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BLACK POWDER Ally Sherrick

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

CREATED BY: Emily Weston theteacherbookworm.wordpress.com



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Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
1	 Why is the hangman compared to a crow? What does this make the reader think about him? What does the wink imply? Why did Tom not want to see the events that everyone around him was so interested in? What is another word for 'cunning-woman'? 	Create a 'Wanted' poster for Henry Cresswell.	Discover how the Church of England was created and the effect that it had on the country.
2	 Tom's mother didn't want him to go to the hanging. Do you agree with her? Is it right to fine people for not going to church? What have we learnt about Tom's father? 	Write a persuasive speech from Tom's father to explain why they should let the priest stay.	
3	 Would you have wanted to help the priest if you were Tom? Make a prediction: what do you think will happen to Father Oliver and Tom's father? 	Write a diary entry from Tom's perspective.	Create an artistic interpretation of a map that Tom's father might use to reach London.
4	 What might Constable Skinner be at the door for? What crime did Tom's mother commit that caused her to be sent to the 'gaol'? 	Write a poem inspired by the phrase 'glittering menace' from the book.	Create a fact file about a prison in 1605.





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5	 Are you surprised they have a nobleman for an uncle? Why is this? Will Tom's uncle believe his story? How will the Bible help him if he does not? 	Write a police report from the viewpoint of Constable Skinner.	
6	• What is the importance of the piece of paper Tom found?		
7	 What does the first line tell us about the time shift? What is surprising about the stranger? Predict what will happen when Tom meets his uncle. 	Write a character description of the stranger who helps Tom.	Create a watercolour artwork of the landscape Tom passes.
8	 Why does the girl want to help Tom? Should Tom trust her? How will the grandmother judge him? 	Write the next chapter of the story to predict what happens next.	
9	 What first impression do we get of Grandmother? What evidence does she find that Tom is telling the truth? If Grandmother won't help him, who will? 	Rewrite a section of the chapter from Grandmother's point of view.	Create a portrait of Grandmother, using the description from the book to make it accurate.
10	 Why does Tom not want to wear the clothes? Do you think it is fair that the rules are different for the Montagues? Do you think Tom will tell the Montagues about the spy? 	Write a persuasive letter from Tom to Grandmother asking her to help his parents.	Comparison: what differences are there between the Catholic and Protestant faiths?







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11	 Are there any words in this chapter which you have not heard before? What are they? What news could Tom be hearing? What does Joan mean by 'a sparrow is always a sparrow'? How is Tom feeling at the end of the chapter? 	Write a diary entry as if you were Tom on the day he finds his father has been imprisoned.	What would prisons have been like at this time? Create a fact file.
12	 What world <i>do</i> the Montagues live in? Do you agree with Tom that the Viscountess is a traitor? Who do the boots that Tom found belong to? 	For and against: should Tom leave?	
13	 Why did Cressida give him a meaningful smirk? Do you think it's Tom's fault that his father was captured? Why is Tom finding it hard to trust Cressida? 		
14	 Why is Cressida helping Tom? Why would no one miss her? Should Tom feel sorry for her? Do you think Cressida will stop at the other end of the tunnel? 	Write part of the chapter from Cressida's point of view.	Create a chalk or oil pastel image of the tunnel Tom must go down.
15	 How do you think Granny can be a Catholic but also the Protestant queen's friend? Why is the knife so important to Tom? 	Write a character description of the Falcon.	
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	What story needs to please the Falcon?		
16	 What will the man do to Tom? Is Tom wise to tell him his story? Why has the Falcon chosen to take Tom? Will they make it out before the sergeant comes? 	Create a setting description for the cellar.	What is a smuggler? Write an explanation text.
17	 Why might Tom be nervous of horses? What different feelings does Tom have in the chapter? 		Discover the meaning of 'Shadrach' – what impression does this give of the horse?
18	 Why would someone pretend to have been in the military? What lesson has the thief been taught? What has the experience taught Tom? 		
19	 Why is the date significant? Why does Tom not want to travel on the cart? What do you think Browne is keeping in the cart? Are you surprised that the Falcon reappeared? 	Write a recap (summary) of the story so far.	
20	 Why is the Falcon so interested in the man Tom thinks is a spy? How do we know the Falcon is interested in what is being said? Do you think the Falcon likes Browne? 		Discover more about the plague. Write a newspaper report about the outbreak in London.
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21	 Does London sound similar or different to how it is today? In what way(s)? Why did the Falcon not want to help the people who were begging? What cargo is Browne storing? Is the Falcon important? How do you know? 	Write a letter to Mother updating her on the journey.	Comparison of London in the past (year when the book is set) and now.
22	 How is Tom feeling as he enters through the door? What is making the Falcon so secretive? 'Shadows leapt like serpents' – what does this tell us about the men they meet? 	Predict what you think Robert Cat's plan is going to be.	Research the Houses of Parliament in the 1600s. Compare to now.
23	 Why have they taken so many twists and turns on the journey? What is a tinderbox? 	Write instructions for tunnelling.	Make your own tinderbox.
24	 Why are they targeting Cecil? What are they digging to? How do you know what they're planning? What did the Falcon feel when the wall collapsed? What about Tom? 		
25	 Why would Browne collapse the tunnel on purpose? Who is the Falcon more likely to trust: Tom or Browne? What news is being brought to Tom? 	Write a script for the conversation Tom will have with George, predicting what you think will happen?	What 'exotic fruit' would they have at this time? Create a map detailing where the fruit came from.





