



Teacher's Guide for *Sheepfarmer's Daughter*

Contents:

Recommended reading levels

Biographical material and links

Plot summary of the book

Character sketches

A separate guide to each of the * parts of the book, which includes a plot summary of each chapter and the following:

Prepare to read . . .

Vocabulary

Focus questions or initiating activity

Quiz / Reading comprehension questions—multiple choice and short answer

Reflection and discussion questions—may be used to initiate classroom discussion, as short writing assignments, or as test questions

Suggested activities / inquiry-based exploration—suggestions for activities and projects

Recommended reading levels: *Sheepfarmer's Daughter* is appropriate for ages 14 and up. Classroom use of the book is most suitable for high school students.

Biographical information on Elizabeth Moon:

Elizabeth Moon writes in a variety of genres, including newspaper columns, science fiction, fantasy, and opinion pieces. A former Marine, Elizabeth Moon started writing as a teenager and won a Nebula Award in 2003 for her book *The Speed of Dark*. She holds degrees in biology and history and enjoys taking photographs of nature, particularly native plants. She still lives in Texas, where she

was born in 1945, and finds the study of cultures and the moments when cultures interact with one another, fascinating.

Biographical resources about Moon on the web include:

- Elizabeth Moon's website: <http://www.elizabethmoon.com/>
- "Elizabeth Moon" at Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Moon
- "Elizabeth Moon" at the Internet Speculative Fiction Database: <http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?444>
- Quotes from Elizabeth Moon on Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/10518.Elizabeth_Moon
- Interview with Elizabeth Moon: <http://www.unboundworlds.com/2011/03/interview-with-elizabeth-moon-author-kings-of-the-north/>

Suggested class activity:

- Have your students read about Moon's life from various sources, including her own website. Based on her wide interests, what kinds of themes or symbols would you predict to be in her fantasy world?
- Moon said in an interview that she believes growing up without a television or video games made her imagination stronger, which helped her writing. Do you agree or disagree, and why?

Plot Summary:

Character Sketches:

- Dorthan Kanasson - a sheepfarmer, father of Paksenarrion.
- Paksenarrion Dorthansdotter (Paks) - the daughter of a sheepfarmer who chooses to run away and be a soldier
- Rahel - mother of Paksenarrion and wife of Dorthan
- Fersin Amboisson - arranged to wed Paksenarrion.
- Kanas - grandfather of Paksenarrion, owner of the sword.
- Jornoth - cousin of Paksenarrion,
- Sergeant Stammel - the man who recruited Paksenarrion into Duke Phelan's company
- Corporal Bosk - another leader in the company
- Venner - the Duke's steward
- Coben - Paksenarrion's file leader
- Saben - another recruit and friend of Paks
- Effa - a female company member who is part of a sect venerating Gird, a former warrior now treated as godlike
- Korryn - another member of the company, often taunts Paksenarrion and leers at her
- Jens - another member of the company, a friend of Korryn's
- Siger - armstrong, trained Paks and others with various weapons, including a sword

- Corporal Stephi - attempts to rape Paks and lies about it, causing her to be punished
- Captain Sejek - a high ranking officer, oversees the trial of Paks's assault
- Maia - assistant to the quartermaster and a healer in the company, she tends to Paks after the assault
- Kolya Ministiera - witness in the trial of Paks's assault, examines Paks and believes her account of the assault, a former soldier
- Captain Valichi - cohort commander of recruits, lawful representative of Duke Phelan
- Pont - leads Paks's company to the South
- Ferrault - also leads Paks's company to the South
- Vik - another member of the company
- Wolf Prince - a leader of a mercenary group who tortures and kidnaps
- Honeycat - a count who leads a southern mercenary group who is known for stirring up trouble that he can profit from in the end
- Arcolin - leader of Paks's larger cohort when they meet with the rest of Duke Phelan's troops
- Donag - a file leader assigned to train Paks unit, resents her for the incident with Stephi and treats her badly at first until it is clear Stephi does not blame Paks for anything.
- Canna Arendts - a female veteran in Duke Phelan's company
- Hofrin - weapons trainer
- Dzerdya - sergeant for the company, replaces Stammel when he goes to find more recruits
- Simmit - the surgeon in the Duke's company
- Achrya Webmistress - a leader who uses dark magic to overpower others, also known as the Dark Tangler or the Dark One
- Volya - one of Paks's recruits
- Sim - one of Paks's recruits
- Jenits - one of Paks's recruits
- Keri - one of Paks's recruits
- Halek - a recruit Paks gains from the South who is not used to women in the military
- High Marshal - a follower of Gird who can work magic and healing, finds Paks interesting
- Sir Fenith - a paladin who fights with the Duke at times
- Cal Halveric - son of Halveric, a soldier and captain who was kidnapped but rescued

Guide to Part 1 - chapters 1-6

Prepare to read . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Pommel
 - Dower
 - Mercenary
 - Quartermaster
 - Pallet
 - Barracks
 - Polearm

- Brawling
- Infirmary
- Brusque
- Implements
- Poultice
- Impassive
- Coherent
- Tankard
- Pension
- Brazier
- Tact
- Tactics
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - What does the job of a sheep farmer? Research the raising, breeding, and sheering of wool required in the job.
 - The Prologue mentions swords marked with a seal. What was the purpose of seals in the Middle Ages? If you were to create a seal representing your personality, what would it look like?
 - Paksenarrion wants to be a soldier. What is soldier life like? Research some of the factors involved in basic army training. What kind of life is she going to be living?
 - Pak's world contains saints, such as Falk and Gird. What role do saints play in the Christian religion? Are there any counterparts in other traditions?

