

Crispin: The Cross of Lead

by Avi



Family Study Guide by Jennifer Reed

Illuminations Year 2 - Weeks 30 through 32



Illuminations

Family Study Guide

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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 preread 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:
Wk 30			
Day 1	1–5	25	
Day 2	6–10	26	
Day 3	11–16	24	
Day 4	17–21	23	
Wk 31			
Day 1	22–26	25	
Day 2	27–31	26	
Day 3	32–35	24	
Day 4	36–39	25	
Wk 32			
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?
- In what direction were Asta’s feet placed in her grave and why?
- 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?

- 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.

Discussion Generators for Chapter 2

- Why do you think Asta said curiosity is another name for Satan?
- 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?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 3

- What factor determined a person's standing in the world of Asta's son?
- Asta's son "existed in a shadow" because he had no father. Is this description symbolic of the way he feels about himself?
- 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?
- What was the main purpose of the villagers in the wintertime?
- How did the "Holy Church" manage the lives of those who lived in Stromford (and much of medieval England)?
- What were the two things that gave "distinction" to the lives of those in Stromford?
- 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?
- 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?

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?
- How was the life of the villagers similar to slavery?
- Why would the people be given the hope of heaven for following the rules of the village? Was this hope a false hope?

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?

- Would you have gone forward into the village or stayed back, like Asta’s son did? Why or why not?

>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.

Liturgical hour	When bell is rung
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?
- 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?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 7

- Although they behaved loyally in public, how did the villagers Matthew and Luke honestly feel about their steward?
- What specific things were Matthew and Luke bitter about? Did their complaints seem justified?
- 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?
- Why did Asta's son not care about these complaints?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 8

- Whom did Asta's son hold as kin and why?
- How would the image of St. Giles protecting deer from hunters be a reminder to Asta's son of what his faith should be?
- What news did Sir Richard du Brey bring to Stromford?
- Although his life was in danger, why did Asta's son struggle with leaving Stromford?
- 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?
- What does Asta's son mean by "I am what I am"?
- 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.
- How did Asta's son feel about the news he received about his mother?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 9

- Why did Asta's son desire his new name of Crispin?
- How did Asta's son and others view Goodwife Peregrine? Why?
- How much was the reward being offered for Asta's son? How much did that amount to in terms of yearly 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?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 10

- As Crispin looked on the boundary cross, how did he feel and why?
- What was the result of Crispin's following Cerdic's advice?

>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?
- Why was Crispin certain that God had abandoned him? Read Deuteronomy 31:6 and Hebrews 13:5–6. Does God ever abandon us?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 12

- What about Father Quinel's death was Crispin sure of?
- 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?
- What behaviors or features of the owl cause some to deem it "the Devil's own bird"?
- Why were the periods of silence in the forest worse for Crispin?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 13

- After looking into the pouch given to him by Goodwife Peregrine, why was Crispin disappointed?
- What responsibility had been added to Crispin's life?
- Why did Crispin stay where he was instead of fleeing the forest as fast as he could?
- What thoughts forced Crispin back onto the road?
- 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?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 14

- Reread the first paragraph of this chapter. What emotions did it bring to your mind? How did Crispin feel?
- What changed Crispin's mind about wanting to die? Do you think God places things or people before us to teach us?
- With this new zest for life, was Crispin's attitude toward God different as well?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 15

- How has the mood of the setting changed from the last chapter to the beginning of this one?
- What was Crispin hoping for in the village?
- What was it about the village that scared Crispin?
- 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?
- What could they do to escape "the Great Mortality"?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 16

- From the description of him, what was the job of "the large man"?
- Why did the large man say Crispin had "a gifted way of speech"? Was he being truthful?
- What views did the large man have about the officials of the kingdom?
- 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?
- 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?
- From what you have learned of Crispin's society, how does the definition of tyranny correctly fit his world?

