (p. 56)

Dictionary Digs

Set One Chapters 1-11

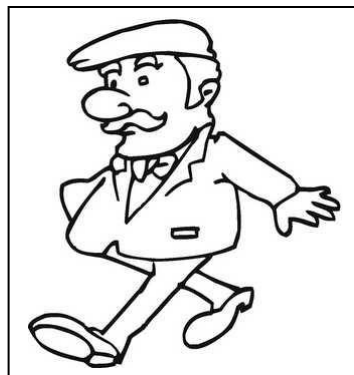
Use a dictionary to answer the following questions about some important words from Chapters 1 through 11. Write the **letters** of the correct answers in the blanks to the left.

- _____ 1. Another word besides **tolling** connected to the sound of ringing bells is (A) **peeling**, (B) **pealing**, (C) **pinnacle**.
- _____ 2. A **mercenary** is a professional soldier who fights for (A) his/her native country, (B) a foreign country for pay, (C) any country struggling to gain its independence.
- _____ 3. **Scrutinized** is a *verb* that means (A) broken into smaller pieces, (B) followed with strict adherence to the rules, (C) examined with careful and critical attention.
- _____ 4. What happens when a team is forced to **forfeit** a game? The team, as a penalty for some infraction, (A) loses the game to their opponents, (B) must play a rematch, (C) relinquishes a certain number of points even if it means losing the game.
- _____ 5. Which word can be substituted for **flailed** in the following sentence without changing its meaning? *The goldfish **flailed** about on the floor, making it difficult to catch.*
(A) thrashed, (B) stunned, (C) snooped
- _____ 6. An *antonym* of **ascent** is (A) recent, (B) descent, (C) percent.
- _____ 7. Which of the following phrases does **not** illustrate the correct use of the word **pinnacle**?
(A) the **pinnacle** of success, (B) the church **pinnacle** looming in the distance, (C) in a **pinnacle** of indecision.
- _____ 8. The path that **meandered** *down the mountainside* (A) was extremely steep, (B) followed a winding and turning course, (C) was often blocked and made impassable by slides.
- _____ 9. A *synonym* for **pondering** is (A) recalling, (B) contemplating, (C) disregarding.
- _____ 10. The *most likely* object to be **impenetrable** is (A) a bank vault, (B) a locked car door, (C) a stained glass window.
- _____ 11. Which word can be substituted for **taunted** in the following sentence so that it is changed to an *opposite* meaning. *Several members of the audience **taunted** the speaker.*
(A) applauded, (B) ridiculed, (C) heckled
- _____ 12. Which of the following cartoons *best* illustrates someone behaving **sullenly**?

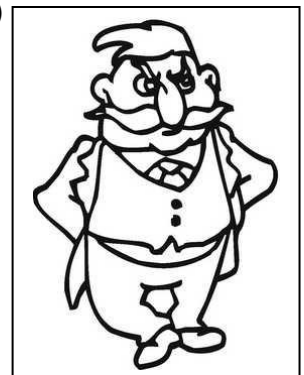
(A)



(B)



(C)



- _____ 13. A **pauper** is a (A) stranger, (B) very poor person, (C) person who prefers to wander rather than living in one place.
- _____ 14. Which of the following is **not** a correct definition of the word **rank**? (A) having a bad smell, (B) a particular position, station, or class, (C) a gardening tool.

Short Answer Questions

England. A.D. 1377

1-2

1. How had the villagers treated Asta and her son?
2. Who had been Asta's only friend?
3. As steward of the manor, how did John Aycliffe treat the peasants?
4. What payment did Aycliffe demand as a death tax?
5. What incident stopped the boy's flight into the woods?
6. Describe the stranger whom the boy saw in the forest clearing with John Aycliffe.
7. What object did the stranger take from his cape and hand to John Aycliffe?
8. What advice did the stranger give John Aycliffe?
9. How was Asta's son able to escape the blow from Aycliffe's sword?
10. What did the boy believe about the things that were happening to him?

3-4

1. What had Asta told her son about his father?
2. Why did Asta's son become convinced that there was some sin embedded in him?
3. Why didn't Lord Furnival live in Stromford Village even though he owned the land?
4. During the spring, summer, and fall what kind of work was required of Asta, her son, and every other Stromford villager?
5. What events gave distinction to the lives of the inhabitants of Stromford Village?
6. Why did Asta's son believe it would be safe for him to return to the village though Aycliffe had attempted to kill him?
7. What happened to the one-room dwelling that had been the boy's home?
8. How old was Asta's son?
9. What objects marked the western boundaries of Stromford Village?
10. What two things did the serfs gain by being under the total control of Lord Furnival and his steward?

