The Plague
Bubonic plague; also known as the Black Death
Sir John de Bureford
Robin’s father
Lady Maud
Robin’s mother
Brother Luke
Friar of St. Mark’s who cared for Robin
The Scottish Wars
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? _______________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________________________________
Quotations

“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? __________________________

Discussion Questions

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

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.