*The Door in the Wall*Study Guide

**Synopsis**

This story is set in medieval England where boys grow up to be knights. People everywhere are sick from the great plague, and Robin the main character is also sick. He has lost the use of his legs but his parents don’t know this, because his father is off fighting for the King, and his mother is keeping the queen company.

The guide who was going to take Robin to the castle of Sir Peter never arrived, and his housekeeper is too ill to take care of him. Brother Luke, a friar, hears about it and is sent to help Robin. The friar begins to teach Robin to read and write, which was very uncommon for the time. Brother Luke is instructed to take Robin to Sir Peter’s caste.

During the trip, while staying at an inn, Robin overhears some thieves, and his quick thinking saves their lives as they make a fast escape. Later at the castle, his courage saves the castle and the enclosed village when he sneaks out through the attacking armies and gets help. When his parents return, he is fearful that they will no longer love him, since he cannot meet their expectations to become a knight. His parents, as well as the king, however, see his s strength of character, and he does get to be a knight in spite of his handicap. The theme that for every wall in our lives there is a door provides a realistic ending for Robin.

**The Epitath:**

Notice the first page of the story. What is the Bible verse there? What do you think it will have to do with the story?

*The Door in the Wall* Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Lesson 1

Sections 1-2

1. Where were Robin’s father and mother?

2. What city does this story start in, and what is the cause of so many people being sick?

3. What project did Brother Luke give Robin to help him pass the time?

4. In what order did these people come into Robin’s life?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Geoffrey Atte-Water

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Dame Ellen

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Brother Luke

5. What does “impertinent” mean? (“Fie on thee for an impertinent lad!”)

6. During what time period does this story take place? List two clues.

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Lesson 2

Section 3-5

1. Besides whittling, what else is Brother Luke planning on teaching Robin to do?

2. What type of wood did Robin use to make the doll?

3. What type of exercise did he participate in daily?

4. After receiving the letter from his father, what was Robin supposed to do?

5. Give the definition of pilgrimage. (“It is indeed a sort of pilgrimage,” said Brother Luke…)

6. When Robin says he understand the meaning of the door in the wall in section 3 he thinks it means:

A. There are many walls in our lives but if you keep looking there are also doors or ways to get through the wall.

B. That the friar’s garden has walls that surround it and he will get to the door quicker if he reads.

C. There are many doors in the walls of the city and they will all take you outside.

7. Why did Robin believe he would never be a knight in armor and go to battle?

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Lesson 3

Sections 6 - 7

1. What was the friar’s opinion of the White Hart Inn?

2. Robin was very excited when he saw the sign. What did the sign say?

3. John-go-in-the-Wynd gave Robin some directions that he made sure Robin knew by heart. These directions were to what place?

4. Which happened first, the fair or the thieves’ attack?

5. What is a Punch and Judy show?

A. A carnival  
B. A French play  
C. An English puppet show

6. Why did Robin dread meeting Sir Peter?

7. How does Robin’s quick thinking help save them while they are at the Inn?

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Lesson 4

Sections 8-9

1. What new project is John-go-in-the-Wynd helping Robin work on?

2. During the fog, what happened that changed the schedule at the castle?

A. It was too dark to work.

B. The castle was attacked.

C. There was a celebration.

3. What was Robin’s plan to help?

4. What is the first event that Robin encountered?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Crossing the stream

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Swimming the icy river

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Arriving at John’s cottage

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Taking the path through the fields

5. What previous events with the friars helped prepare Robin for his attempt to save Sir Peter and the castle?

6. What does “commotion” mean?

7. Was Robin afraid to go for help? Explain your answer.

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Lesson 5

Section 10

1. What was to be the signal for the defenders to start the attack?

2. What reasons does Robin’s father give for not minding that his son cannot use his legs?

3. What honors did the Kind bestow upon Robin after he arrived?

4. “The Welsh are routed,” was the cry of the people. What does routed mean?

5. How did Robin feel about the return of his parents when he saw them coming? Explain your answer.

6. What door in the wall has Robin found that the friar is referring to at the end of the story?

7. Tell about a problem (wall) that you have had and how you overcame it (door).