>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 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"?
- 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.
- 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?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 18

- What do you suspect made Crispin feel that the man was "a true demon"?
- Why was Crispin now bound to the large man?
- What was the crime of the man who was hanged, and did the punishment seem just?
- Why could Crispin not break the vow the man was forcing him to make?
- 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"?

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?
- Did Crispin believe that someday none would have masters? Why or why not?
- What is meant by "when Adam plowed the earth and Eve spun, who then was the gentleman"?
- Why does the large man neither trust nor love anyone?
- Is life without smiling and laughter worthless? Why or why not?

- 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?
- 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?
- Why does the large man say the Lord sent Crispin to him? Does this seem to please the man?
- How has Bear exhibited both sides of his nature (sweet/gentle and vicious/brutal)?

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?
- 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?
- Why did Crispin think there might not be any people left in the cities?
- How does Bear contradict himself regarding being Crispin's master?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 21

- Compare Father Quinel to Bear. How were they different? How were they similar?
- Bear was bitter about his father. What was the cause?
- 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?
- What skill kept a person from the gallows and why?
- What was meant by Bear's saying, "Perhaps it was the devil himself who took a liking to my soul"?
- 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?

>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?
- 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?
- Why do you suppose Crispin had only eaten meat a few times?
- How did Crispin’s image of Lord Furnival differ from the description Bear gave him?

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?
- Why did Crispin sometimes think that he might have been the cause of his mother’s misery?
- What kept Crispin from finding out the things unknown to him, such as his surname, his father, etc.?
- Did Crispin long to improve himself or his situation or was he content to live as “God had willed it”?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 24

- How did Crispin’s ignorance of the world shape his view of himself?
- Why are those who bring remorse shunned, according to Bear?
- What is meant by “Lose your sorrows, and you’ll find your freedom”? Can you find Scripture that demonstrates this in biblical terms?
- In regard to his own two parts (good and bad), what was Crispin mistaken about?
- “Living by answers is a form of death. It’s only questions that keep you living.” Why?
- What was Crispin’s response when Bear gave him the option to choose whether to join him or not?
- Why do you suspect Bear gave him the choice?

- 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?
- Why did Bear say Crispin did not need his cross or special words?
- What do you think is meant by “The only cross you need is the one in your heart”?
- According to Bear, how could it be better “not to know” sometimes? Do you agree?
- 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?
- What questions would Crispin live by? How about yourself?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 25

- When among most people, why did Bear keep what he thought in his head?
- 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?
- Did Crispin believe he could have any part in bettering himself?
- What did Bear do and say to convince Crispin of the possibility that he could better himself?
- How did Bear challenge Crispin's claim that he is nothing (in regard to being noticed in the towns they enter)?
- Why did Crispin believe he does not have a soul? Can a person's feelings betray them?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 26

- What did Crispin eventually realize about Bear's threats?
- What thought occurred to Crispin after Bear said, "Now you know why I took you on"? How did this seem to make Crispin feel?
- What did Crispin pray for?

>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 or www.rocksolidinc.com to purchase one online. Many instructional pages on "how to play the recorder" can be found at 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?
- Why did Crispin want to learn skills, such as noticing the birds?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 28

- Now that Bear realizes the true danger Crispin's life is in, has his motivation changed?
- What indicated that Bear had "found a meaning that he was not prepared to tell" from the cross of lead?

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?
- 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.
- What did the brotherhood that Bear was a part of intend to do? What specific things has he already mentioned to Crispin?
- Was Crispin right when he said, "Nothing really changes"?
- What was Crispin seeking freedom from?
- What did Bear claim was the only thing he worried about in general? How does this apply to Crispin?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 30

- What about the village surprised Crispin?
- How did Bear anger the one-eyed youth?
- Why would it have been a great sacrifice for villagers when they gave their pennies and bread to Bear and Crispin?
- What news did Bear and Crispin learn of in the village?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 31

- Crispin has been "trying to notice things." What did he notice in the village of Lodgecot?
- What about the one-eyed youth makes him seem more ominous?
- 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?
- How could alertness bring more days to your life than worry could? Which Bible verses support this?
- Along with the penny, what did Bear give Crispin?

