



The Minstrel in The Tower Study Guide

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FOR THE BOOK BY
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Table of Contents

Note to Instructor	4
Synopsis	5
Background Information	6
About the Author.....	7
Before-you-read Activities	8
Chapter 1	9
Chapter 2	14
Chapter 3	17
Chapter 4	21
Chapter 5	24
Chapter 6	28
Chapter 7	31
Chapter 8	34
Word Search	39
After-you-read Activities	41
Additional Resources	43
Answer Key	Separate File

Synopsis

It is the year 1195. Roger and Alice live alone with their mother in a tiny cottage. Their father, a knight, left to fight in the Crusades five years earlier and never returned. Sick, feverish, and perhaps dreaming, their mother sends Roger and Alice on a journey to find an uncle they did not know they had. They carry with them their mother's lute. "Show him the eagle carved on the back," she tells her children. "Ask him to come quickly. Quickly!"

But on their journey they are kidnapped by two ruffians and locked in an old tower. With determination, Roger and Alice devise a plan for escape. Alice squeezes through a small window high in the tower and must continue the journey alone. Somehow, she must find her uncle and persuade him to help, and she no longer has the lute to prove her story.

Chapter 8

Vocabulary:

Fill in the blanks with the words below that best fit each sentence.

strides	soothe
chateau	pace
shabby	heir

1. The children watched the cat _____ up and down the window sill.
2. The young man lived in a large, many-roomed _____.
3. Mother rocked the baby to _____ her.
4. The blanket was tattered and _____.
5. A prince is _____ to the throne.
6. Horses take long _____ as they begin to gallop.

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Questions:

1. The very first thing Lord Raimond did was apologize to his sister Blanche. Why? _____

2. Read the following Bible verses:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

James 1:19b, 20

In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Ephesians 4:26

Lord Raimond had been angry when Lady Blanche ran away to marry her husband. If Lord Raimond had followed these verses, how would all their lives have been different? _____

Answer Key

Note: Most of the questions in Progeny Press study guides deal with students' understanding and interpretation of issues in the novel; therefore, most answers will be individual to the student. Progeny Press answer keys are designed to be as inclusive as possible for the teacher and/or parent, giving enough background and information to judge whether the student has grasped the essence of the issue and the question. We try to point out some directions students' answers might take, which directions might be best, and some errors that may appear. Students are not expected to answer as completely as the answers provided in the Answer Key.

Before-you-read Activities:

1. In the middle ages, a minstrel was a singer who sang for a living. A jester was a clown, fool, and comedian, usually in the service of a king or ruler.

Chapter 1

Vocabulary:

Students' definitions will vary.

1. older, more mature, an aged person; 2. daunted, terrified, confused; 3. a stringed musical instrument; 4. having a wearying effect; 5. a singer; 6. place or position of another; grieved, bemoaned; 7. a covering worn over a woman's head, neck, and chin.

Questions:

1. They get along well and love each other.
2. Zara helped care for their ill mother.
3. He had left years earlier to fight in the Crusades and had not returned. They did not know if he was dead or alive.
4. Alice never walked when she could run, and she never stayed on the ground when she could climb.
5. Their mother feared that she was dying and wanted their uncle to take care of them.
6. Answers will vary. He wanted her company.
7. The verse says to obey your parents and honor them. Answers will vary. It is difficult to obey unless you can trust the person you are obeying.

Chapter 2

Vocabulary:

1. j; 2. f; 3. a; 4. h; 5. g; 6. c; 7. b; 8. i; 9. d; 10. e.

Questions:

1. Answers will vary. A pilgrim was one who traveled to a holy place or a shrine. They traveled because of religious devotion, or many times because they hoped for a healing or miracle.
2. To get food, Roger sang for the woman and her daughter.
3. The monkey in skirts.
4. Answers will vary. Aurore was a lovely girl with thick, wavy, apricot-colored hair.