Chapter Summaries -

- Chapter 1 - Paksenarrion Dorthansdotter runs away from home to be a soldier instead of participating in an arranged marriage to Ferson Aboisson. She joins Duke Phelan's company after proving her strength and stamina to Sergeant Stammel. As she begins her training, she finds she enjoys the life she has chosen.
- Chapter 2 - Paksenarrion's group enters the barracks, and she begins her training as a soldier. She struggles the most with spear practice, but she enjoys the work. Paks was made a file leader.
- Chapter 3 - Paks starts Chapter 3 in chains after fighting off an attempted rape by Corporal Stephi. Korryn and Stephi lied about the encounter, causing Paks to be in chains. Based on her injuries Stammel believes her. Stammel investigates more in order to present the captain with proof. The captain agrees that they need more information, and Stammel prepares for the next day.
- Chapter 4 - In the morning, Paks must go to give evidence and hear testimony from others about the assault. Two from Duke's East have come to hear the evidence and examine her, as they are objective. The two from Duke's East agree that the evidence shows Paks had been assaulted. Korryn keeps to the lie, but Stephi claims to have no memory of the incident. Korryn tries to attack Stammel and others and is led away in chains. The captain and others decide to take this matter to the Duke's Court for more privacy.

- Chapter 5 - The witnesses and officers go to the Duke's Court to continue the investigation. Stephi recounts all he can remember from the day before. The captain learns he drank quite a bit of the Duke's ale before he lost his memory, and the group decides to examine the ale for signs of a potion. Stephi confessed to buying a love potion but denied drinking it that night, and that potion had been emptied into Stephi's flask. Stephi denied drinking the potion but also admits he cannot remember the events of that night. Stephi must also go to the cells until the matter has been cleared.
- Chapter 6 - Captain Valichi arrives and sentences Korryn and Jens to be whipped, shaved, and banished. Korryn receives the most lashes from the whip and is also branded. Paks tells the captain that she wants to remain in the company. Life in the company returns to normal, and one day they get to leave and help Kolya harvest the apple orchard. The cohort's training continues, including working with mules as the season turns to winter and then spring.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions -

1. How do does this world figure out someone's age?
 - a. By how many moons they've lived
 - b. By how many winters they've lived
 - c. By how many trees grow
 - d. The same way we do - month and year
2. Why do Paksenarrion and Sergeant Stammel arm wrestle?
 - a. They arm wrestle over who will pay for a meal
 - b. They arm wrestle over who will be the first to play a song
 - c. They arm wrestle to show Paksenarrion's strength
 - d. They arm wrestle to prove Paksenarrion is a boy
3. After marching, what was Paksenarrion's first task?
 - a. Digging a ditch
 - b. Keeping watch over camp
 - c. Preparing a meal
 - d. Fetching water
4. Out of all of the tasks in the early days of Paks's training, what does she enjoy most?
 - a. Bedmaking
 - b. Dishwashing
 - c. Marching
 - d. Carpentry
5. Why did Armsmaster Siger state that the recruits could not be trained in swords right away?
 - a. The recruits are not strong enough to wield the sword for long periods of time
 - b. The recruits cannot yet be trusted with sharp objects
 - c. The recruits are not high enough in rank
 - d. The recruits cannot work with a sword until they can all march together without an error.

6. In the beginning of Chapter 3, Stammel does not believe Paks about the fight. What changes his mind?
 - a. Paks includes a lot of specific detail
 - b. Saben arrived and verified Paks's account
 - c. Paks had a note from Stephi that proved how he felt about her despite what he says
 - d. Paks had severe injuries that could not have happened under Stephi's account
7. Why did the captain choose to hear the evidence of the assault in front of the whole company?
 - a. Because he liked Stephi and wanted to humiliate Paks
 - b. Because he believed that letting all hear the evidence would dispel any gossip or rumors
 - c. Because he believed that Paks deserved to clear her name and reputation openly
 - d. Because he wanted to humiliate all involved so that this would not happen again
8. What happened to Stephi's flask of ale?
 - a. Someone emptied it without his knowledge
 - b. Someone replaced the ale with water
 - c. Someone stole it
 - d. Someone poured in a love potion
9. Why does Captain Valichi feel Paks should see Stephi before Stephi faces the Duke concerning the assault?
 - a. The captain feels Paks should have a chance to confront Stephi and tell him how badly he hurt her.
 - b. The captain feels Paks should be the one to deliver any punishment
 - c. The captain feels Paks should show him some mercy, because Stephi cannot remember what happened.
 - d. The captain feels Paks should see Stephi in case this triggers Stephi's memory about the events of that evening.