1-2
Pages 1-11

Write either **True** or **False** in the blank before each statement.

- _____ 1. The boy's mother had been shunned in life, and he felt as if he contained an unnamed sin that made him less than nothing in the villager's eyes.
- _____ 2. Other than the priest, the boy's mother had no friends, and the villagers often taunted her.
- _____ 3. The priest and the boy buried his mother among the paupers' graves behind the church.
- _____ 4. In the absence of Lord Furnival, John Aycliffe was in charge of the manor.
- _____ 5. John Aycliffe was known for his kindness in his dealings with the villagers and in his manner of enforcing the law.
- _____ 6. After her burial, Aycliffe stared at Asta's son for a long while as if in search of something.
- _____ 7. Aycliffe ordered Asta's son to deliver his ox to the manor house to serve as his mother's death tax.
- _____ 8. Both Father Quinel and John Aycliffe promised Asta's son that he would not starve and that he would always have a home with the church.
- _____ 9. The boy's flight into the woods came to a halt when he fell and struck his head on a stone.
- _____ 10. When Asta's son discovered them in the dark woods, John Aycliffe and the stranger were arguing loudly over what appeared to be a large sum of money.
- _____ 11. The stranger with John Aycliffe was older, dressed like a gentlemen, and had a fine horse.
- _____ 12. The parchment that the stranger took from his cape was affixed with red wax seals.
- _____ 13. When he read the document, Aycliffe was consumed with a fit of laughter.
- _____ 14. The stranger in the clearing asked Aycliffe, "Are you not her kin?"
- _____ 15. The two men agreed that Aycliffe must act immediately or face dangerous consequences.
- _____ 16. Aycliffe saw the boy and recognized him as Asta's son.
- _____ 17. Asta's son was able to defend himself from Aycliffe's sword by slipping under a large, fallen tree.
- _____ 18. Aycliffe ended his pursuit when Asta's son tumbled over a cliff.
- _____ 19. The boy imagined that God was punishing him for turning from the priest, breaking curfew, and stealing wine from the church to ease his mother's pain.
- _____ 20. As he waited for God's next blow, Asta's son prayed for forgiveness for his sinful life.



3-4
Pages 12-23



Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. What was the population of Stromford Village where Asta and her son lived? (A) 150, (B) 300, (C) 500.
- _____ 2. What information about his father had the boy's mother given him? That he (A) had been killed in a battle with the French, (B) was away fighting with Edward the Third, (C) had died before his birth during a recurrence of the Great Mortality.
- _____ 3. What did living without a father mean for Asta's son? He (A) existed in a shadow, (B) was the ward of the steward, (C) didn't legally exist.
- _____ 4. Because of the relentless hounding he had to endure, Asta's son thought (A) there was sin embedded in him, (B) that he was somehow favored of God, (C) Satan has cursed him.
- _____ 5. Why had most villagers, including Asta and her son, never set eyes on Lord Furnival, the Lord of Stromford Village? He (A) lived in London and left everything up to his steward, John Aycliffe, (B) had fought in France or had been off to mercenary wars for many years, (C) was lord of many manors and rarely visited any of them.
- _____ 6. Like every other serf in Stromford Village, Asta and her son (A) depended on the church for their meager living, (B) owned only the land on which their dwellings stood and the possessions inside, (C) worked Lord Furnival's fields from dawn to dusk.
- _____ 7. By King Edward's royal decree, what was the value of the work done by Asta and her son? (A) Asta earned a penny each day and her son earned a farthing. (B) The two of them were paid two pennies each working day, but not during winter. (C) They received food, usually a daily loaf of bread and a cup of barley.
- _____ 8. Which of the following was **not** part of the boy's diet? (A) barley bread and watered ale, (B) wild game caught in the fields and woods, (C) occasional cooked dried peas.
- _____ 9. What events gave distinction to the serfs' never-changing lives? (A) marriage and the birth of children, (B) birth and death, (C) religious holidays.
- _____ 10. Why did Asta's son think it would be safe for him go back to the village and behave as though nothing had happened? (A) Aycliffe's attack had been no exception to the way he had treated him in the past. (B) He hadn't understood the conversation between the two men. (C) The priest would keep him from harm.
- _____ 11. What did the bailiff and the reeve do to the one-room dwelling where Asta and her son had lived? They (A) stood guard so that the boy could not return, (B) filled it with sacks of grain, (C) pulled the structure down and set it ablaze.
- _____ 12. How old was the boy? (A) eleven, (B) twelve, (C) thirteen.
- _____ 13. Where was Asta's son when he looked out over the manor that was his whole world? He was (A) lying on top of a high rock near the forest edge, (B) sitting on a limb atop the highest tree in the woods, (C) standing on a knoll just beyond the manor house.