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?
- 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?
- What “fangs” did the wolf’s head acquire?
- How does Bear say a man’s soul can be observed?
- Why did Crispin have a servile look?
- 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?
- How could the devil have as many faces as there are sins?
- What did Bear offer to Crispin to show he cares for him, and how did Crispin respond?
- 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?

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?
- How was what a person wore significant?
- How did Crispin describe the people in their variety of colorful clothing?
- What made Crispin feel proud and safe?
- What scared Crispin at the gate to Great Wexly?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 34

- How is fear the worst disguise?
- Why do you think it worked for Bear and Crispin to perform their way right through the gates?
- Why did Crispin think the people of Great Wexly lived their lives by entries and exits?
- The foreshadowing of the death of an important person was included in earlier chapters. Who do you suspect died?
- What is an indication that the general population could not read? Was this the norm for all? How do you know?

- What made Crispin realize how poor his village was?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 35

- Why would Bear consider it “God’s sweet grace” that let Crispin find him?
- How had Bear known that Lord Furnival had died?
- Why were extra guards posted at the gate?
- Why was Crispin jealous of Widow Daventry?
- 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?

>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?
- Considering how Crispin thought of himself, why do you think he was surprised when Widow Daventry brought him food?
- What further evidence is there to confirm that Crispin has changed since he first met Bear?
- What do you suppose Bear would consider heaven “before I die”?
How did Crispin intend to obtain his liberties in Great Wexly?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 37

- What was it about traveling the town that Crispin found so pleasing?
- How did the white bread differ from the barley bread Crispin normally ate?
- In regard to social class, what was different about the people of Wexly and those of Stromford?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 38

- What was the biggest building in the town square?
- What were some of the things that Crispin saw being sold in the town square?
- Why did Crispin not enter the church right away?
- What was Crispin's reaction to the inside of the church?
- Crispin had once considered himself a prisoner of Bear, but now he longed to be with him. How has his view of Bear changed?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 39

- How had Great Wexly been transformed from a place of fascination and wonder to a place of doom?
- Why did Crispin think Bear would not forgive him?
- How did Crispin's state of panic alter his perception of Great Wexly?
- How had Crispin's new skill of paying attention paid off in his new predicament?
- Why would the town have a curfew for all the townspeople?
- What did Crispin remember about John Aycliffe?

>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?
- What do you make of the following exchange? Crispin: "God bless you." Bear: "And you also."
- Why did Bear not need to forgive Crispin?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 41

- What does Crispin's adding a prayer for Bear's protection mean?
- Do you sense that Bear was hiding John Ball from Crispin or the other way around?
- What did John Ball say the people wanted?
- 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?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 42

- What woke Crispin and what thought crossed his mind because of it?
- What things did Crispin observe as he first stepped down the stairs into the tavern?
- Who stepped into the tavern and scanned the room? Who or what do you think he was looking for? Why?
- What was Crispin's prediction of events to come?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 43

- Crispin chose to trust Widow Daventry because Bear did. What does this indicate about his trust in Bear?
- What foods and spices did Crispin find in the kitchen? Are any of these things familiar to you?
- How did Crispin feel about the pie he ate?
- What did Widow Daventry do with what remained in the tankards?
- What did Widow Daventry request of Crispin about Bear?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 44

- Why would Widow Daventry not be pleased about keeping Crispin busy while Bear was gone?
- What has caused Crispin to now "notice too much" of the world? What did Crispin think should change?
- What was Bear suggesting by saying he liked the thought of Crispin protecting him when he is old?
- What evidence supports the belief that the one-eyed youth was following Bear?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 45

- What did each of the men do before going into the boot shop? What did Crispin determine from this?
- How did John Ball's words startle Crispin?
- Who was the one-eyed youth working for?