Answers:

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. B
8. D
9. C

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions -

1. Paksenarrion decides to go against her father's wishes and be a soldier. Why did her father want a different life for her? Why did she feel she had to run away instead of make her plans openly?

2. Paks spends her first days in soldier training learning to behave as a unit. They must dress the same, make up their beds the same, fold their nightshirts the same. Why is it important for soldiers to act as one? How does that help them in their various tasks?
3. A Hawk is native to Paks's world. She works with them every day for hours, and it's the closest thing to a weapon she handles in the beginning. Draw what you think a hawk looks like, and explain why they may have chosen to start with hawks instead of other weapons.
4. Another woman in Paks's unit, Effa, tries to convert many in the unit to worshipping Gird. What have you learned about this religion, and how does it differ from the religion of Paks, Vik, and Saben? What difference, if any, does the difference in religions make in their desire to be a soldier?
5. Everyone in the company must understand the order of command. Try to create a chart showing who is in charge and rank the characters so far. How does understanding their rank help us understand their actions and speech in the chapters?
6. At the end of Chapter 4, Stephi claims to have no memory of the assault. Some wonder if he is faking this to avoid punishment. Some wonder if he was drugged. What do you think happened, and what evidence from Chapter 4 supports your opinion?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry - Based Exploration

1. In late medieval-era villages in Europe. Women had few choices for their future. Why did so many focus on marriage? Research the time and place and see what other options a woman could pursue.
2. In this world, women are allowed into the military. Research women in the military here and in other countries. What restrictions, if any, do they have? What roles do they often play? How does this compare to Paks's experience?
3. Paks's assault also uncovered the fact that Korryn had been harassing and grabbing Paks but that she said nothing. Learn about why some women do not report harassment by reading some of the stories from the #MeToo movement and about the number of assaults on women in the military. How could the military and other cultures create a culture where women feel safe? Stammel clearly did not condone such activity, but why could Paks not go to him? How can he change his approach to be more open?

Guide to Part 2 - chapters 7-11

Prepare to read . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Tack
 - Camber
 - Hummock
 - Portcullis
 - Fealty
 - Flotsam
 - Motley
 - Awnings
 - Parapet
 - Fallow
 - Pedigreed
 - Futility
 - Foliage
 - Stockade
 - Paladin
 - Overture
 - Clamor
 - Cadence
 - Berserker
 - Veer
 - Salve
 - Tariff
 - Garrison
 - Wench
 - Ruffian
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Research strongholds in the medieval period. What kinds of roles did people need to play so that the stronghold worked efficiently? Of these roles, what roles have we seen Paks and her cohort take as they continue to learn?
 - Paks sees her first medieval city in Chapter 7. Research what she could expect to find in a medieval city. You could draw or create a digital image of one that can try to capture the setting and people.

Chapter Summaries -

- Chapter 7 - While keeping watch, Paks spies the Duke arriving before anyone. The Duke spends time watching all of the recruits, and he instructs Captain Valichi to administer the oath, swearing the recruits into his service. The Duke selects Stammel's cohort to lead the company into battle.

- Chapter 8 - The company marches through Vérella, and Paks sees a city for the first time, including dwarves and elves. All of the units struggle with the rain and mud. They spend the night in a barn to stay out of the rain.
- Chapter 9 - The company marches through some fallow fields to avoid the busy path. Paks learns about the history of the region and the role mercenaries play in the territories she is about to enter. They arrive in Valdaire, a larger city with an even more diverse population, and meet up with the rest of Duke Phelan's company. Paks and her unit begin training again, and Donag treats her harshly because of the incident with Stephi. Stephi, however, comes to check on Paks and does what he can to make her welcome. They end marching at the scene of their first battle, which is set to begin the next day.
- Chapter 10 - Paks fights in her first battle and a soldier from the other side injures her in the leg. She has to be taken to the surgeon, who patches her up in a painful, but effective, way. She ends up with a fever. Stammel promotes her to a private for her performance on the battlefield and sends her to Valdaire to recover, as she cannot fight for several weeks. The wagon carrying the wounded gets waylaid by robbers with wolf heads. Paks had to take over steering the wagon for a time, and all were saved when soldiers from the Duke's company came to their rescue. The wound to Paks's leg required a healing and a potion. The Duke asks Paks to tell him what happened.
- Chapter 11 - Paks returns to her cohort healed. She fights in her next battle two days later uninjured. They gain ground in spurts, but the battle draws out for some time until the Foss Council commander had the treaty he needed. Stammel announces they will spend the remaining time as garrison troops enforcing the new treaty. Paks receives her first payday, and she takes out some of the money in order to have fun in one of the cities. Stammel shows the cohort the safe places to eat and drink in the city. Paks learns to barter while shopping. She buys Saben a horse, and Saben buys her a comb.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions -

