

Bobby, Lord of Acton Waters Study Guide – discussion questions

Chapter I. The Young Earl

1. Do you wish you could live like Bobby?
2. Can you think of any disadvantages?

Vocabulary: *The author is confident that readers can figure out most of these words from the context. Depending on grade level they may need help with some of them.*

domain p. 9	disdain p. 9	flustered p. 13
flittering p. 9	spirited p. 11	casserole p. 13
exasperation p. 9	taskmaster p. 12	saucily p. 13

Chapter II. The Tunisian Beggarman

1. Why does Fahd, the minstrel, decide not to take Bobby's place?
2. Why don't Fahd and Bobby's family understand each other?

Vocabulary:

orchestra p. 14	dubiously p. 18	hare p. 19
nightingale p. 15	subjects and retainers p. 18	wincing p. 19
rapt p. 17		

Chapter III. The Road

1. Was it crazy for Bobby to leave his comfortable life behind?
2. What do YOU think is the answer to Bobby's question?

Vocabulary:

warily p. 20	eventually p. 21	veering p. 23
fare thee well p. 21	pesky p. 23	

Chapter IV. The Man Who Turned Left

1. What could Bobby learn from the man's story?
2. How do you like Bobby's idea for solving the problem?

Vocabulary:

blacksmith p. 24

marketplace p. 25

Chapter V. Alison, Countess of Acton Waters

1. How does Alison change when she takes Bobby's place?
2. Would you have changed the same way?

Vocabulary:

buckwheat p. 28

jubilant p. 28

Chapter VI. The Vicar of Beckham

1. How would your life be different if you could not read or write?
2. What lesson was the vicar trying to teach Bobby?

Vocabulary:

vicar p. 29

illiterate p. 29

misfortune p. 31

crumpets p. 29

illusion p. 30

light shift p. 32

quill p. 29

held his tongue p. 31

lunged p. 32

Chapter VII. Gambrell

1. Why is it dangerous for Bobby to say he is just as good as the Count?
2. Why wouldn't Bobby give in to the Bailiff?

Vocabulary:

greengrocers p. 34

Tunisia p. 35

nobles p. 36

bailiff p. 34

Carthage p. 35

runt p. 37

a lord p. 35

venison p. 36

knuckle under p. 37

tapestries p. 35

willow switch p. 36

earn your keep p. 37

Arabic p. 35

commoners p. 36

Chapter VIII. The Shepherdess

1. What is it about Ennis that makes Fahd fall in love with her?
2. Why did Ennis's mother send all her sons away? Was she right?

Vocabulary:

graze p. 40	Muslim p. 42	jaunty p. 43
monastery p. 40	lass p. 42	plague p. 44
apprenticed p. 41	mute p. 43	

Chapter IX. A Great Deed

1. Bobby says, "Whatever I do, I do well." Is that true?
2. Can you guess how Fahd and Bobby might defeat Rembert the Ruthless?

Vocabulary:

deed p. 45	interrogated p. 46	pampered p. 48
rye p. 45	porridge p. 47	
posthouse p. 46	pondered p. 48	

Chapter X. Alison in Love

1. Is George really a wealthy nobleman? How do you know?
2. Why did Alison fall for George?

Vocabulary:

p. 49 despided	p. 52 ruffians	p. 54 deliriously
p. 52 considerable	p. 53 friar	
p. 52 sceptre	p. 53 debts	

Chapter XI. Rembert the Ruthless

1. What parts of Fahd's story are not true?
2. Why does Rembert's camp remind Fahd of a nursery school?

Vocabulary:

ebony p.56	stoat p. 58	appraising p. 60
monk p.56	caliphate p. 59	impulsive p. 61
daft p. 57	curdles p. 59	just p. 62
tethered p. 57	peck p. 59	
rough-hewn p. 58	booty p. 60	

Chapter XII. The Gallant Halbardier

1. By making up the story of the halbardier, what is Fahd telling Rembert?
2. What would Rembert do if he met a real Halbardier with an iron-bound chest?

Vocabulary:

traces p. 63	striking p. 66	barged p. 66
baptize p. 64	stallion p. 66	True Cross p. 67
Crusades p. 65	prophet p. 66	disciples p. 67
sieges p. 65	bland p. 66	

Chapter XIII. The Mystery of the Ironbound Chest

1. What does Rembert think about the new jewels and valuables in Gambrell?
2. Why does Rembert ask about security at the Fortress of Gambrell?

Vocabulary:

contrary p. 68	stag p. 70	pavilion p. 73
dismounted p. 68	clotted p. 71	posh p. 73
amber-colored p. 68	drippings p. 71	mode p. 73
sapphire p. 68	kinsman p. 71	thrush p. 73
chalice p. 69	solemn p. 72	communion p. 73
tiara p. 69	works p. 72	mustering p. 74
moat p. 69	ramparts p. 72	casket p. 74
commotion p. 69	siege engines p. 72	

Chapter XIV. The Plan Takes Shape

1. Did Fahd really have a love affair with the Countess of Gambrell?
2. Can you guess why he doesn't want to join the attack?

