



The Bridge

Study Guide

by Carol Diehn

For the novel
by Jeri Massi

CD Version



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The Bridge Study Guide
A Progeny Press Study Guide
by Carol Diehn
with Rebecca Gilleland

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PO Box 100, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0100.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN 978-1-58609-210-8

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Synopsis

*“In the night the soldier creeps,
Midway from shore to shore
High above the murky deep
He finds a slender wooden floor.
'Twill one man safely keep,
Whose axe shall end a war.”*

More than a simple tale with a Medieval flavor, *The Bridge* is filled with mystery, courage, and suspense. Princess Rosalynn of Bracken is left in the care of loyal Sir Reynald while the king is off visiting a neighboring castle. Reynald catches wind of an invasion from Folger, the larger country connected to Bracken by an enormous suspension bridge. He sets into motion a plan to save the princess and preserve as much of Bracken from devastation as is possible.

In a state of confusion and defiance, the princess is carried away speedily from the castle by Herron the Rider. Wounded by the enemy, Herron sets Rosalynn down in the forest to find her own way to her father, the king. Thus begins the princess's long, arduous journey through perilous, enemy-filled territory—her life in danger at every step.

In allegoric fashion, the wise woman Rosalynn meets on her journey comforts, heals, and guides Rosalynn much in the same way that the Holy Spirit does for today's believer. Together with Herron they attempt to solve the riddle of the “Castle Guard Song”—a secret which will save the tiny kingdom of Bracken.

Chapter 3, “Enemy Territory” and Chapter 4, “The Bridge and Beyond”

Vocabulary:

Match the vocabulary word on the left with its synonym on the right. Remember, a synonym is a word that means the same or nearly the same as another word.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. slipshod ____ | a. whining |
| 2. ravenous ____ | b. wicked |
| 3. remorse ____ | c. thrashing |
| 4. squalor ____ | d. haughty |
| 5. ponderous ____ | e. difficult |
| 6. treacherous ____ | f. careless |
| 7. sniveling ____ | g. thoughtful |
| 8. flailing ____ | h. sorrow |
| 9. arrogant ____ | i. poverty |
| 10. ravaging ____ | j. harmful |
| 11. pensive ____ | k. greedy |

Questions:

1. Write several sentences about the physical appearance and personality of the woman that Rosalynn finds in the cabin at the beginning of Chapter 3.

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Why do you think Rosalynn trusted the woman to help her? What did the woman and her husband plan to do with Rosalynn?

2. In Chapter 1, as Herron carries the Princess to the forest, he predicts “Remorse and shame shall drive those words back at you.” In Chapter 2, as Rosalynn tumbles down the riverbank, she misses her father, nurse, even Reynald; and she wonders if this is what Herron had meant when he had predicted her remorse. In Chapter 3, the peasant woman tells her the King (Reynald in disguise) is dead. What is Rosalynn’s reaction?

3. What did the princess discover by watching the otters? How did it turn out to be her way of escape?

4. Reread the author’s description of the bridge, and imagine how enormous it was. On another sheet of paper, draw a fairly detailed picture of the bridge as you imagine it.

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5. Why does the woman's gentleness and quiet voice reduce the Princess to tears? Read Proverbs 25:15: "Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone." What does this tell us about gentleness?

6. List three things the Wise Woman does to help Rosalynn. What does the Wise Woman mean when she says, "Wrong cannot be undone, but it can be forgiven."?

7. How had Sir Reynald already forgiven Rosalynn before she realized she had wronged him?

8. How did the Woman know about the song of the castle guard? What did she mean when she said "The secret has been too closely guarded"?

9. What two promises does Rosalynn make to the Wise Woman?

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Talk About It:

“And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32, NAS) What does it mean to forgive someone or to be forgiven? What does it mean to have God forgive you?

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Chapters 5 & 6

Vocabulary:

1. enclose; 2. followers; 3. peak; 4. grasped; 5. cry; 6. upset; 7. regret; 8. downpour; 9. untidy; 10. hitting; 11. yelled.

Paraphrasing:

Answers will vary.

Questions:

1. greedy, unkind, cruel, wicked, foolish, mean, unwise, rude, etc. The Woman, by her demeanor, wisdom, courage, and finally physical strength, puts the jester in his place and tells him that he must leave.

2. Because she had promised to stay with her. The Woman asks her to stay quietly in hiding.

3. The Woman takes a rope out of a tree trunk where it is hidden and attaches it to a tree. She crosses the flooded gully and footbridge holding the rope. When she was only part of the way across, the Jester appeared and cut the guide rope. Rosalynn is caught by the Jester.

4. Herron

5. Because he was frightened and thought she might be a ghost.

Dig Deeper:

Charts will vary.

Chapter 7, 8 & 9

Vocabulary:

1. g., 2. h., 3. c., 4. i., 5. d., 6. b., 7. j., 8. e., 9. f., 10. a.

Metaphors and Similes:

1. S; 2. M; 3. S; 4. M; 5. S.

Questions:

1. He had come into their room posing as a steward, saying that they had a guest. He did not want to frighten the Princess though.

2. Rosalynn promises herself that when she is queen, Herron shall not want for anything because of the hardships he has endured to find her.

3. strategy = tactics, plan, scheme The strategy of the soldier in the song was to get rid of his armor and horse and find a boat. He then shall take an axe, row midway from shore to shore and climb high to find a slender wooden floor. Then he will use his axe to end a war.

4. Going against the flow of the water in the river.

5. Answers may vary. She is maturing, learning to be patient, much wiser, more courageous, less proud, etc.

6. He cut through a wooden crossbeam. The crossbeam was a pin fastening a beam that held some of the cables of the bridge. The cables will give and not support the swaying as an army marches in step. The bridge will collapse with the invading army upon it.

7. The Wise Woman was thought to be of Folger, and the Princess had promised to stay with her. The Princess stays with her despite the fear and discomfort.

8. Answers will vary. He is sad, thinks that it is wrong, but he admires the Princess keeping her promise, and he is hopeful of her father coming soon.

9. Paragraphs will vary. They should mention that he notices in her eyes that she has grown up.

10. Answers will vary.