

*Redwall Study Guide*

5. When the story opens, Matthias is identified as a novice at Redwall Abbey. What does the word “novice” mean in this context? What does this tell us about the kind of life Matthias will be expected to lead?
  
6. Brother Alf reprimands Colin Vole when he remarks that Cornflower and Matthias look like an old wedded couple. “Don’t you know that someday Matthias will be a Redwall mouse?” he tells Colin sharply. Why does Brother Alf reprimand Colin Vole in this way?
  
7. Why do you think Cluny is troubled by nightmares?
  
8. *Foreshadowing* is a literary device by which an author hints about events to come. Read the final sentence in Chapter Two. What is Cluny approaching? What events might this foreshadow?
  
9. What similarities to Martin the Warrior does Methuselah notice in Matthias? How have we already seen evidence of these similarities in the story so far?

*Redwall Study Guide*

What might the author be *foreshadowing*?

**Dig Deeper:**

10. In Chapter One, Matthias has aspirations of being like Martin the Warrior. Why is it important to have a role model?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Which of Martin's traits does Matthias seem to value most? Which of Martin's traits does Abbot Mortimer seem to value most?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Is there someone to whom you look as a role model? If so, who is that person and what traits do you admire about that person?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Read Titus 2:1–8. How does Abbot Mortimer apply these verses in his conversation and dealings with Matthias?

*Crispin: The Cross of Lead Study Guide*

12. Read 2 Samuel 11:1–12:18. Compare this story with Lord Furnival and his actions. How are they similar? In what important ways are they different?
  
13. Sometimes our own actions have consequences that we could not foresee—unforeseen consequences. Have you done, or not done, something that had consequences you did not expect? Share one such incident, good or bad, and explain what happened.
  
14. In Chapter 51, as he lies hidden in the dark, Crispin realizes that Bear is “a thousandfold a more faithful father” than Lord Furnival ever was. Sometimes, because they are sinful, like all people, our earthly fathers can disappoint and even hurt us. Read Matthew 7:9–11; Romans 8:15–16, 26–27, 38–39; Galatians 4:4–7. What do these verses teach us about our heavenly Father?

**Optional Activities:**

1. As a class, discuss ways Crispin might set about to free Bear. Should he ask for assistance from someone else? If so, who should he ask? Should he try the rescue alone? Why or why not? What would you try?
2. Toward the end of Chapter 48, when Crispin tells Widow Daventry that John Ball had cried out that he was betrayed when the soldiers broke up their meeting, the widow tells him, “Beware all men who confuse their righteousness with the will of God.” In Chapter 46, when they are escaping from the soldiers, Ball tells Bear, “Bear, don’t lose heart. Put your faith in mighty God and me.” In Chapter 41, when Bear is talking with Ball at the Green Man, Ball tells

## *A Christmas Carol Study Guide*

8. *Juxtaposition* is the act of placing two things side by side. An author uses juxtaposition to underscore the distinctive characteristics of two people, things, or places. For example, Dickens juxtaposes the setting of black house fronts, furrowed streets, gloom, dingy mist, and soot with the cheerfulness of the people in the houses, emphasizing the contrast. Find another example of juxtaposition in Stave Three.
  
9. The Ghost of Christmas Present states that he lives only until Twelfth-Night. What is Twelfth-Night? Why does the Ghost only live that long?
  
10. *Personification* gives human form to abstractions. How does Dickens personify ignorance and want (poverty) in Stave Three? Why do you think he chooses to personify these abstractions as he does?

### **Dig Deeper:**

11. Of the Cratchit's Christmas celebration, the narrator states:

There was nothing of high mark in this. . . . But they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time. . . .”

*A Christmas Carol Study Guide*

Despite having barely enough to fill everyone at the meal, every Cratchit is thankful and refrains from even hinting that the pudding is small. Why?

Read Philippians 4:12–13. What does Paul say is the “secret” of being “content in any and every situation”?

12. The Spirit takes Scrooge from place to place and to many homes. What personal qualities or traits are demonstrated for Scrooge through these encounters?

Read Galatians 5:22–23. What are the fruits of the Spirit listed in this passage? Compare this list to the list you made in the previous question. What are their similarities and differences?

To what extent can we cultivate these qualities in ourselves, and to what extent are they gifts from God?