1. In Chapter 7, the narrator said that rumors about the Duke's arrival "swarmed over the stronghold like hornets, stinging all the recruits with excitement and curiosity." What does that mean?
 - a. Everyone in the stronghold listened to and spread rumors about the Duke's arrival because it was such a big deal.
 - b. Everyone in the stronghold spread rumors about the Duke's arrival as practical jokes to make the recruits anxious.
 - c. Everyone in the stronghold got in trouble for talking about the Duke's arrival.
 - d. Everyone in the stronghold was told bad information about the Duke's arrival for the Duke's safety.
2. Paks begins Chapter 7 keeping watch. What does she see that earns her great praise later on?
 - a. Enemies from another land riding towards the stronghold
 - b. Orcs marching towards the stronghold
 - c. The Duke's company coming towards the stronghold
 - d. The Duke riding alone towards the stronghold

3. Cities have a wide range of people living within them. What did Paks see that she was not sure was even real?
 - a. Elephant
 - b. Centaur
 - c. Elf
 - d. Dragon
4. What did Stammel do when the company encountered a huge hole in the path?
 - a. He guided them around it
 - b. He ordered them to fill it with stones
 - c. He ordered them to go back to the previous town
 - d. He ordered the units to cut down trees to make a bridge
5. Why did Stammel and others believe that people should have better maintained the path with the large hole?
 - a. Because the town relies on the soldiers for safety
 - b. Because the town needs a way out when the floods come
 - c. Because the path is the only way between the town and other populated areas
 - d. Because the path is a toll road; they have to pay to travel
6. In Chapter 9, the company meets up with Duke Phelan's larger gathering of soldiers. What happens to Stephi?
 - a. He is formally dismissed in front of all of the troops
 - b. He is given a promotion for being honest
 - c. He is placed in a different cohort than Paks
 - d. He is placed in the same cohort as Paks
7. Why does Paks develop a fever after her first battle?
 - a. An enemy soldier coughed on her
 - b. An enemy soldier bled on her
 - c. Her wound would not stop bleeding
 - d. Her wound became infected

Answers:

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. D
6. C
7. D

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions -

1. Paks risked breaking her fingers during training in order to ensure her cohort receives recognition from the Duke while he was there. In this situation, Paks felt the risk was worth the possible reward. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

2. When the recruits make their pledge to Duke Phelan, he makes a pledge to them in return. Specifically, he pledges, “hands and blade and blood and breath. My honor is your honor, before all enemies and trials, in all dangers high and low.” What does his pledge require him to do, and why is it important that he make such a pledge in return?
3. Paks arrives at a city, Vérella, in Chapter 8 and finds very different experiences in different sections. Based on the descriptions, what sections do you see in the city, and what does that say about the people living in them?
4. Both Paks and Stammel believe in Chapter 8 that rotating the units would be more fair when they march in rain and mud. Why does it matter who is in front when marching in mud?
5. In Chapter 9, Stammel teaches Paks the history of their area, particularly the time when the people moved from river trade to land trade, and how that changed the makeup of the towns. What happens when towns are no longer on a popular trade route? What is an example from where you live, such as when a railroad or freeway altered travel in certain places?
6. Paks struggles some in Chapter 9 with the role of a mercenary company. How does a mercenary company differ from a national army or military? Why does she struggle with her responsibilities?
7. Many people reference Tir in each chapter of the book, saying things like “By Tir . . .” Who or what do you think Tir is and why?
8. Why do you think that magical healing costs more than normal healing?
9. Why does Paks feel it is important to send money to her father to repay her dowry?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry - Based Exploration:

1. Paks begins Chapter 7 on watch at nighttime, and she is gazing at the sky. She describes a few fixtures in the night sky, such as the constellation The Necklace of Torre. Draw what you think the night sky looks like. Do you see any similarities to our night sky?
2. The oath the company recruits take to the Duke is, “We swear to you our hands, our blades, our blood, our breath—the service of the hands, and the service of the heart.” What does this mean, exactly? How does it compare with the oath American servicemen take in the military: <https://www.army.mil/values/oath.html>?
3. In Chapter 9, Stammel and Pont discuss agreements some mercenary companies have with one another to ensure decent treatment. What are some agreements your country has with other countries, in documents like the Geneva Convention Protocols (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva_Conventions)? Why are these understandings important, even if the two parties are fighting one another?

Guide to Part 3 - chapters 12-18

Prepare to read . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Flank
 - Honing
 - Brigand
 - Garrison
 - Middling
 - Neutrality
 - Stronghold
 - Harbor
 - Wheelwright
 - Palisade
 - Staccato
 - Grousing
 - Surcoats
 - Ruefully
 - Skirmish
 - Sentries
 - Tethered
 - Precaution
 - Sounder of Swine
 - Shanties
 - Parry
 - Ruffian
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Research the different types of structures medieval areas used. For example, what is the difference between a fort and a stronghold? A castle and a palace? If you were Paks or any of her cohort, where would you feel safest and why?
 - What does it mean to siege? How is that different than other kinds of conflict?
 - Sometimes soldiers and others find themselves wandering without food. In those cases, they have to eat what they find. Research your area. What berries, nuts, or other food could you find? How could you tell what food would be good for you and what might cause you harm?

