



# *The Bridge* *Study Guide*

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For the novel  
by Jeri Massi





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## Synopsis

*"In the night the soldier creeps,  
Midway from shore to shore  
High above the murky deep  
He finds a slender wooden floor.  
'Twill one man safely keep,  
Whose axe shall end a war."*

More than a simple tale with a Medieval flavor, *The Bridge* is filled with mystery, courage, and suspense. Princess Rosalynn of Bracken is left in the care of loyal Sir Reynald while the king is off visiting a neighboring castle. Reynald catches wind of an invasion from Folger, the larger country connected to Bracken by an enormous suspension bridge. He sets into motion a plan to save the princess and preserve as much of Bracken from devastation as is possible.

In a state of confusion and defiance, the princess is carried away speedily from the castle by Herron the Rider. Wounded by the enemy, Herron sets Rosalynn down in the forest to find her own way to her father, the king. Thus begins the princess's long, arduous journey through perilous, enemy-filled territory—her life in danger at every step.

In allegoric fashion, the wise woman Rosalynn meets on her journey comforts, heals, and guides Rosalynn much in the same way that the Holy Spirit does for today's believer. Together with Herron they attempt to solve the riddle of the "Castle Guard Song"—a secret which will save the tiny kingdom of Bracken.

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5. Why does the woman's gentleness and quiet voice reduce the Princess to tears? Read Proverbs 25:15: "Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone." What does this tell us about gentleness?
6. List three things the Wise Woman does to help Rosalynn. What does the Wise Woman mean when she says, "Wrong cannot be undone, but it can be forgiven."?
7. How had Sir Reynald already forgiven Rosalynn before she realized she had wronged him?
8. How did the Woman know about the song of the castle guard? What did she mean when she said "The secret has been too closely guarded"?
9. What two promises does Rosalynn make to the Wise Woman?

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### **Paraphrasing:**

To *paraphrase* something means to say it in your own words. As they travel, the Woman watches over Rosalynn, watching over her even when she sleeps. Read Psalm 121:

I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Paraphrase Psalm 121.

### **Questions:**

1. List four adjectives that you think would describe the Fool. (Remember: an adjective describes someone or something.) How does the Wise Woman handle the Fool?

## *The Bridge Study Guide Answer Key*

3. The Woman takes a rope out of a tree trunk where it is hidden and attaches it to a tree. She crosses the flooded gully and footbridge holding the rope. When she was only part of the way across, the Jester appeared and cut the guide rope. Rosalynn is caught by the Jester.

4. Herron

5. Because he was frightened and thought she might be a ghost.

*Dig Deeper:*

Charts will vary.

### *Chapter 7, 8 & 9*

*Vocabulary:*

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

*Metaphors and Similes:*

1. S; 2. M; 3. S; 4. M; 5. S.

*Questions:*

1. He had come into their room posing as a steward, saying that they had a guest. He did not want to frighten the Princess though.

2. Rosalynn promises herself that when she is queen, Herron shall not want for anything because of the hardships he has endured to find her.

3. strategy = tactics, plan, scheme The strategy of the soldier in the song was to get rid of his armor and horse and find a boat. He then shall take an axe, row midway from shore to shore and climb high to find a slender wooden floor. Then he will use his axe to end a war.

4. Going against the flow of the water in the river.

5. Answers may vary. She is maturing, learning to be patient, much wiser, more courageous, less proud, etc.

6. He cut through a wooden crossbeam. The crossbeam was a pin fastening a beam that held some of the cables of the bridge. The cables will give and not support the swaying as an army marches in step. The bridge will collapse with the invading army upon it.

7. The Wise Woman was thought to be of Folger, and the Princess had promised to stay with her. The Princess stays with her despite the fear and discomfort.

8. Answers will vary. He is sad, thinks that it is wrong, but he admires the Princess keeping her promise, and he is hopeful of her father coming soon.

9. Paragraphs will vary. They should mention that he notices in her eyes that she has grown up.

10. Answers will vary.

*Idioms:*

1. A hard fight; 2. Answers may vary. Coming of age, becoming a man, proving himself.

### *After-you-read Questions:*

1. Yes, she did keep her promises. Answers may vary.

2. creative writing will vary.

3. Varger was killed in a battle with the King himself. After the robber band attacked Rosalynn and the Fool, the Fool was left behind “like a picked-over chicken in the dimpling puddles of water and mud—bootless, penniless, weaponless, and capeless.” Rigel died when the bridge collapsed as he and