Vocabulary: ingenuity p. 75 vendors p. 75

Chapter XV. The Story of Bruise

1. Bruise was homeless for most of his life. Could anyone nowadays have a life like his?
2. Before meeting Bruise, could Bobby have imagined what poverty really means?

Vocabulary:
 scour p. 77 dunking chair p. 79 forged p. 80
 horsewhipped p. 79 storming p. 79

Chapter XVI. The Plan Set in Motion

1. How do Fahd and Bobby avoid being spotted by Rembert's men?
2. Do you think Fahd's plan will work?

Vocabulary:
 file p. 81 in service p. 84 indignantly p. 86
 outrageous p. 81 scullery p. 84 cheek p. 86
 splice p. 82 intact p. 84 beckoned p. 8
 rum p. 83 cast out p. 85
 knickers p. 84 mortal danger p. 85

Chapter XVII. The Assault

1. What important detail about the castle did Fahd hide from Rembert?
2. Why did the Count lock the doors to the corner towers up on the walls?

Vocabulary:
 assault p. 88 lashing p. 89 butler p. 92
 taverns p. 88 drawbridge p. 89 relieve themselves p. 92
 strapping p. 88 stoke p. 90 humiliating p. 92
 grog p. 88 scanned p. 90 fetters p. 93
 shambling p. 89 armor p. 91 hitch p. 93
 bustle p. 89 knight p. 92 shopped p. 93
 insistent p. 89 twittering p. 92 fending p. 93

Chapter XVIII. A Future for Rembert

1. How did the Count get Rembert's men excited about joining the Crusades?
2. How did Crusaders find food, drink and lodging on their long walk to Jerusalem?

Vocabulary:

inclined p. 94	mosque p. 95	grizzled p. 96
heathen p. 95	sacraments p. 95	drilled p. 97
pope p. 95	Mahomet p. 95	strode p. 97
Temple of Solomon p. 95	reluctant p. 95	liberated p. 97
	rustle up p. 96	

Chapter XIX. Settling Up

1. Ennis does not seem to understand that Fahd loves her. Is she just pretending?
2. Why did Fahd arrange to meet Ennis's father at Rembert's old camp?

Vocabulary:

treading p. 98	throttle p. 99	vagabond p. 100
cuff p. 99	groats p. 99	notorious p. 100
solemnity p. 99	clarified p. 99	seed grain p. 101
flecked p. 99	prod p. 100	

Chapter XX. Meetings and Partings

1. Why didn't Fahd have to propose to Ennis?
2. Why is Ennis's mother ashamed when she learns he is an earl?

Vocabulary:

intimate p. 103	rookery p. 104	snob p. 104
strides p. 104	hovel p. 104	savor p. 105

Chapter XXI. The Hermit

1. Do you have any idea what it was the hermit couldn't figure out?
2. Do you think the hermit is crazy?

Vocabulary:

hermit p. 106	insoluble p. 108	aye p. 108
corrugated p. 106	vaguely p. 108	cluster p. 109
billowing p. 106	mucking out p. 108	currying p. 109
tremendous p. 107	flimsy p. 108	ostler p. 109

Chapter XXII. The Man with Fool Ideas

1. Do you agree with Ken that people who live comfortably should share what they have?
2. Do you agree with Musk Rose that sharing can go too far?

Vocabulary:

emphasize p. 111	Pharisee p. 112	peckish p. 113
tallow p. 111	fowl p. 113	carcass p. 113

Chapter XXIII. News from Home

1. How did news spread in a time before telephones or newspapers?
2. Do you agree that the most interesting gossip is about people's worst behavior?

Vocabulary:

swabbing p. 115	airs p. 116	footman p. 116
troll p. 115	prance p. 116	hailed p. 116
witchcraft p. 116	marquess p. 116	clenched p. 116
cattle rustling p.116	slouching p. 116	

Chapter XXIV. Father Anselm

1. Why did Bobby choose Father Anselm to show himself to?
2. How did he convince Father Anselm that he had changed?

Vocabulary:

grudge p. 119	benediction p. 119	casino p. 120
size things up p. 119	shuffled p. 120	mead p. 120
mass p. 119	meager p. 120	debts p. 120
tousle-headed p. 119	miser p. 120	Bishop p. 121

Chapter XXV. Bobby!