Chapter Summaries -

- Chapter 12 - Two months have passed. Paks and Saben talk about their time in the company, and Paks shares that she would like to promote to sergeant one day, and maybe promote even higher. Bosk reports that other companies have been hit by the outlaws, and Duke Phelan is sending archers to deal with the problem. Paks remains and finds herself fighting to defend the village against outlaws trying to rob them and steal the harvest. Her company has lost eight in the first year. Stammel leaves and new recruits arrive under Sergeant Dzerdya. They plan to march to their next battle.

- Chapter 13 - The company marches through several cities, each with unique makeup and defenses, until they reach Rotengre. They set up their siege camp and remain in position for months, causing boredom and quick tempers. Eventually Paks and others are sent to garrison a fort, a job Paks prefers. One day troops come to siege the fort. Ferrault, Paks's leader, quits because they are outnumbered. Paks finds herself a prisoner until the Duke pays the ransom. The northern company treats them fairly.
- Chapter 14 - Paks, Saben, and Canna are picking berries outside the fort when the fort falls under attack. Because they are still prisoners, they are unarmed except for their daggers. One injures Canna with an arrow. Blocked from a way back into the fort, they try to get to the Duke's location and tell him about the Honeycat's troops. As they do, they overhear some of the soldiers talking about taking the prisoners.
- Chapter 15 - As Paks, Saben, and Canna try to get help for their fellow soldiers, they hide from a traveling group of enemy soldiers. The enemy soldiers raid a farmhouse, kill the family, and start to eat the food but are sent back to the fort. Saben gathers some of the food for the night to feed the group before they decide their next steps. After they eat, they continue to head towards Duke Phelan.
- Chapter 16 - The trio continue to travel, but the night has also brought fog. Canna struggles to keep up because of her injury, so they stop for the night. Canna tries to keep the group a step ahead of the Honeycat and his plans in order to keep them safe. They manage to evade scouts and some groups sweeping the area until they run into one while climbing a hill. They beat the man and tie up his horse in order to get away in secret. Paks suffers a broken rib in the skirmish. They find the Honeycat's men moving the prisoners south.
- Chapter 17 - A boy stumbles upon the trio as they continue to travel in secret. Paks convinces the boy they mean no harm and bribe him with a copper to stay quiet. They head into the village to buy food, but the woman who runs the shop tries to steal from them, and they end up in a fight. Paks receives an injury to her arm. They continue to travel and feel better when they see a familiar road.
- Chapter 18 - The trio fall under attack and Canna tells Paks to run. She does and finds herself traveling alone for a while, unsure of what happened to Saben and Canna. Paks finds the Duke and, after some persuading, she tells him what has transpired. The surgeon heals her, and the Duke's scribe writes down her full account. When she has mostly healed, she rides out with the Duke to meet the Honeycat.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions -

1. What kind of combat does Paks struggle with the most?
 - a. Sword fighting
 - b. Spear fighting
 - c. Unarmed fighting
 - d. Axe fighting
2. When militias join in the march, why does Paks prefer they march behind her?
 - a. She doesn't trust them
 - b. She likes to have a clear forward view
 - c. She doesn't like them kicking dust at her

- d. She really doesn't care one way or the other
- 3. What is one of the main jobs of garrisoning a fort?
 - a. Taking down the fort
 - b. Repairing the fort
 - c. Collecting tolls for the path
 - d. Screening all who want to enter the fort
- 4. In Chapter 14, the Halverics gave Duke Phelan's company back their swords. Why?
 - a. The duke paid the ransom
 - b. The company joined the Halveric army
 - c. The Halverics ran out of food and had to let them go
 - d. The fort was under siege and the Halveric's needed help
- 5. Why did Paks put leaf-mold on her face in Chapter 15?
 - a. As a moisturizer because she could not bathe
 - b. As a way to camouflage herself from the scouts
 - c. As a way to mark herself as a prisoner
 - d. As a way to mark herself as a fellow outlaw
- 6. Why did the trio travel off the roads for the most part?
 - a. To avoid being seen by the enemy
 - b. To avoid being seen by Duke Phelan
 - c. To travel faster
 - d. To travel without being robbed
- 7. Why did people keep asking Paks if she broke parole when she arrived to see the Duke?
 - a. Because she was alone
 - b. Because she was on the ransom list
 - c. Because she was filthy
 - d. Because she had no food

Answers:

- 1. C
- 2. B
- 3. C
- 4. D
- 5. B
- 6. A
- 7. B

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions -

- 1. In Chapter 12, Stammel tells his cohort that "there's luck in" staying alive as a soldier, too. What does he mean by luck and how would you respond?
- 2. Vik told Paks, "It's possible to like bad people, but liking them doesn't make them good." What did he mean by that?
- 3. Paks felt that Dzerdya had "a tongue like a handful of razors." What does that mean? What does this say about how Paks feels about the new sergeant?

