

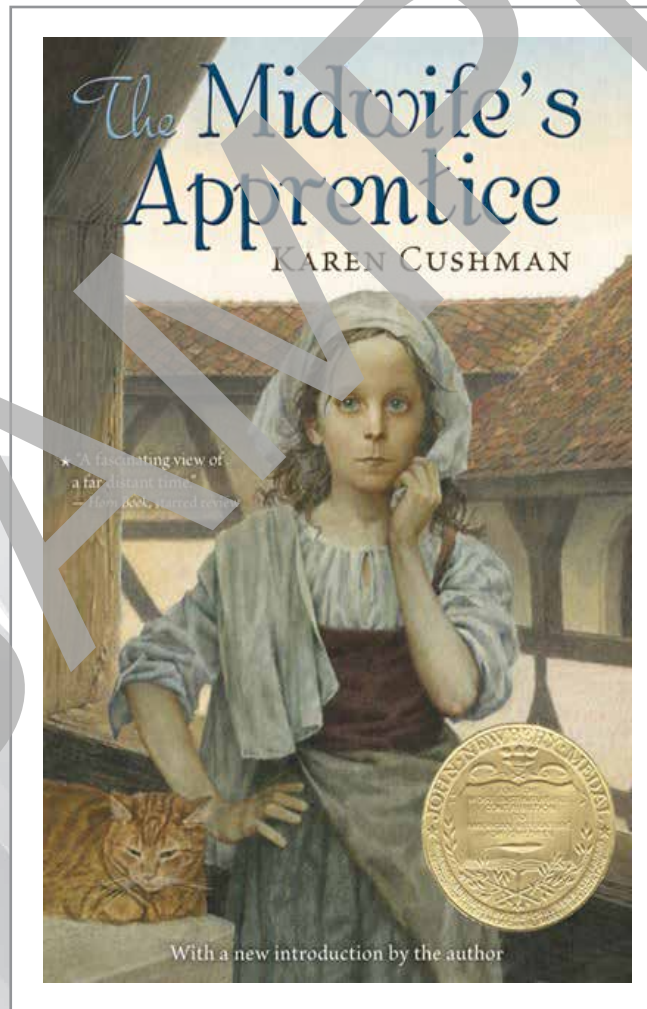


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 6-8

The Midwife's Apprentice

Karen Cushman



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Midwife's Apprentice

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!

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Study Guide

Directions: These questions are to help you note the details and important themes in the book as well as the writer's craft in creating the book. Your teacher will direct you in recording answers—mentally, in written notes ready for oral discussion, or more formally. Some students find it helpful to review the questions before reading a chapter.

Chapter 1 "The Dung Heap"—Pages 1-5

1. What is the setting of the book?
2. What is a dung heap?
3. Who is Beetle?
4. How does Beetle get away from the village boys?

Chapter 2 "The Cat"—Pages 6-10

1. From what point of view is the story told?
2. How does the author get you interested in the story?
3. Why doesn't Beetle give the cat more of a name?
4. What happens to the cat at the hands of the village boys?

Chapter 3 "The Midwife"—Pages 11-16

1. Identify the midwife with at least three names or descriptions.
2. What does the midwife charge for her services?
3. What supplies does the midwife carry in her basket?
4. Describe Beetle's life in the midwife's cottage.

Chapter 4 "The Miller's Wife"—Pages 17-24

1. What is the secret revealed in the chapter?
2. What are the circumstances that bring Beetle to the miller's house?
3. Why does the midwife slap the miller's wife?
4. Why is Beetle called "Brainless Brat," "Clodpole," and "Good-for-Nothing"?

Chapter 5 "The Merchant"—Pages 25-32

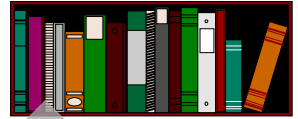
1. How does Beetle meet a merchant?
2. What gift does Beetle receive at the fair?
3. Who is Alyce?

Chapter 6 "The Naming"—Pages 33-39

1. What names does Beetle suggest for the cat?
2. How does Beetle come to be addressed as Alyce?

Name _____

Investigating Medieval



Directions: Get a handle on the setting of the book.

- What does the word medieval mean? _____

- What images are most prominent in medieval scenes? _____

- What other words or terms are related to medieval? _____

- What was happening in Medieval England? _____

Name _____

Vocabulary Words—Chapters 13-17

Directions: Look over the words prior to reading the chapter. Underline or highlight those words you don't know. Either figure them out from the context of the story, or look them up in a dictionary.

Chapter 13

overyeast
mutton
sorrel
swig

Chapter 14

hedgeroses
suckle
desolate

Chapter 15

tweaked
bleating
bawling
lathering
mayhap

Chapter 16

compassion
innards
lout

Chapter 17

larkspur
whorls
surfeit

Author's Note

innovation
disrepute

Name _____

Writing Circle

Directions: Choose a space from each of the three circles below—a character, a situation, and something to include. Then write a story using the three elements.

