

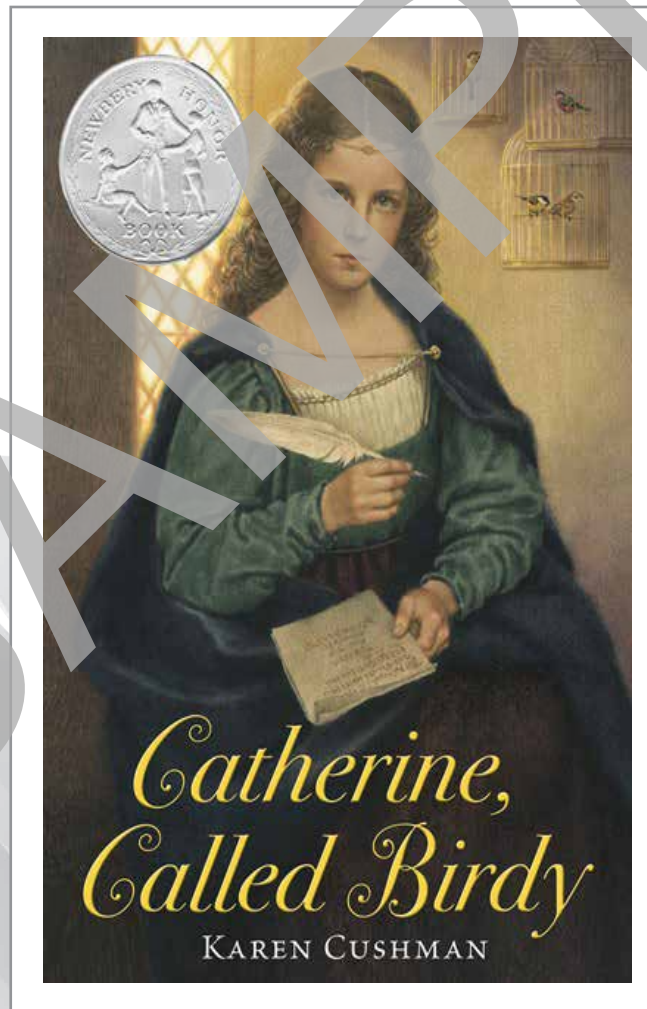


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

Catherine, Called Birdy

Karen Cushman



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Catherine, Called Birdy

Karen Cushman

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50204-467-9

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Study Guide

Directions: Write a brief answer to each study question as you read the book at home or in class. Use the questions for review before group discussions and before your final test.

September, 1290—February, 1291 (pages 1-111)

1. Why is Catherine writing an account of her days?
2. Is it usual or unusual for a girl to be able to read and write at this time in history?
3. What is the date of the arrival of Catherine's first suitor?
4. What name does Catherine choose for her first suitor?
5. Why must the lady of the manor do all the least lovable tasks?
6. What are some of the lady-tasks at that time in history?
7. What is the "stupid" man's problem?
8. What does the old woman say the children take with them wherever they go?
9. Why does Catherine want to be a monk?
10. What are some of the foods that are served at Catherine's birthday feast?
11. What is Catherine's reaction as she views her first hanging?
12. Does Catherine usually hide her feelings about a situation?
13. Do the girls ever get to dance and fool like the boys?
14. What advice does Madame Joanna give to Catherine?

Name _____



Proverb

Directions: A **proverb** is a short, popular saying that expresses some obvious truth. The following proverbs are about the mouth. Read the proverbs. Choose one. Tell how the proverb relates to Catherine. Write an original proverb.

- “A closed mouth and open eyes never did anyone harm.”—German
- “A closed mouth makes a wise head.”—English
- “Everything the mouth says, it does not do.”—African (Kpelle)
- “He who guards his mouth often guards his life.”—Swedish
- “If the mouth is fastened shut, no quarrel arises.”—Japanese
- “You speak with a cunning mouth, I listen with a cunning ear.”—African (Annang)
- “Instead of opening your mouth, open your eyes.”—Turkish
- “It is the mouth that cuts the throat.”—African (Hausa)
- “The mouth is easy to open but difficult to close.”—African (Shona)
- “The mouth of a young bird is big.”—Turkish
- “The mouth often utters that which the head must answer for.”—Danish

I choose this proverb:

The proverb relates to Catherine:

My original proverb:

Name _____

England

Catherine writes that she lives in the village of Stonebridge in the shire of Lincoln, in the country of England. She begins this account of her life on September 19, 1290. (pages 2-3)

Directions: Do each of the following using both Catherine's home location of England, and your home location.

1. Look at a world map. Locate England, then locate your home. Use the scale on the map to see how far your location is from England.

The distance between Catherine's location and mine: _____

2. Compare the weather at your location to that described by Catherine at her location.

Weather	
Catherine's Location	My Location

3. Compare Catherine's housing to your housing.

Housing	
Catherine's Housing	My Housing