>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 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

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

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?
- What did Bear claim that John Aycliffe and his soldiers wanted?
- What did Crispin do after Bear was taken? Was this act brave, foolish, or both?
- What prediction of Crispin’s had come true?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 47

- Who did Crispin consider Bear to be to him now?
- How does Crispin show growth in his ability to make decisions?
- What could Crispin have meant by “Silence was the only voice that could speak to me”?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 48

- What did Widow Daventry mean by “Beware all men who confuse their righteousness with the will of God”?
- Was it true that “so much bad” had happened because of Crispin?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 49

- Why did Widow Daventry share the information about the loss of her family to Crispin?

- Who was Crispin's father?
- What do you learn of Crispin's mother, Asta?
- Why was the noble blood in Crispin poison?
- What did Widow Daventry reveal about how Bear feels about Crispin?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 50

- After processing what he learned about his mother, how did Crispin react?
- What did Crispin finally understand about his influence on his circumstances?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 51

- In light of this new information about his father, how did Crispin begin to think about himself?
- 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?
- 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?
- How had Bear helped Crispin?

>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?
- What might Widow Daventry have been thinking as she hugged Crispin goodbye?

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?
- What was Bear’s real reason for traveling about the country?
- Why was John Ball angry with Bear?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 54

- What is Crispin’s goal in this chapter?
- How has he changed from the time he was a wolf’s head?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 55

- Why was Crispin unfamiliar with some of the items he saw at the table?
- How did the picture Crispin saw of his father differ from what he knew of him?
- What did seeing this image convince Crispin of?
- What had Crispin become?

Discussion Generators for Chapter 56

- What was John Aycliffe’s response when Crispin declared he was Lord Furnival’s son?
- What did Crispin claim John Aycliffe feared the most? Would you agree with this assessment?
- 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?

- Why would it have been painful for John Aycliffe to swear to Crispin's terms?
- Why did John Aycliffe hate Crispin so much?

>**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 irascaris.	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 pre-read 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?
- What did Bear admit to Crispin, and what did he fear he had done?

- As Bear and Crispin leave the palace, "a whirl of agitated blackbirds circled through the air." What mood does Avi set with this description?

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?
- How did Crispin fulfill his vow to John Aycliffe? Why did he do this even though Aycliffe was dead?
- For most of the novel, the lead cross is Crispin's most treasured possession. Why did he not need it any longer?
- What did Bear mean about the new truth they'd made, "In the midst of death, there is 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?
- Is Crispin changed in mind or heart from when we first met him? How do you know?
- What does this story suggest a good life is? Has Crispin 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.