1. Is Bobby partly to blame for Alison's bossy behavior?
2. Have you ever considered being a vegetarian?

Vocabulary:

high-handed p. 123 strong-willed p. 124

Chapter XXVI. The Royal Legate

1. What could Bobby learn by pretending to be an investigator from the King?
2. What did his visitors learn about Bobby?

Vocabulary:

legate p. 125	witness p. 126	granary p. 127
snitching p. 125	common grazing lands p. 127	
milady p. 126	remedy p. 127	
popinjay p. 126		

Chapter XXVII. Sir George Receives a Visitor

1. Will George try to stop Bobby from taking power? Why not?
2. Did Bobby get any good ideas from his visitors? Which ones?

Vocabulary:

diversions p. 129	in vain p. 130	swap p.131
hazard p. 129	consolidate p. 131	

Chapter XXVIII. Madam, with all my heart!

1. What does Bobby risk by showing himself to Frog?
2. Do you agree with what Bobby proposed to Frog?

Vocabulary:

recruit p. 133	delicacy p. 134	scheme p. 13
gruffest p. 134	reputation p. 135	
jig p. 134	throw in together p. 135	

Chapter XXIX. Long Live Bobby!

1. Who had convinced the townspeople to support Bobby?
2. Why wasn't George's marriage to Alison legal?

Vocabulary:

revolution p. 137	column p. 138	defiantly p. 139
summon p. 137	peasant p. 138	
sickle p. 137	smocks p. 138	

Chapter XXX. Day One

1. Why didn't Bobby's mother want the cook to sit down with them?
2. Why does Alison end up hugging Bobby?

Vocabulary:

a sorry state p. 142	a mental note p. 142	spite p. 144
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Chapter XXXI. A Better Bobby

1. Do you think the merchant cheated Everson?
2. What did Bobby learn from his first day as a judge?

Vocabulary:

curtseyed p. 146	conniving p. 147
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Chapter XXXII. Learning the Hard Way

1. What lesson did Bobby learn on the first work day?
2. How did Bobby test whether Arno was honest?

Vocabulary: voluntary p. 150

Chapter XXXIII. The Fisherman Returns

1. What do you think of Arturo in the end?
2. Why does Alison finally agree to allow meat on the table?

Vocabulary:

bounder p. 155	corpses p. 156
the common good p. 156	diet p. 157

Chapter XXXIV. Enter the Cutest Boy

1. Bobby brought gifts on his trip to Gambrell. Were they thoughtful?
2. Why is Alison so self-conscious?

Vocabulary:

abbot p. 158	manor p. 159	perceived p. 161
dappled gray p. 159	vicarage p. 159	

Chapter XXXV. "Are you a vegetarian?"

1. What was it about not eating meat that embarrassed Tristan?
2. Why did both Tristan and Alison feel they had had a hard time in life?

Vocabulary:

rustic p. 166	Holy Trinity p. 167	ordeal p. 167
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Chapter XXXVI. The High Road

1. Why do you think Angela likes Bobby?
2. If you were growing up in Acton Waters how would you picture London?

Vocabulary:

bay horse p. 171	mandolins p. 172	Scottish burns p. 173
cultivated p. 171	Crown Prince p. 173	cantering p. 174

Chapter XXXVII. Full Speed Ahead

1. Are there ways that everybody in your community helps out?
2. What are some problems that Bobby couldn't solve?

Vocabulary:

hypnotize p. 176

upkeep p. 177

riddled p. 178

mare p. 177

chimney sweep p. 177

Chapter XXXVII. Merry Christmas!

1. How do you picture the dancing at the party? Hint: not in couples.
2. Do you think Bobby will get safely to Angela Flitton's house? What could stop him?

Vocabulary:

boars p. 179

felled p. 179

krumhorn p. 180

larder p. 179

gilded p. 179

lute p. 180

trifle p. 179

beadle p. 180

mulled p. 180

Class Projects:

1. build a paper and cardboard model of the fortress of Gambrell, with Rembert's equipment.

Resources:

Castle, by David Macaulay

<https://www.medievalchronicles.com/medieval-castles/medieval-castle-parts/best-defensive-parts-of-a-medieval-castle/>

2. What is it that all the students of your class want, that you could only manage to do if you all work together? Try it.

3. Make a table to compare the way things were done in the Middle Ages with the way they are done now. For example, lighting, going to the bathroom, doing the laundry, taking trips, entertainment . . .

4. You can find a lot of music that survives from the Middle Ages on Youtube and Spotify. Some members of the class might be able to sing or play it.

Resources:

search “Medieval Music” on Youtube and Spotify

5. Do a research project on the Crusades. In the Crusades, Christian kings of Europe took control of the Holy Land away from Muslim rulers who lived there. Why did attitudes about the Crusades change when Muslim countries in that region became independent?

6. Do a research project about ordinary people in England in Bobby’s time. How much food, comfort and safety could they hope for? What could they do to improve their lives?