

Summer Assignment - History

Read **Crispin: The Cross of Lead** by Avi. After reading the book, answer the 8 questions below. Each answer should be approximately one paragraph in length. Answers may be written in pencil or ink, or (preferably) printed from a computer. The questions must be turned in no later than Monday August 23rd.

1. Read Chapters 1 – 8. Describe the life of a serf. What is their relationship with Lord Furnival and what rights do they have?
2. Read chapters 9 – 19. After Crispin gives his sacred oath to Bear, he regrets it, thinking “far better to have died on the road.” What causes him to think his fate is so bleak? Why does he believe he must keep his oath? What does that tell you about his character?
3. Read Chapters 20 – 28. How does Bear win Crispin’s trust? How does Bear show that he trusts Crispin?
4. Read Chapters 29 - 34. How does Bear challenge Crispin’s ideas about God?
5. Read Chapters 35 – 40. Compare life in Great Wexly to life in Stromford Village. Think about businesses and jobs in the two towns, as well as who controls what people do in the two locations.
6. Read Chapters 41-45. How does Crispin’s view of the world change over the course of his travels? Does seeing more of the world change the way he behaves or the things he believes?
7. Read Chapters 46-53. The book constantly explores the notion of what it means to be “free.” Are there different kinds of freedom presented in the book? If so, describe them briefly. How do you think Crispin finally comes to define “freedom.”
8. Read Chapters 54-58. Why do you think Avi chose to write about a nameless boy instead of a lord or prince or knight? What aspects of medieval life would a peasant experience that a prince would not?

I hope you enjoy reading this exciting story, it is a fun book that has some good information about life in Medieval Europe.

If you have questions over the summer, please contact me at dcross@csmh.org
You may also email me your answers at this address.

Books are available at BookSmart in Morgan Hill and Barnes and Noble in Gilroy. The Morgan Hill Librarian has promised to get more of this book on the shelves for students use over the summer.