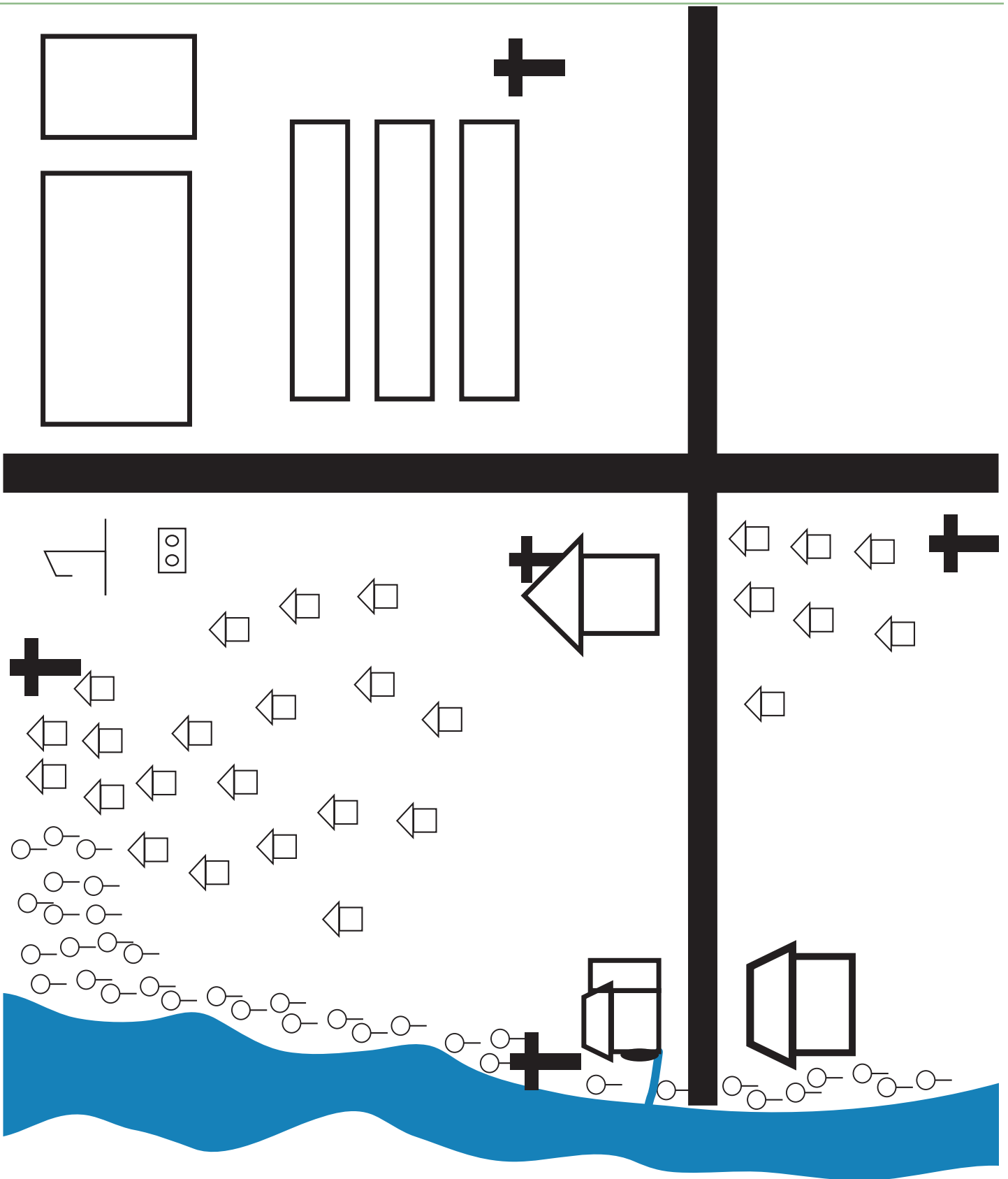
21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts,

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!



Saints - Wordsearch



Word Bank:

Anthony
Giles
Pancras

Arnulf
Gregory
Paul

Barnabas
John The Baptist
Remigius

Crispin
Margaret
Sixtus

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.				
Night was a mask for outlaws, hungry wolves, the Devil and his minions				
But no sooner did I than I became ensnared in brambles that caught me in their thorny grasp.				
Thus our lives never changed, but went round the rolling years beneath the starry vault of distant Heaven.				
Time was the great millstone, which 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.				
The things the priest has said made my heart feel like a city under siege.				
It was rather like a new garment that replaces an old: desired but not yet comfortable.				
Smoke thickened the air, making the herbs that hung from the rafters look 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.				
Solid shapes were soft as rotten hay.				
I walked as solitary as Adam before the creation of Eve.				
But as I knelt, the mist seemed to ensnare my body like a sticky shroud, 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.				
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.				
His bald head gleamed like a moon.				
Indeed, he was big enough to fill the entire sky.				
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.				
Behind them, a portcullis had been raised halfway up, looking like teeth prepared to bite.				
(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.				
No, it was more like a dense forest, not of trees, but people.				

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.				
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.				
As night thickened, people put up their 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