5-6-7
Pages 23-31

Write either **Yes** or **No** in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. Did Asta's son see John Aycliffe and the stranger ride from the manor house to the church?
- _____ 2. Were the people called from their work in the fields by the pealing of the church bell?
- _____ 3. Were John Aycliffe and the stranger the only two people who stood before the doors of the church and addressed the villagers?
- _____ 4. When the villagers went inside the church, did Asta's son creep to a window and try to listen to the conversation that was taking place inside?
- _____ 5. Had Asta trusted Father Quinel?
- _____ 6. Had Father Quinel been the only person in the village who had treated Asta's son with some kindness?
- _____ 7. Did the boy decide that he would ask Father Quinel for help?
- _____ 8. Did Asta's son learn that a hue and cry had been raised against him when he overheard a conversation between the steward and the bailiff?
- _____ 9. Was the boy hiding in a great oak when he heard the conversation between Matthew and Luke, the two men from the village?
- _____ 10. Had the steward accused the boy of breaking into the manor house and stealing his money?
- _____ 11. Did Matthew and Luke believe John Aycliffe's accusations against Asta's son?
- _____ 12. Did Matthew and Luke think they could defend Asta's son against the steward if he were caught?
- _____ 13. Was it Matthew and Luke's opinion that John Aycliffe had become a tyrant in the name of Lord Furnival?
- _____ 14. Was the steward Lord Furnival's close kin?
- _____ 15. Did the two men wish for a visit from Lord Furnival soon so that they could petition him for help?
- _____ 16. In the past had people often complained about their lives, taxes, work, and the fees imposed by the steward?
- _____ 17. Was John Aycliffe unaware that the villagers were unhappy with the methods he used and the quality of their lives?
- _____ 18. Did the boy risk coming out of hiding during the day to search for food?
- _____ 19. When it was intensely dark and the boy crawled from his hiding place, were lights gleaming in the manor house?
- _____ 20. Did Asta's son creep toward the church?



8-9
Pages 31-48

Asta's son	a town or city	a cross of lead
Father Quinel	Lord Furnival	a wolf's head
Saint Giles	read and write	Crispin
Cerdic	the steward	protection
his freedom	Goodwife Peregrine	his father
Asta	a shadow move	the church



From the list above, choose the name, word, or phrase that fits each of the clues below and write it in the blank. **All** answers will be **used at least once**. **Some** answers will be **used more than once**.

- _____ 1. She had a special wisdom for healing, midwifery, and ancient magic.
- _____ 2. Neither Asta's son, the priest, nor Goodwife Peregrine knew how to get to one of these.
- _____ 3. He was old, small, and frail, and some claimed that he was the unwanted son of the previous Lord Furnival.
- _____ 4. Asta's son had not been taught to do this.
- _____ 5. The steward clearly wanted this person dead.
- _____ 6. If Asta's son could stay in a town or city with its own liberties for a year and a day, he would gain this.
- _____ 7. He protected deer from hunters, and Asta's son had sometimes gone into the empty church to pray to him.
- _____ 8. He was glad to see Asta's son, and he did not believe that the boy had stolen money as Aycliffe had accused.
- _____ 9. Sir Richard du Brey had brought word that this person had returned from the wars, but he was ill and expected to die.
- _____ 10. The steward had declared Asta's son to be one of these, which meant anyone could kill him.
- _____ 11. Asta's son had been given this name when Father Quinel baptized him.
- _____ 12. Goodwife Peregrine gave this to Asta's son because Father Quinel had asked her to do so.
- _____ 13. Father Quinel promised to tell Asta's son about this person when they met at Goodwife Peregrine's cottage.
- _____ 14. He brought word to Asta's son that Father Quinel could not meet him as planned.
- _____ 15. She was the oldest person in the village of Stromford.