4. Paks did not want to surrender to the Halverics. How do you feel about Ferrault's decision to surrender and turn them into prisoners?
5. In Chapter 14, Canna says, "If never filled the pot." What do you think that means? What does it say about her outlook at this time?
6. Canna is a veteran soldier. How does this help the trio as they go off to find the Duke? What does she offer that they need to survive?
7. Throughout these chapters, the three discuss whether or not they should separate at different times. What are your thoughts and why? Did they always make the best decisions? If not, what would you have changed?
8. In Chapter 17, a woman calls Saben a liar, even though he did not steal. Why?
9. Why does Duke Phelan want Paks to keep her story a secret?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry - Based Exploration

1. There are different kinds of horses in battles, based on their training and purpose. What is a warhorse, and why does Paks feel it is likely that she could not have one for a long time?
2. In Chapter 12, Donag describes and draws a map of the area in order to explain to newcomers how the caravans were being attacked. Can you recreate that map? Research transportation routes in your area when we did not have motorized transport. What would have been weaker areas? What would be the best route to the next city or port and why?
3. Chapter 12 also mentions Alured the Black, a pirate. When we think of pirates, we think of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, but pirates remain a problem today. Research a story about current pirates and some of the problems they continue to cause.

Guide to Part 4 - chapters 19-22

Prepare to read . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Harry
 - Cavalry
 - Milling
 - Din
 - Appraising
 - Grimace
 - Gaunt
 - Pyre
 - Looting
 - Greaves
 - Bravado
 - Punctuated
 - Brusquely
 - Shied

- Stimulus
- Parapet
- Besieger
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - What were some of the key ways to treat battle wounds in the medieval period? Excluding magic, what were the main ways to heal soldiers?
 - As we saw in the previous section, siege work can be long and boring. Research sieges in medieval battles. How long did some take? What causes them to end? How can people on the inside fight back?
 - During medieval times, many carried saint medallions and believed they carried magical properties. Research the cult of saints and the importance of relicts. How does this compare to Gird's medallion?

Chapter Summaries -

- Chapter 19 - Paks rides north with the Duke's company and another cavalry. They fight and regain the fort. Captain Ferrault dies from his injuries, and Duke Phelan wants revenge. Paks and others were awarded for bravery. A mass burial recognized the dead. Paks finds out that Saben and Canna died.
- Chapter 20 - The business of maintaining a siege begins. Paks tries a crossbow for the first time and really begins to miss her friends Canna and Saben. They take over the keep and Paks finds a lot of value when she plunders for the first time. As they sack the town, Paks and her unit find some still fighting and one stabs Paks with a poisoned dagger.
- Chapter 21 - The company heads north with all of their loot. Everyone mourns their lost companions. New recruits arrive with Stammel, and the sergeants assign Paks four recruits to train. Paks tells Stammel about her recent events, and he reassures her that she acted in the best way possible in such difficult circumstances. Stammel believes that Canna's Gird medallion may be protecting Paks, but Paks does not believe that yet.
- Chapter 22 - Paks begins to train her recruits. In time, they begin to march again. They fight one evening to try to take control of a tower, and some of Paks's recruits are injured.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions -

1. Why was Ferrault put in charge of the fort even though he was a prisoner?
 - a. He took over the fort
 - b. He was highest ranking alive after the assault
 - c. He won the right to be in charge after a bet
 - d. He had paid the ransom and was now free
2. Why was Paks surprised by the plundering after the takeover in Chapter 20?
 - a. She thought plundering should happen after eating
 - b. She thought plundering was to be done in assigned sections to avoid fighting
 - c. She thought plundering was wrong
 - d. She thought plundering was easy

3. Why did Paks flinch when Vik introduced his recruits?
 - a. One was a family member
 - b. One was a family member of Canna
 - c. One was a former Honeycat mercenary
 - d. One was named Saben
4. Why does Volya struggle with keeping her shield up?
 - a. She broke her arm when she was younger
 - b. She finds the shield unnecessary
 - c. She only has one arm
 - d. She does not like fighting
5. In Chapter 22, a battle rages and Paks cannot see well. How does she keep track of the different companies?
 - a. By their choice of weapon
 - b. By their colors
 - c. By their type of horses
 - d. By their helmet style

Answers:

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. B

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions -

1. What is survivor's guilt? Do you feel Paks has any survivor's guilt over her experiences with Saben and Canna? How does that contribute, if it does, to her reluctance to talk about her journey?
2. Why did the Duke ask retired soldiers to return? Discuss the merits of this decision and its effect on new and current soldiers.
3. In Chapter 22, Vik makes a comparison of their situation to a man who said he could swallow any barrel of ale. Evaluate Vik's comparison. Do you agree or disagree, and why?
4. The Duke plans to destroy the Honeycat as revenge. Is revenge a good motive? Explain your thinking.

