

Literature Guide – The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth G. Speare

Chapter 1

1. Describe Daniel. Galilean, apprenticed to an awful man who beat him, ran away to the mountains, been living with a group of men for 5 years, has a grandmother and sister (something is wrong with the sister), angry, filled with hatred for the Romans and Jewish
2. Describe Joel. Boy Daniel went to school with. Jewish with plans to become a Rabbi. Also a sandal maker, hates the Romans, doesn't want to move to Capernum
3. Describe Malthrace. Joe's sister. Wants to move to Capernum; happy, Jewish, follows Jewish customs and laws

Chapter 2

1. What did Ebol come to tell Daniel? That a group of slaves were coming along the road and they were going to free one of them
2. Why did Joel not leave? He wanted to see Rosh who was a hero among the boys in the town
3. What did Joel promise Rosh? That he would join them later
4. Who is Rosh? A rogue leader of a group of men who were planning a revolt against the Romans
5. What did Daniel do for Samson? Cut off his shackles, gave him food and a cloak

Chapter 3

1. Who came up to see Daniel? Simon. What news did he bring? His old apprentice had died and Daniel could come back to the village
2. What did Daniel find at his grandmother's house? His grandmother frail, old and still working to provide food. His sister grown up but still afraid. Very poor, little food

Chapter 4

1. Who did Simon and Daniel hear speak? Jesus. What was his message? Repent and believe
2. What struck Daniel about Jesus? He was common, worked hard as a child, his voice filled the room, he wouldn't use force to attack the Romans
3. Why did Daniel leave? He hated Galilee, the smells, the situation of his grandmother and sister, the heat, the stifling quarters

Chapter 5

1. What did Daniel think he should do to help with his discontentment? Go to Capernum and see Joel
2. What did he find that disgusted him? Roman soldiers, Roman taxes, a synagogue built with Roman money
3. How did the meeting go with Joel and his father? Not well, Daniel's anger got the better of him

Chapter 6

1. What happened to Daniel as he was leaving town? He ran into two Roman soldiers and ended up throwing a bowl of water into their faces. They became angry and chased him through the city
2. Where did he go for refuge? Joel's
3. Who helped him? Malthrace and Joel. How? Food, bandaged his wounds, hid him in a passageway in their house

Chapter 7

1. What happened to Daniel's father? In trying to free his uncle from the Romans, he had a scuffle with the soldiers, and they crucified him and his uncle
2. His Mother? She got sick by standing at his cross and died a few weeks later
3. His sister? She went out to where they were crucified and was afraid to go out after that
4. What pact did Daniel, Joel, and Thrace make? To avenge his father's death and fight for the freedom of the Jews
5. What symbol did they use? A Bronze bow
6. Why did Daniel leave without saying goodbye? He knew they would try to stop him

Chapter 8

1. What took Daniel back to Caperum? Rosh wanted his dagger fixed and Daniel had to find Simon to get the parts from him
2. While in Capernum, who did he meet? Jesus
3. What things bothered Joel about Jesus? He didn't obey Jewish laws. He claimed that everyone was a son or daughter of God

Chapter 9

1. What task did Rosh give Daniel? To rob an old man who had a bag full of gold
2. What happened after Daniel got the gold? He felt bad for the harm he caused to the man
3. Why was Rosh angry? He thought Daniel should have taken the old man's daggers and killed him
4. Why was Daniel so confused? He was torn between Rosh's ideas, Jesus's teachings, and Jewish law

Chapter 10

1. What message did Daniel receive from Ebol? His grandmother was dying
2. What did he find when he reached the cottage? Grandmother and Leah had been inside for 10 days. There were rats in the cottage. His grandmother was dying and Leah was frightened.
3. What happened when Daniel began to say the Lord is my Shepherd? Leah crept over to him from her hiding place

Chapter 11

1. What did Simon ask Daniel to do for him? Take over his shop. Move into his house and look after things for him
2. How did Leah take the news? At first she would not leave. Then a chariot came up where she could not be seen and she went
3. How did Leah improve at Simon's house? She tended the garden, she baked bread, she wove her cloth
4. What happened when the Roman soldier came into the shop? Daniel made him wait a long time. Then he caught sight of Leah and Daniel was furious.

