

## Reading Notes

<b>The Plague</b>	Bubonic plague; also known as the Black Death
<b>Sir John de Bureford</b>	Robin's father
<b>Lady Maud</b>	Robin's mother
<b>Brother Luke</b>	friar of St. Mark's who cared for Robin
<b>The Scottish Wars</b>	fighting in Scotland started by Edward I and continued by Edward II & Edward III

## Vocabulary

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

1. Tears of **vexation** started to his eyes \_\_\_\_\_
2. in an **embrasure** of the thick wall. \_\_\_\_\_
3. not the plague but some other **malady**. \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. What is the time period and setting of this story? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Where had Robin's father and mother gone? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. At what age was Robin expected to leave his family? With whom was he going to live? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is Robin in bed? How long has he been there? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does Brother Luke take Robin to St. Mark's? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Quotations

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*"Thou hast only to follow the wall far enough and there will be a door in it."*

Who said this? \_\_\_\_\_

To whom? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the speaker mean by this? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Discussion Questions

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1. Do you think Robin was ready to leave home? Why or why not?
2. Describe Robin. Did he have the character qualities required of a knight?
3. Have you ever seen an unfortunate event eventually result in good, either for you or others? Share your example.

## Enrichment

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### ◀ The Plague ▶

The Plague, or Black Death, swept across Europe in the 14th century, killing nearly half of the European population. The bacterium *Yersinia pestis*, which caused the disease, originated in central Asia and was most likely brought to Europe by fleas. These fleas lived on rats which frequently traveled on merchant ships from Asia to Europe.

The most common symptoms were small tumors that appeared on the body, usually around the neck or armpit. These tumors grew in size, sometimes as large as an apple, and eventually spread all over the body. They darkened in color until they became black. Victims usually died within eight days, although some accounts of recovery have been recorded. The unsanitary conditions of European cities and the medical knowledge of the Middle Ages did little to combat the disease. Occasional European outbreaks occurred until the 19th century.