

***The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey**
Adapted from Ms. Cecilia Burtnett, Noblesville High School

General information:

It is important that you read the book understanding the setting. The time reflected is around 1950 or earlier. At that time women **seldom** wore pants to go out in public. The common attire consisted of a dress, an appropriate hat, gloves, stockings, shoes, and a purse. Television was not commonly available so someone who was bedridden did not have this entertainment option and could become quite bored. Entertainment of a visual nature involved the theatre either through cinema or the production of stage plays. Treatment for a broken leg, foot, etc. involved being off the injured limb entirely for a number of weeks, if not months. This could mean a lengthy hospital stay. DNA testing which is so common today for identification had not been invented at that time.

The location is a hospital in London, England. The author is British so there are many typically British terms used. For example, “the Super” as found on page 43 is an abbreviation for the superintendent who is roughly equivalent to a police captain in the United States. (What do you think we call the game noughts and crosses?) Spelling can vary as well. Additionally, keep in mind that a student would be learning British history just as students in the United States must study U.S. history.

Now, as for the historical setting that Grant and the woolly lamb are perusing, the time is after 1470 in England where we find the final years and days of the War of the Roses (1455-1487 approx.), a civil war pitting the Houses of Lancaster and York. Though the families are distantly related, the end of the war means the end of the Plantagenet rule and the beginning of Tudor rule.

This type of struggle for monarchical control was not only felt in England but in other European countries as well. It was rather characteristic of this late medieval time period in which there were attempts to solidify power between nobles and kings and also between rulers and the Church. Even the Church was disintegrating into factions as seen in the Great Schism.

Though now the battles are known as the War of the Roses, the current name of the conflict was not used until after it was over. It came from the fact that many of the Yorkist aristocrats wore a badge with a white rose. After the fact it was noted that the Yorkist faction was represented by a white rose and the Lancastrian faction by a red rose so the name the War of the Roses. Henry VII then used a red and white rose to represent the Tudor family and to symbolize the joining of the House of York and the House of Lancaster. The various aristocratic families used symbolic badges and heraldic (insignia used on armor to show ones familial ties) devices as well as mottos to represent their lineage and also would wear badges or other accoutrements such as collars to signify

allegiance to a ruler. Also, as the Roman legions bore a staff to denote their group, so, too, did the soldiers of the late medieval period carry a flag with a badge or coat of arms to show for whom they fought.

Tips:

In order to understand as you read it may be wise to photocopy the family tree found in the front of the book and keep it close so you can look at it frequently as the various names come up in the history. Also, you may want to further research the Plantagenets and the Tudors, the Yorkists and Lancastrians, the War of the Roses, and the participants in the historical part of the novel.

Characters:

Be able to identify the following major and minor characters and how they relate to the story and the protagonist.

Alan Grant Marta Hallard

The Midget (real name?) Sergeant Williams

The Amazon (name?) the woolly lamb

Historical Notes:

What was the symbol used by Richard III on his badge and what was his motto?

What is the meaning of the rhyme “ ‘ the Cat, the Rat, and Love our Dog, Rule all England under a Hog.’”? p. 91

Short Answer Questions

These questions should be answered in a paragraph of 4-8 sentences. Answers should be typed and are due on the first day of school.

1. On her second hospital visit what does Marta Hallard bring to entertain Grant?
2. At one time there was the theory that one could tell a criminal by his face and that certain criminals have certain facial characteristics. What do you think about this?
3. “It was shocking how little history remained with one after a good education.” Why is that? Read closely pages 33 and 37 and evaluate the veracity of the claim that it is the childhood (“childish”) stories that we remember.

4. Read the description of England on p. 39 and explain how this description is characteristic of the medieval world.
5. How does Grant describe the War of the Roses and its impact on the English citizen?
6. Why did the history by Sir Thomas More leave Grant uncomfortable? What is meant by the statement that follows? "It was that this was not how he expected Sir Thomas to write." (also note information on page 90)
7. Unraveling the confusion of who marries whom and who is a Lancaster and who is a York, explain who are the children of Edward, brother of Richard III, and Elizabeth Woodville. What is foreshadowed on p. 79 of the fictional account of the fortuneteller saying that Edward's daughter would be Queen of England? (You may need to wait until you are finished with the book to do this one.)
8. What is meant by the line "But Thomas More was Henry the VIII."
9. Give a definition of hearsay. What important point did Grant realize regarding More's actual knowledge of events? Why did this disturb Grant?
10. From page 90 elaborate on the meaning of the phrase "contemporary authority."
11. What is the origin of the term "the horse's mouth?" Who did Grant discover was the "horse's mouth?" Why was it natural for More to accept this version of events?
12. Using specific examples, be able to defend or argue against this statement found on page 105. "Truth isn't in accounts but in account books."
13. What does the term Tonypandy have to do with anything?
14. After reading the book, who do you think Richard III was, a villain, a hero, or some misunderstood figure from history?
15. Whose face did you prefer? (from introductory meeting)