Chapter 12

1. What happened to Nathan? His friends beat him up because his father was a tax collector
2. How was Daniel able to recruit him? He hated the Romans for the taxes
3. How many recruits did Daniel and Joel find? 21. What was the password they used? Bronze Bow
4. Why did the Roman soldier keep showing up? He was watching the shop

Chapter 13

1. What surprising things happened on Joel and Thacia's visit? Joel had been going to hear Jesus and was enamored by him. Jesus made everything so clear. Leah and Thacia were talking
2. What did Daniel buy for his sister? Cloth and thread for a new dress

Chapter 14

1. Why did Daniel go back to the mountain? He was feeling exasperated by Leah
2. What did he find when he got there? No one cared that he was there except Samson
3. What things bothered him? Rosh, how they stole from the villagers, Leah, Thacia, everything

Chapter 15

1. What did Daniel begin to do? Walk to Capernum so he could hear Jesus
2. What stories did he tell Leah? Jairus daughter, the good Samaritan. Which was her favorite? Jairus
3. What did Leah ask Daniel? If he would take her to see Jesus if he came to Capernum
4. What happened to Daniel's work? He became very proud of it
5. What did he make? A bronze bow

Chapter 16

1. What was Rosh's job for Joel? To find out who would be at a dinner Herod was hosting
2. What plan did Joel and Thacia have for finding out this information? She would dress like Joel and leave the city with Daniel. Joel would dress like a fish seller and try to talk to the servants
3. How was Thacia's day spent? With Leah at the shop
4. What did Daniel give to her? A bronze bow brooch he had made for her

5. What things did Daniel confess to her? His desire to be a silversmith, his worries about Leah, his hope that Leah would see Jesus
6. Why did Thacia and Daniel think Jesus didn't always cure people? Because it wouldn't change them and they wouldn't be grateful for it.
7. What was Daniel feeling towards Thacia? Love

Chapter 17

1. What did Rosh use the information from Joel for? To break into the rich men's houses while they were away
2. What did Rosh continue to do? Break into homes, steal from the wealthy, pillage farms, steal animals
3. How did the townspeople feel about this? Angry. They couldn't pay taxes or shoulder a gun to protect themselves
4. How did Daniel feel about this? He was uneasy
5. How did Rosh enlist Daniel's band? He needed recruits. The men on the mountain were dead or injured. He used them to attack the soldiers
6. How did the boys respond? They got very cocky and proud.

Chapter 18

1. What happened to Joel? Captured by the Romans and thrown into the garrison
2. Would Rosh help? No. Why? Everyman for himself
3. What was Daniel's plan? To take Joel as he was on the path with the soldiers
4. What did Daniel realize about Rosh? He wasn't who he thought he was

Chapter 19

1. Who helped Daniel free Joel? Samson
2. What happened to Samson? He was captured by the Romans
3. Were there any other casualties? Nathan
4. What do you think the boys thought about "the cause" now? The reality of it: death and their own being captured

Chapter 20

1. What were Joel's plans? Go to Jerusalem to study
2. What would happen to Thacia? She would be more confined to the house
3. What did Joel's father feel? Afraid for his son, disappointed

Chapter 21

1. What did Jesus say about Samson's death? It was done out of love, not hate
2. What did Jesus want Daniel to do? Give up hating the Romans

Chapter 22

1. What did Thacia try to tell Daniel? That she loved him. What was Daniel's response? He could not love her back because of the life he chose
2. What did Leah confess? That she had been talking to Marcus the Roman soldier over the wall
3. How did Daniel react? Furious

Chapter 23

1. How was Leah? As she was before when her grandmother died
2. What happened with all the people on the hillside? The miracle of the loaves and fishes
3. What did Daniel realize? Jesus was not going to fight the Romans, eternal salvation is more important than the crosses we bear on earth, Jesus is the messiah

Chapter 24

1. What happened to Leah? She was very sick and dying
2. Who came to see her? The Roman soldier. Where was he from? Germany conquered by the Romans
3. What did he want? To see Leah. Would Daniel let him? No
4. Who came to help? Jesus and Thacia
5. What was resolved? Thacia and Daniel were to marry. Daniel forgave and wanted to follow Jesus. He asked the Roman into his home.