Think, Write, Create

Chapter Activities

Chapters 1-2

Authors have ways of enticing the reader to join the main character in unraveling mysteries and solving problems. Look at the following field of clues that Avi cleverly planted in the first two chapters of the story:

. . . people. . . shunned my mother in life, so they shunned her now. . . She was often taunted by the villagers. (p. 2)

. . . I felt, ashamed. . . as if I contained an unnamed sin that made me less than nothing. . . (p. 2)
Other than the priest, my mother had no friends. (p. 2)

Aycliffe stared at me for a long while as if in search for something. (p. 4)

“When will it happen? . . . And am I to act immediately?” (Aycliffe speaking) (p. 9)

“Are you not her kin?” the stranger said. “Do you not see the consequences if you don’t?” (p. 9)

“A great danger to us all.” (Aycliffe speaking) (P. 9)

All the while Aycliffe was drawing closer, his face filled with hate. When he drew near he lifted his sword and swung it down. (p. 10)

Though at this point in the story it is impossible for the reader to know the exact meaning of the author’s words, it is possible to begin speculating as to how the events will eventually grow and entwine into the story.

- Sharpen your interpretive powers by writing answers to the following questions:
 1. What are some possible reasons that Asta and her son were forced to live as outcasts in the year 1377?
 2. How might the boy’s feeling of shame and sin be connected to his mother’s plight?
 3. Why was the priest Asta’s friend when everyone else shunned her? Does he know the reason for her low social status? By his kindness, was he putting himself in danger?
 4. What secret could lead Aycliffe to stare upon the face of Asta’s son? What is a possible explanation for his interest in the boy’s physical features?
 5. How do you interpret the wealthy stranger’s words. . . *“Are you not her kin? . . . Do you not see the consequences if you don’t?”* Who might Aycliffe’s kin be? With such power, what consequences might he fear?
 6. How might Asta and her son be a threat to Aycliffe?
 7. What impending event do you suppose led Aycliffe to believe he must act quickly or suffer dire consequences?
 8. What could be a possible motive for Aycliffe’s hatred for Asta’s son and his desire to kill him?
- For each of the above questions, identify the event or conversation in the story that led you to your conclusion.
- Compare your answers with those of your classmates.
- As you read further into the story, amend your predictions.

Note to Teachers: Display individual student answers to the above questions on a bulletin board and require updates as reading progresses. Add other story clues to the mix as well. Changing predictions and interpretations can be used as springboards for class discussions.

Asta had said that curiosity was another name for Satan. It was her son's curiosity that led him to creep through the woods to the flickering light where he witnessed the conversations between John Aycliffe and the gentleman stranger. As a result, he was almost killed.

- Why do you suppose Asta looked upon curiosity in such a way? Were there facts that she didn't want her son to uncover? Could she have been speaking from personal experience?
- In 1377 it was not always acceptable for people to seek knowledge or question authority. Could Asta have been trying to help her son learn to cope with his station in life? Explain your thinking.
- Do you agree with Asta? Explain your answer.
- Explain how curiosity can lead to harm.
- How is curiosity the foundation of progress?
- What is your concept of curiosity? Is it mostly harmful or mostly beneficial? (See **Graphic Organizer #1**)

The boy's sole garment was a gray wool tunic.

- Research further to find out if men and women wear the same type of clothing in 1377. Did their clothing change to match the temperatures of summer and winter?
- Create drawings of clothing from the fourteenth century. Display them in your classroom.

Chapters 3-4

Asta and her son lived on a diet of barley bread, watered ale (an alcoholic beverage similar to but darker and heavier than beer), and occasionally some cooked dried peas. If blessed by good fortune, they might have a little meat at Christmastide.

- Estimate the daily caloric intake for Asta and her son. Explain why their diet was not healthy.
- Make a list of vitamins, their food sources, and the diseases or physical conditions connected to a deficiency. What physical or mental problems might plague a person living on the menu that Asta and her son endured?
- Do you suppose their alcohol consumption was beneficial or harmful? Explain your thinking.

Asta told her son that his father had died before his birth during a recurrence of the Great Mortality, often called the Black Death or the Black Plague.