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26	 Should Tom believe George? What is the real plot of the Falcon? What unusual things did Tom come across at Cowdray? If you were Tom, would you tell the Falcon? 	Create a 'Wanted' poster for the Falcon.	
27	 What job might stop Tom taking Jago? Why would the Falcon take Tom to see his father? Is it likely to be a trap? Do you think the Falcon cares about Tom? 	Create a police report for the arrest of Tom's father.	Create an image of a wherryman using oil pastels.
28	 Where is Tom's father going? Why does Tom's father not initially believe it is him? Why does Tom always compare himself to William? Will his father forgive him? 	Write a diary entry as if you were Tom's father after his trial.	Sketch a portrait of Tom's father using the description from the book.
29	 Does the Falcon really want to save Tom's father? How do you know? Why was his letter burnt? What is Tom thinking now? 	Use evidence to create a timeline of what happened to Cressida.	
30	 Why did Tom want Cressida to sleep? What should Tom do next? How will Cressida help? 		
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Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross Curricular Opportunities
 'Turned a puddle to ice' – what might this mean? Why do the men all disagree? Should Tom have told them about George? 		
 Why might Tom be dreaming of his mother? Why is the author showing us the date throughout? Why was Cressida's mouth covered? 		
 What is the smell? What is Parliament? Who is James Stuart? Why did they send letters to Catholic Lords? 	Write a letter that might have been sent to one of the Catholic Lords.	
 What might Tom's plan with the pails be? How could you predict the story's ending? Why does Tom now consider himself a Montague, when he previously didn't? Who grabbed Tom at the end of the chapter? 	Create a description of Tom's plan, and why he wants to do it.	What effect will the water have on gunpowder? Research changes to materials.
 Should Cressida have told the Falcon that they knew the plan? Do you agree with the Falcon's plan? Is the Falcon a good or a bad man? Explain, using evidence, how you know this. 	Create a timeline of the Falcon's character throughout the book. Write a description of whether he is mostly <i>good</i> or <i>bad</i> .	Design your own 3D Houses of Parliament.
	Questions • 'Turned a puddle to ice' - what might this mean? • Why do the men all disagree? • Should Tom have told them about George? • Why might Tom be dreaming of his mother? • Why is the author showing us the date throughout? • Why was Cressida's mouth covered? • What is the smell? • What is Parliament? • Why did they send letters to Catholic Lords? • What might Tom's plan with the pails be? • How could you predict the story's ending? • Why does Tom now consider himself a Montague, when he previously didn't? • Who grabbed Tom at the end of the chapter? • Should Cressida have told the Falcon that they knew the plan? • Do you agree with the Falcon's plan? • Is the Falcon a good or a bad man? Explain, using evidence, how you	Questions Opportunities • 'Turned a puddle to ice' - what might this mean? • Why do the men all disagree? • Why do the men all disagree? • Should Tom have told them about George? • Why might Tom be dreaming of his mother? • Why might Tom be dreaming of his mother? • Why was Cressida's mouth covered? • Why was Cressida's mouth covered? • What is the smell? • What is the smell? • What is Parliament? • Why did they send letters to Catholic Lords? • Why did they send letters to Catholic Lords? • Create a description of Tom's plan, and why he wants to do it. • Why does Tom now consider himself a Montague, when he previously didn't? • Who grabbed Tom at the end of the chapter? • Should Cressida have told the Falcon that they knew the plan? • Create a timeline of the Falcon's character throughout the book. Write a description of whether he is more than a falcon's plan? • Is the Falcon a good or a bad man? Explain, using evidence, how you • Create a timeline of the Falcon's character throughout the book.





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36	 Find evidence that shows that the Falcon likes Tom. Do you agree with Tom's decision to exchange the tinder box? Where is the 'New World'? What is meant by 'unavoidably detained'? 		Design and make your own wherryman boat which can float.
37	 Do you think the letter is proof of guilt? Should Lord Montague be condemned for receiving a letter? Are you surprised 'Hunt' is the master? 	Before reading the chapter, write your own opening paragraph predicting what you think will happen.	
38	 Will Wiseman still punish them now the letter is gone? What is Tom watching the time for? Will Tom prevent his father's death? 	Create a list of reasons <i>for</i> and <i>against</i> Tom showing Wiseman where the Falcon is.	
39	 Even though Tom betrayed him, the Falcon is still being kind to him. Why? Should Wiseman save Tom's father? Do you think Tom will lose his father? What would you say to your father, if you were Tom? 		Research the real story of Guy Fawkes' plot. Find similarities and differences between the stories.
40	 Why are people gathering so early for the 'event'? Do you think what Tom did was brave? What emotions did you feel during this chapter? 	Write the chapter in first person, from one of the crowd's point of view.	
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41	 Questions Who do you think has written to Tom? Why is Tom leaving for France? What made Tom want to get rid of the ring? What is the significance of seeing the bird? 	Oppo	ortunities	Opportunities
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