## *Frankenstein Study Guide*

24. Read Ezekiel 18:20, 30–32. What do these verses say about responsibility for sin? Can we justifiably blame others as the cause for our actions?
25. In Chapter 10 the monster declares, “Shall I not then hate them who abhor me? I will keep no terms with my enemies. I am miserable and they shall share my wretchedness.” Compare this statement with Matthew 5:38–47. What is the logical result of the monster’s philosophy or plan of action? What might occur if he adopted the attitude Jesus commands?

### **For Discussion:**

The monster tells Frankenstein, “I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend. Make me happy, and I shall again be virtuous.” How does unhappiness influence behavior? Does happiness bring virtue? Does unhappiness cause sin? Read the following verses and discuss your answers as a class: Genesis 4:6, 7; Deuteronomy 6:3; Deuteronomy 30:1–6; James 1:2–4; 1 John 1:9.

### **Writing Activity**

Write a scene for the story in which Frankenstein goes to the authorities and explains his suspicions about the monster’s role in William’s death without making himself sound like a madman. Can Frankenstein do so without lying?

## “Incident at the Window” and “The Last Night”

### Vocabulary

For each of the words below, write in the blank next to the word the letter of the best definition or synonym from the column on the right. You will not use all the choices.

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. mien _____        | a. careful; diligent                 |
| 2. abject _____      | b. small glass container for liquids |
| 3. doggedly _____    | c. cloud blown by the wind           |
| 4. amiss _____       | d. demeanor; bearing                 |
| 5. peevishly _____   | e. evildoer                          |
| 6. sedulous _____    | f. funereal; morbid                  |
| 7. sulkily _____     | g. wrong; unusual                    |
| 8. exorbitant _____  | h. brutish; animal-like              |
| 9. mottled _____     | i. excessive; extravagant            |
| 10. pallor _____     | j. decorative artwork                |
| 11. malefactor _____ | k. extreme paleness                  |
| 12. scud _____       | l. flat stones                       |
| 13. phial _____      | m. lunatic; insane                   |
| 14. kernel _____     | n. spotted; blotched                 |
| 15. flags _____      | o. ill-humored; resentful            |
| 16. crazy _____      | p. nucleus; essential core           |
|                      | q. persistently                      |
|                      | r. with discontent; fretfully        |
|                      | s. rickety; decaying                 |
|                      | t. showing extreme hopelessness      |

## Book V, Chapters 1–3

### Vocabulary:

For each underlined word below, choose the best definition given. Use the word's context (surrounding material) to make your choice.

1. [When Gandalf says Denethor should already have been told of Boromir's death]: "It has been guessed already," said Ingold; "for there have been strange portents here of late. . . ."
  - a. omens; signs
  - b. lies; falsehoods
  - c. rumors; speculations
2. [The Guards'] helms gleamed with a flame of silver, for they were indeed wrought of *mithril*, heirlooms from the glory of old days . . . . This was the livery of the heirs of Elendil. . . .

### **heirlooms:**

- a. unhappy reminders
- b. possessions passed on from generation to generation
- c. ancient relics

### **livery:**

- a. distinctive dress or uniform
- b. overall appearance
- c. occupation; livelihood

## Chapters 12–15

### Vocabulary:

Underline the word on the right that is closest in meaning to the vocabulary word on the left.

- |                     |           |             |             |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. <b>chagrined</b> | thrilled  | embarrassed | tired       |
| 2. <b>flimsy</b>    | fragile   | fancy       | powerful    |
| 3. <b>sinew</b>     | vine      | yarn        | tendon      |
| 4. <b>indignant</b> | resentful | happy       | exhausted   |
| 5. <b>goaded</b>    | injured   | driven      | stopped     |
| 6. <b>shrewdly</b>  | cleverly  | stupidly    | quickly     |
| 7. <b>mocking</b>   | restless  | scornful    | modest      |
| 8. <b>tribute</b>   | gift      | weapon      | recognition |

### Questions:

1. How does Attean help Matt to make a better bow?

## “Dr. Lanyon’s Narrative”

### Vocabulary

In each of the following groups of words, three of the four words are synonyms, or have the same or nearly the same meaning. Cross out the one word in each group that does not share a common meaning. Then pick a word from the Word Box to replace the crossed out word.

*Word Box*

---

whetted	impediment	constrained	debility
idiosyncratic	metamorphoses	parley	enigmas
	incredulous	turpitude	

---

riddles	stimulated	hindrance
routes	kindled	obstruction
puzzles	excited	bulwark
mysteries	emitted	obstacle

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

mythical	changes	orthodoxy
doubtful	transformations	depravity
skeptical	mutations	wickedness
uncertain	dictations	baseness

4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_