Suggested Activities / Inquiry - Based Exploration -

1. We read more about the detailed standards of different companies in Chapter 19. Read about how standards are designed. Create your own at a site such as: <http://www.mytribe101.com/crest/>
2. Arcolin hosts a banquet in Chapter 21. Research medieval European banquets. Are they similar? What kinds of foods surprised you? What would you like to try? Create your own feast menu.

Guide to Part 5 - chapters 23-29

Prepare to read . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Battlements
 - Gorge
 - Arrowslit
 - Deference
 - Inhospitable
 - Aristocrat
 - Confluence
 - Lattice
 - Postern
 - Wizedened
 - Edifice
 - Surcoat
 - Emphatic
 - Scythe
 - Cudgel
 - Coy
 - Festooned
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - More titled characters appear in this section. Who ranks higher, a count or a duke? Why would that be important to know?
 - Research paladins. How did a paladin differ from other kinds of soldiers? Why did people look up to them? What did they stand for?
 - Research head trauma and how it can affect memory. Even though Paks has a helmet, what kind of injuries could she sustain, and how would they affect her in the short term and long term?

Chapter Summaries -

- Chapter 23 - Paks continues to march to Cortes Andres and sees vineyards for the first time. After a short battle, Paks and her unit rest outside a different city waiting to get closer to the Honeycat.
- Chapter 24 - Duke Phelan sends Paks to deliver messages. She escorts the leader of the Halverics to the Duke for a meeting. Afterwards, she finds herself in siegework to support the sapping teams. They successfully take the city of Cha. Stammel assigns Paks a new recruit named Halek who is not used to women in the military.
- Chapter 25 - The cohort sets out for Sibili. Once there, more siege work begins, and the rain makes the work and fighting difficult. Paks sustains injuries to her head, arm, and leg. Both sides use clerics, but the Sibili have skilled clerics using battle magic in a way Paks has never seen. Paks also sees a paladin for the first time. In the next battle, Paks unknowingly fights a priest and his magic shatters her blade. A Marshal explains Gird to

her and thinks that Paks may be special or under the protection of Gird or another god, for she should not have survived being hit by the cursed blade. Paks does not remember all of the battle.

- Chapter 26 - The High Marshal tells the Duke that he does not believe Paks has evil intentions, which the Duke and Arcolin already knew. All agree that something is protecting Paks, but the Duke wants to keep her in his company for as long as she wants to stay.
- Chapter 27 - As the company marches on, Paks starts in the wagon, for she remains too ill to march, and Volya fills her in on her missing time. Duke Phelan includes Pliuni fighters in his company who do not share his morals, and Paks feels surprised by that. This decision causes conflict when the Pliuni raid villages that the Duke wants to be left alone. As they continue to march, troops begin disappearing, most likely because the Siniava troops are silently taking them as an intimidation tactic. Duke Phelan asks Paks and a few others to secretly retrieve one of the captains, and they begin the journey on boat.
- Chapter 28 - The chapter begins with Captain Cal Halveric's kidnapping and rescue. Cal returns to camp dismembered and wounded but comforted in the fact that his father and the Duke do not see him in a poor light.
- Chapter 29 - The company finds the other men who were taken. Most are dead, and others are severely wounded. They find Siniava's camp, and Paks is ready to fight. During the fighting, Stammel gives her a promotion to corporal so that she can help organize the remaining cohort. On the second day of the battle, rain complicates the battlefield. Siniava's army retreats, and they pursue.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions -

1. Why did Paks feel anger about Stammel's order in Chapter 23?
 - a. She was tired of fighting and wanted to sleep
 - b. She was wanting to chase the retreating enemy
 - c. She was wanting to eat before a cohort who had not fought much
 - d. She wanted to stay and fight instead of run away
2. Later, in Chapter 24, Paks snaps at her recruit, Volya. Why?
 - a. She dropped her shield again
 - b. She missed her shift
 - c. She slept through her watch
 - d. She told Paks confidential information
3. Why did Halek think Paks was a cook, not a soldier?
 - a. Because Paks is a woman
 - b. Because Paks was serving food
 - c. Because Paks had food stains on her uniform
 - d. Because Paks was carrying food to the kitchens
4. During the siege of Sibili, why did black clouds appear?
 - a. Rain and thunder plagued the battle
 - b. Clerics used magic to cause confusion
 - c. Soldiers using fire and tar left smoke everywhere

- d. No one could explain the black clouds
- 5. Why did the Marshal talk to Paks after her injuries?
 - a. To convert her to Gird
 - b. To tell her she was brave
 - c. To see if she had evil intentions
 - d. To see if she could make the medallion perform magic
- 6. What caused the Duke to become angry at the Pliuni, even after they agreed to fight with him?
 - a. They plundered a peaceful village
 - b. They fought with Arcolin and injured a soldier
 - c. They do not march as quickly, which slows them down
 - d. They stole from Phelan's supplies
- 7. Why did Duke Phelan immediately excuse one soldier from the secret mission?
 - a. The soldier was injured
 - b. The soldier looked scared
 - c. The soldier sneezed
 - d. The soldier was drunk
- 8. How did Devlin convince a complainer that Devlin deserved to be promoted to corporal?
 - a. He staged a scene making it look like he had the blessing of the gods
 - b. He challenged the complainer to a duel and won at the very end
 - c. He punished the complainer with awful chores until the complainer stopped complaining
 - d. He told the complainer that he was made corporal because he bribed a sergeant