- Use the internet and/or reference books to find answers to the following questions about the Great Mortality:
 1. When the Black Death spread through Europe in the period from 1347 to 1353, what percentage of the population died?
 2. How did the disease spread from Central Asia, where it began, to Europe?
 3. After its first sweep through Europe in the 14th century, when and where did the Plague return? What were the mortality rates?
 4. When and where was the last known incident of the disease?
 5. What happened to a person when he or she was infected with the Plague? Explain how the children's rhyme "Ring Around the Rosie" is probably connected to this disease.
 6. Not all historians agree that the Great Mortality of the 14th century and the following outbreaks of plague were the same disease. Explain some of the theories.
- Compare the outbreak of AIDS to the Great Mortality. How were people rendered helpless in both cases? In what ways are we better equipped to fight such outbreaks than were the people of 14th century Europe?
- In addition to AIDS, what are some other threats to world health? What do you think we should do about it?

Think, Write, Create

Whole Book Activities

Lord Furnival is like a ghost lurking in the story's background. The only *personal contacts* the author allows us to have with the illusive lord are glimpses of his funeral trappings, his tapestry image, and his widow. Yet, as we grasp the *effects* of his power and personality over the lives of so many, the phantom takes form. Character opinions and observations complete his portrait. Thus, we know the true nature of the apparition who was Crispin's father.

From the list below, choose *three* words that you think *best* describe Lord Furnival's character. Cite the words' definition, evidence from the story, and its source (the author, Bear, Widow Daventry, etc.) to support your choices.

<i>admirable</i>	<i>adventuresome</i>	<i>courageous</i>	<i>disrespectful</i>
<i>insensitive</i>	<i>intimidating</i>	<i>cruel</i>	<i>inspiring</i>
<i>ruthless</i>	<i>unscrupulous</i>	<i>avaricious</i>	<i>greedy</i>
<i>generous</i>	<i>humble</i>	<i>devious</i>	<i>ambitious</i>
<i>dependable</i>	<i>callous</i>	<i>merciless</i>	<i>barbaric</i>

Use your notes to write a composition about **Lord Furnival, the Phantom**. (See **Graphic Organizer # 9**.)

The author wrote "*Some claim he (Father Quinel) was the unwanted son of the previous Lord Furnival, who had provided him with the church living when Quinel was still a boy.*"

If this statement were true, then

- what kinship did Father Quinel share with the Lord Furnival who was Crispin's father?
- how did Father Quinel's circumstances play a part in Crispin's mother being imprisoned in Stromford Village?
- why did Father Quinel feel free to show kindness to Asta and agree to keep the secret of her son's ancestry?
- how was Father Quinel related to Crispin?
- how was Father Quinel a **double** threat to Lady Furnival?
- why was Father Quinel willing to risk his own life in order to help Crispin escape?
- what is the probable **full story** behind Father Quinel's murder?

It is an established fact that John Aycliffe was kin to Lady Furnival, but the actual nature of their relation was never revealed. What is your interpretation of this story component? Was John Aycliffe Lady Furnival's brother, brother-in-law, her nephew, her son? State your answer and then explain how you reached your conclusion.

Crispin's isolated existence in Stromford Village prevented him from knowing his own identity and kept him ignorant of life outside his own limited existence. Bear's experiences as a priest, a mummer, a soldier, and a juggler, on the other hand, had given him an accurate understanding of the world in which he lived.

- Do you think most people of 14th century England were more like Bear or more like Crispin? Explain the thinking behind your answer. Research to find some facts to back it up.
- Do you suppose that even today there are people who live in extreme isolation from the rest of the world? Do some research to prove or disprove your supposition.
- Explain how the *free exchange of information* makes our way of live remarkably different from the way people lived in 1377 England.

The Green Man Tavern/Inn

Imagine that you live well into the future where people not only take vacations to a different place but also to a different time. You work as a professional "restaurant/inn agent" for time travelers who want to soak up the true flavor of the time they visit by experiencing life as it actually existed, void of modern comforts and conveniences. It is your task to travel ahead, visit these establishments, gather facts, and add any pertinent comments. You do not recommend or condemn. The final choice is up to the vacationer.

Your assignment for the day is to visit the Green Man Tavern/Inn, Great Wexly, 1377, England. Complete the official report form below for your client.

Time Travelers, Inc. Vacation Guide to Restaurants and Lodging Accommodations

Name of Establishment: _____

Country: _____ City: _____ Year: _____

Lodging: ___ Yes ___ No Dining: ___Yes ___No Entertainment: ___Yes ___No

Description of Facilities: (Diagram or Picture on Back) _____

Menu: _____

Patrons/Service/Atmosphere: _____

Sanitation/Comfort Level: _____

Additional Observations:
