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THE QUEEN'S FOOL

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CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
Prologue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the only reply the character gets to their question? • What is a poacher? • What is the poacher shooting at? • Why didn't the man realize he was being shot at? • Why are the words 'No! Please!' in italics? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make some predictions about the story based on what you have learned in the prologue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research the history of bows and arrows and how they've changed through time. • Create your own bow and arrow using materials you can find.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are 'chooks'? How do you know? • How does Cat know that the travellers are stopping in her town? • Who is Meggy? • Why does Nonny Sweet-Bee tell Cat she needs to work on learning her letters? • What has happened to Meg? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a diary entry as if you are Cat in this chapter. • Summarize this chapter in 50 words or fewer. • Create a character description of Cat. 	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Cat know that Blackbird is outside? Why can't she see him? • Find three pairs of rhyming words from the morning song. • What does 'caterwauling' mean? • Why was Nonny Sweet-Bee saying a prayer for Cat? • What did Meg leave for Cat? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagine you are Nonny Sweet-Bee and write a prayer for someone who could be in need. • Rewrite this chapter from Nonny Sweet-Bee's perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research spindles and draw your own version of one. • Devise a cunning escape plan to get Cat away to London to find her sister.



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- What is a bonnet and a kirtle?
- How do the nonnies know when to stop what they are doing?
- How does Cat feel going through the gate and why?
- Why does Cat think she's made it to London?
- Who are Dick and Mary?
- What do you think Cat was hit with and why?

- Create a mood graph for this chapter thinking about the different emotions that Cat experiences.

- Use a French dictionary to look up the words in this chapter.
- Create your own French dictionary of words you learn through the story.

4

- How is this chapter different to the others so far?
- Why does Jacques think that Cat looks like a fairy?
- Who, or what, is Pépin?
- What is Jacques' full name? What does Cat call him?
- What are tankards?
- Who is Maître Tarleton?
- How do the men feel when Cat goes up to them?
- Why is Gobbo so suspicious of Cat's whistle?
- What does it mean to 'earn your keep'?

- Write a character description of Gobbo based on what you've learned about him in this chapter.
- Rewrite this chapter from Cat's perspective.

- Draw or paint a picture of Pépin based on the description in this chapter.

5

- What wakes Cat up?
- What does Cat call Pépin?
- Who/what is Hotspur? What happened to him?
- What jobs do the nonnies have?

- Find a range of words which Cat is saying incorrectly and then write what they are and what they mean.

- Research the history of horses and carts in the Tudor era and then draw one from your research.



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6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you think the journey at the start of the chapter is easy or hard? Why?• What are Meg's favourite birds?• Why did Cat decide to hide her whistle?• Where are the men going to leave Cat?• Why do the men eventually agree to let Cat come with them?• What is a 'whinny'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write your own song and melody just like Cat does to stop the men hurting her or Jack.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look up the different melodies of bird song and see if you can listen out for them in everyday life. Do you have a favourite?
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was in Jack's bag?• Why were Jack and Pépin allowed to join the crew?• What is the Chateau Beauregarde?• Why does Jack feel guilt at his plan?• What does 'lumbering' mean?• Why are they going to visit the King?		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draw or paint your impression of Jack's bow and arrow from this chapter.• Plan different routes from Calais to England – how would these routes have changed through time?
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to 'make merry'?• List two things that Cat can hear as she puts on the dove costume.• Why do the men call Cat the 'bird-maid'?• Why did Cat want to help Hotspur?• What happened to Hotspur?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imagine you are Cat. Write your thoughts throughout this chapter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research the different forms of entertainment for kings and queens during the Tudor era.



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9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does Jack like Gobbo? How do you know? What does 'seizes' mean? What are 'halberds'? Who is the only one to call Cat 'Catty'? What does Cat do that surprises the Queen? What are 'knaves'? Why does Cat say that she and Jack are not friends? What is the job of a Serjeant of Revels? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write the speech that Jack gave the Queen about Cat's life (what you know of it) so far. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research the history of rivalry between England and France.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Cat mean when she says she is 'as high as the birds'? What is Cat listening out for? Why do you think Mistress Bristles put Pépin in a basket? What does it mean to do something 'accordingly'? Do you think Bristles likes Cat? Why? Why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your own spelling verse for your name, just like Cat's. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research the different jobs that people had to do in palaces/ for royalty and how they have changed over time.
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is Mistress Bristles' real name? What does 'impudent' mean? What is Mistress Bristol's job? What gift did the King give to the Queen? What are 'vagabonds'? What does the Queen want Cat to be known as? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewrite this chapter from the perspective of the Queen. Consider how things would change depending on the character you are. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research the history of money in the UK. What different legal tenders have we used throughout history in this country?



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Cat so startled by the man who arrives at the castle? • What are 'sovereigns'? 		
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is Jack working now? • What jobs is Jack being made to do? • Why does Jack compare the man who arrives to a wolf? • What is a 'guffaw'? • Why were they going to throw Jack out of the palace? • How did they decide that Jack could be of use on the voyage to France? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a timeline of events in the story so far which you can build on as you continue to read. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look up the different job roles and responsibilities for the noblemen mentioned in the story so far – lords, dukes, a cardinals etc.
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to 'prise' something? • Why do Jack and Cat go to the stables? • What is a 'forger' and what is their job? • What do the words 'unfortunate accident' imply about what would happen to the forger? • Why is Mortmain so desperate to get to Dover? • How do you know Cat is afraid of Mistress Bristles? • Why is Jack telling Cat to keep quiet about the plan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create short character descriptions of all the characters you have met so far. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research non-standard measurements and what they are used for (for example, you've seen hands mentioned about measuring horses!). • Plan different routes from London to Dover.



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14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is The-Lady-Mary? • How are the King and the Lord of Buckingham related? • Who/what is Cat searching for out of the window? Why? • How does Cat feel seeing boats for the first time? • What is the <i>Katherine Pleasaunce</i>? • Why did Cat think she had spotted Meg on the boat? • Who do you think SweetSusan is? Why? • What does the boom of the cannon mean? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagine you are Cat. Write a diary entry from leaving the castle to now. Describe how you are feeling and all of the different thoughts you've had up to this point. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research different types of boats and their uses. • Research royal Naval transport through time and see how the type of Naval transport has evolved over the years. •
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is Pierre? • Why did Papa compare Jack to a swallow? • Why did Jack decide to follow Mortmain? • List four things Jack saw in the locked room. • How does Jack distract Mortmain? • What are 'pursuers'? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make some predictions about the rest of the story, which you can come back to at the end. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a will? Why do people write them? What might people include in them?
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do Pépin and Cat prefer to be on deck than in their room? • Why is Jack in the sea? • What does 'japing' mean? • What does the sailor mean when he says that Cat has 'keen ears'? • What does Cat call the surgeon on board the ship? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a letter to Cat as Isabelle, describing in as much detail as you can why you decided to hide your true identity. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is Jack's voice described as 'faint and small'? • Who is Isabelle? • Why did Isabelle decide to hide her true identity? 		
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does 'vying' mean? • Why is Isabelle so desperate NOT to go home? • Why is Isabelle a little reassured now that she has different clothes on? • What is a 'flotilla'? • What do people on the ship think happened to Jack? • What is 'livery'? • Why is Isabelle so happy to see the castle? • Why is the palace named the 'Palace of Illusions'? • What does the main entrance to the palace look like? • How does Isabelle know the palace isn't real? • What are 'bridles'? • Why was Isabelle so worried about seeing the lord? • Why was Isabelle taken to the kitchens at the end of the chapter? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look up unfamiliar vocabulary used in this chapter and use it in sentences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research the Battle of Spurs – what was it all about? When did it happen? • Find out about the importance of the King's colours and the different colours kings have used through time. • What were the Tudor roses?
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When has Cat been able to leave her room? • What is 'broth'? • Why were some people suspicious of the French? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewrite this chapter as if it were written from Mistress Bristol's perspective. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did some people show they were working with the King/on the King's side? • Why is Cat so thirsty at the end of the chapter? • What happens to Cat at the end of the chapter? 		
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What woke Cat up? • Who might the 'whipped man in Calais' be? • Why do the men think that Jack is dead? • Why do you think Cat didn't want Mortmain to see her? • What is 'pottage'? • Who does Cat find unconscious in a tent? • Why does Cat decide to leave Meg? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write Meg's version of the story so far – what do you think happened to her? 	
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the cook's name? • Why won't the King and Queen go hungry? • What does it mean to 'bite your tongue'? • What does Isabelle want to know about Mortmain? • What were Isabelle and her papa doing out on horses? • What happened to Isabelle's papa? • What do the hawthorns and raspberries represent on the Tree of Honour? • Why can't Isabelle find Mortmain? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a setting description for the party based on the information you've gathered so far. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you agree when Isabelle says that 'it's not what a person looks or sounds like that matters, but what's on the inside'? Why? Why not?



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- What does 'milling' mean in this context?
- What are the colours of both sides?
- What are the long sticks and boards which Cat can see in the hands of the men?
- Why does Cat go down into a ball?
- What is Isabelle rescuing Cat from?
- How does Isabelle feel when she hears about Meg?
- Why is Isabelle in such a hurry to get to Meg?
- How do Cat and Isabelle find Meg towards the end of the chapter?

- Retell this chapter from Isabelle's perspective – consider carefully the different emotions you'd be feeling and how these would differ from the ones which Cat feels.

- What is jousting? Look up the sport and see if you can learn as much as you are able to about it! Does it help you understand what is happening in this chapter any better?

22

- What is a doublet?
- Why does Cat and Meg's hug remind Isabelle of her papa?
- Why is Meg feeling bewildered in this chapter?
- What colour are Meg's eyes?
- When Meg 'shivers' at the mention of Mortmain's name, what does this tell you about how she feels about him?
- Why was Meg told she had to leave the nunnery?
- Why did Mortmain give Meg a sleeping potion?
- Why were people so interested in Meg?
- What does 'barren' mean in this context?
- Why does Meg not know she's in France?
- Where was Meg kept on the ship?

- Summarize Meg's thoughts through this chapter – consider all the information you've been told and how this impacts your thoughts.

- Draw two portraits of the two sisters – think carefully about what you are told about the differences between the them.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is Holy Mother Hildegard different to Holy Mother Sharp-Tongue? • How do they recognize Mortmain approaching? • Where do Cat and Isabelle go to hide? 		
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Isabelle know that Cat is hungry? • Why does Isabelle leave without Cat? • Where does Isabelle tell Cat to hide? • What does 'buffeting' mean? • What is a 'tiltyard'? • How does Isabelle know that the tavern is old? • What clues does Isabelle have that the man in the tavern is Gobbo? • Why does Gobbo want to kill the King? • What is an 'assassination'? • Who has found Isabelle at the end of the chapter? How do you know? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an argument/have a debate based on the following question: should Isabelle have saved Meg or followed Mortmain? • Write a speech that Isabelle could give to Cat to tell her what happened at the tavern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research different punishments that have been given out to criminals through time. • Look into different royal crests (e.g. fleur-de-lis).
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Isabelle spill the ale on Mortmain? • Why does the ale-wife kick Isabelle out of the tavern? • Why is a storm raging within Isabelle? • What has Isabelle realized about Mortmain? How does that make her feel? • Why is everyone running wild? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a speech that Isabelle would give to Mortmain – telling all. 	



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25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why can't Cat play a lovely tune on her whistle? • What is Cat surrounded by? • What is happening on the final night of the King and Queen's visit to France? • Why does Cat decide to hide from the men? • Why does Cat end up alone in the tent? • Where does Cat hide by the end of the chapter? Why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagine you are Cat. Isabelle arrives to collect you. Summarize what happened to you since you last saw her. 	
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where did Isabelle eventually find Cat? • What is Isabelle's plan? • How does Isabelle change her language when she talks to Cat? • What do Isabelle and Cat sleep on? • Why does Cat sing Isabelle a song? • What does Isabelle find in the props boxes? • Why does Isabelle say that the two of them need to be brave? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe what the plan is for the coming day – from both the perspective of the girls and the assassins. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design (or create) your own Robin Hood costume or theatre mask (which you could use as a disguise!).
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Isabelle convince the men not to take the masks from them? • Why is Master Gibson in such a bad mood? • What does 'trundle' mean? • Why do Cat and Isabelle need to watch out for Gobbo? • Why can't Cat and Isabelle go into the chapel? • Who else won't be granted admission into the chapel? • What is a 'banquet'? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do you think speaks at the end of the chapter? Why? Justify your answer with three reasons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan your own banquet – think about planning one from the time period of the story and one for modern times. How do the foods, entertainment and themes change?



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- How do the men know that Isabelle is French?
- What was Gobbo wearing?
- What are the people looking at in the sky?
- What was the planned distraction?
- What does it mean to 'nock' an arrow?
- What did Isabelle decide to do?
- Why do people suspect that Isabelle is the assassin?

- Imagine you are Isabelle sitting in the dungeons. Write a letter to one of the other characters in the story.

- What are the punishments through time that have been used against assassins?
- Do you think Isabelle made the right choice in injuring Gobbo? Why? Why not?

29

- Why did Cat come out of hiding?
- How does Mortmain not recognize Cat?
- How do you think Cat feels when she sees her birdy-flute all broken?
- Why was Cat being taken to the Queen?

- Who do you think speaks at the end of the chapter? Why? Justify your answer with three reasons.

- Imagine you are Cat. You have a choice to make – tell the truth and people think you're lying, or lie to get released. What do you decide to do? Why?

30

- Who has Pépin?
- How do you think Cat feels to be reunited with Pépin?
- Why do you think the Queen keeps dismissing Mistress Bristol?
- How did the Queen know it was Cat who ran out in front of the French king's horse?
- Why did Lady Boleyn call Cat a 'troublemaker'?
- Why couldn't Cat follow Mortmain during the party?
- How do you think the Queen feels after hearing Cat's news?

- Imagine you are Meg, speaking to the Queen. Retell your story truthfully.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who does the Queen bring along on the search for Mortmain? How did Cat try to contact Meg? How did Meg manage to escape Mortmain? What does it mean to 'speak false'? 		
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why was Isabelle in the dungeons? What is a 'traitor'? Where is Isabelle being taken to? Why is Isabelle taken to the great hall? Why does Lord Buckingham decide to speak in the great hall? What comforts Isabelle throughout her ordeal in the great hall? Whose custody is Isabelle handed over to? Why is this a bad thing? What punishments are discussed for Isabelle's 'actions'? Why does the King dismiss Lord Buckingham? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imagine you are the Queen. Write a persuasive speech to convince the King to listen to you and to believe the things that Cat, Isabelle and Meg have told you about. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw or paint a picture of the great hall based on the description in this chapter.
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does the King compare Isabelle to the 'French Robin Hood'? Why does Isabelle say that Cat is not a fool? What does 'impertinence' mean? Why is the King suspicious of the document? How did the document get wet? Who has been sent on the search for Gobbo? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imagine you are Gobbo. Write a persuasive speech to convince the King to listen to you and believe your side of the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research the names of French and English kings and queens through time.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to 'apprehend'?• What are allies?• What does the sound of fanfare represent?• What are the names of the French king and queen?• What is 'ermine'?• Why does Meg not recognize Gobbo but Cat does?		
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does Gobbo say to try and save himself?• Why does King Henry suspect King François is responsible for the plot to kill him?• How does King Francois know that the knife Gobbo had was a forgery?• How does Gobbo give away his guilt?• Where is Lord Buckingham now?• Who stands up for Cat?• How do King François and Papa know each other?• What makes Mortmain easily recognizable?• What does it mean to be 'executed'?• Why had Mortmain not recognized Isabelle?• When King Henry sees the kerchief which belonged to Mortmain, why does he recognize the embroidery on it? How does it make him feel?• What does it mean to be 'hemmed in'?• How did Isabelle show that she had a 'brave heart' like her Papa?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a timeline of Isabelle's actions throughout the story from her Papa's death to the current chapter.	



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- What is a 'constable'?
- Why did Isabelle go on this quest for justice alone?
- How might Isabelle get a brand-new bow?

- Where are Cat and Meg staying?
- What happened to Mistress Bristles?
- How do you think Cat feels seeing her visitors? Why?
- What is revealed about who Cat is?
- Why might people be suspicious of Holy Mother Sharp-Tongue?
- Why is Lord Buckingham staying out of the way?
- What does it mean if you are of a 'lower station of life' than someone else?
- What was Lord Buckingham's plan?
- How did Meg show that she was a selfless young lady?
- How does Cat have a new birdy-flute?
- Why can't Isabelle stay in England?

- Write a book review based on your thoughts about the story.
- Write a letter to Ally Sherrick telling her all about your thoughts and feelings about the book.
- Compare your predictions from the start of the story to now – were you right about anything?

- Write a fact file about everything you learned about British and French history from this story.
- Create a Tudor family tree, featuring as many characters from the novel as possible.

