

*Otto of the Silver Hand* by Howard Pyle

Literature Guide

1. Who was Otto? The son of the Baron Conrad and the Baroness
2. What happened to the Baroness? She died after she gave birth to Otto. Why? She thought her husband was dead after one of his robberies
3. Why did Otto live at St. Michaelsburg? Abbot Otto was his mother's father's brother (Uncle to her). Conrad took Otto there so that Abbot O. could raise the child in a peaceful setting.
4. What was Otto's life like at the Abbey? Peaceful, studious, he spent a lot of time with Brother John.
5. Why did he leave? His father came back to get him when he was 12 in order that Otto could carry on the family name.
6. What did Otto think of the stories Ursula told him about his father? He was horrified and asked to return to the monastery.
7. Describe how Otto became a captive of Baron Henry. Baron Henry had charges brought against Conrad. Conrad went to see the emperor with 100 of his men, leaving only a few behind. While they were gone Henry broke into the castle and kidnapped Otto.
8. Who came to give comfort to Otto? Pauline, Henry's daughter. How did Otto help her? Told her stories. What did Otto ask her to do? Tell his father where he was. What did he promise in return? To marry her when he got older.
9. How did Hans get into the castle? He tricked the girl and pretended he was a peddler.
10. What did Baron Henry do to Otto? Cut off one of his hands.
11. How did they escape? Hans used a rope and broke through the iron bars on the windows. Then lowered them both down with Otto clinging to his neck.
12. Where was Conrad headed? To St. Michaelsburg.
13. What happened when Henry was only 1 mile behind them? Conrad gave Otto to Hans and said to take him and the rest of his men to the Abbott. He would stay and fight.
14. What happened to Henry and Conrad? Both men fought and fell into the water from the side of the bridge and drowned.
15. What did the men decide to do? Leave Hans and Otto and the others alone. Why? Their quarrel was between Henry and Conrad, not them.
16. What did the Emperor do for Otto? Restored his lands and took care of him until he came of age.
17. What happened between Pauline and Otto? They were married.
18. What happened to Otto's hand? It was replaced with a silver hand.
19. What do you think the motto "Better a hand of silver, than a hand of iron" means?