Answers:

- 1. B
- 2. D
- 3. A
- 4. B
- 5. C
- 6. A
- 7. C
- 8. A

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions -

- 1. How is the landscape different in the South? What do these differences mean for planning battles?
- 2. What does a sapping team do, and why must their work be protected?
- 3. Why does the Marshal find Paks interesting? How would you explain how she survives some of her encounters?
- 4. Why did Cal's captors hurt him the way they did? Why does Cal think many will consider him not worthy to lead because of it?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry - Based Exploration

1. Paks tells the Marshal about the tales of heroes that reached her town. Some of those tales inspired her to serve. Collect some hero tales of your own, either through interviewing people or doing research. What makes those people heroic in your eyes?
2. Phelan is compared to a fox, and the agents who rescued Cal compare themselves to weasels. Why? What causes us to link character traits to one animal rather than another? What animal do you think you're most like and why?

Guide to Part 6 - chapters 30-31

Prepare to read . . .

- Familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary and terms:
 - Jutting
 - Ravines
 - Breach
 - Onslaught
 - Reverberations
 - Derisive
 - Raucous
 - Impetus
 - Russet
 - Yeoman
 - Bolthole
 - Maw
 - Hewn
 - Palpable
- Focus questions or initiating activities:
 - Location can play a large part in the success or failure of a battle. Research battles that relied on location. Some leaders, like in The Battle of Maldon (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Maldon), do not always take advantage of their land. How should the Duke's company prepare for the various locations you've seen so far?
 - Weather plays an important role in battle. Research battles affected negatively by weather or battles postponed by weather.

Chapter Summaries -

- Chapter 30 - The company continues to march in pursuit of Siniava. The Duke is ambushed, and Paks runs to his defense. As the march continues, the company finds itself surrounded and fighting in a terrible thunderstorm. Thanks to the Sorellin cavalry, they fight the enemy back, and the enemy disperses.
- Chapter 31 - The company pursues Siniava and begins to cross the river. The paladin and marshal return and talk to Paks. Alured tells the Duke of a secret passage to where Siniava has camped. The Duke puts Paks in charge of a unit that will wait at the end of the passage for Siniava and/or his men to escape. Paks guards at night and finds

shadows emerging and her whole side asleep, possibly by magic. Paks captures Siniava, who was trying to escape in animal form, and the paladin fights him. After Siniava dies, Paks tells her cohort the news. Stammel tells Paks that she is due leave and could consider going home for a vacation.

Quiz / Reading Comprehension Questions -

1. Why did the company have a hard time finding Siniava in Chapter 30?
 - a. He hid himself magically
 - b. He used another company's colors to trick them
 - c. He hid in maze-like ruins
 - d. He hid under water
2. What was significant about the tattoos on the face of the men attacking the Duke during his ambush?
 - a. It meant they were Halverics
 - b. It meant they were from a different tribe altogether
 - c. It meant they were Siniava's private guards
 - d. It meant they were Siniava's sons
3. What saved the company when they fought surrounded by enemy?
 - a. Rain
 - b. Halveric men
 - c. Magic
 - d. Sorellin cavalry
4. Why didn't the pirate Alured keep Siniava out of his forest?
 - a. He did not feel he could do it without killing him
 - b. He is a pirate and claims he is neutral
 - c. He received a bribe from Siniava to allow him safe passage
 - d. He did not know Siniava went into his forest
5. Why did most think that Siviani would use the passage at night?
 - a. He mostly travels at night
 - b. Night gives him more cover to travel in secret
 - c. He wants to move when most are sleeping
 - d. All of the above
6. How did Siniava try to escape from the battle?
 - a. By wearing an invisible cloak
 - b. By turning into an animal
 - c. By walking along the sides dressed as a soldier
 - d. By producing rain

Answers:

1. C
2. C
3. D
4. A

5. D
6. B

Suggestions for Reflection and Discussion Questions -

1. How do you think Siniava managed to slip by them so often with his men?
2. What did the Duke mean when he told Paks she was “better than a shield” after his ambush?
3. Evaluate the Duke’s decision to guard the passage rather than travel through it. What would you have done and why?
4. The Duke lets Paks decide the fate of Siniava. What choice would you have made and why?
5. Why does Paks decide to no longer wear the medallion?

Suggested Activities / Inquiry - Based Exploration

1. The Duke ordered the marches and battles out of a desire for revenge. Do you think the revenge was worth the cost? What other battles started for reasons such as revenge? Do you believe revenge alone would be worth it?
2. Secret tunnels and passageways exist in all sorts of places. The White House even has one! Research some famous secret passageways and how they were used. Then design your own. Where would you like to go to and what would you like to do?