**Title: Crispin-the Cross of Lead**  
by: Avi  
Level W

Summary: This story is about a 13 year old boy in 14th century England. His mother has died and he is all by himself. He is unrightfully declared a “wolf’s head.” He has to leave his village in order to save his own life.

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| 1-26  | Ch. 1: The story takes place in England in 1377 AD. It is about a boy who’s mother just died. He is very religious (probably Catholic or Church of England). He and the priest wrap his mother’s body in a gray shroud. They call the boy, “Asta’s Son.” They carry her to her grave and bury her there. As he is leaving, John Aycliffe (the steward of the manner and a very mean man) is outside of the cemetery walls. John tells him that he has to give the ox over to the manner house to serve as a death tax for his mother. It upsets the boy, so he runs away into the nearby forest and trips and hits his head against a rock. He passes out.  
Ch. 2: He wakes up to nighttime in the woods. He is scared, because he has heard that only outlaws, hungry wolves, and the Devil and his minions are out at night. He sees a light and starts to crawl to it. He sees that it is really John Aycliffe who is holding a torch walking with another man. The man gives a letter to John. While they are talking, the boy moves closer to hear. They are speaking of a great danger to all of them. While they are talking, John sees the boy and draws his sword and begins to run after him through the woods. The boy becomes caught in briers, John gets closer and swings his sword, misses, but cuts him lose from the briers. Asta’s Son keeps running until he falls off of a small cliff—he was not hurt. He sees he has now escaped from Aycliffe. He convinces himself that God is punishing him. The chapter ends with him praying.  
Ch. 3: He says that he was born in 1363. His mother had always called him, “Son.” Everyone in the village had always called him, “Asta’s Son.” This is because his father had died from the plague. Your importance and rank, and name came from the father. Since he had no father, he existed in shadow with no name. His mother never remarried. He had no friends. He lived the live of a shunned, forever cast aside. His mother and he were both serfs, bound to Furnival (the Lord of Stromford Village). He had never seen his Lord, because he was always fighting wars in France. They lived the poorest lives. The only time they ate meat was at Christmas time—occasionally. He believed he would always live like that until Gabriel announced the end of time.  
Ch. 4: He wakes up in the morning after he has escaped from John. He heads towards his house, thinking that the best course of action would be to act like nothing happened (John always beat him anyway). When he gets to his house, he finds the Bailiff and the Reeve with axes and pikes. The boy watches from afar, as the two men cut his house down and burn it. The boy decides he needs to climb up on a rock so he can see the whole town. He describes the whole town: the two roads that run through it, the Manner House, the homes, etc. He says that... | Why did they burn down his home?  
Why are they looking for him?  
What do they think he did that was so wrong? | Inferencing (his religion) | shroud p.1  
poaching p.3  
deigned p.3  
cloying p.5  
welt p.6  
murk p.6  
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pealing p.20  
petitions p.25 |

| Vocabulary | Predicting: John Aycliffe will be trouble. | Will probably have to explain what the plague is. | Connections: We hear of people starving still today. You could discuss examples. |
everything belongs to Lord Furnival. John always told him that the people belong to Lord Furnival as well.

Ch. 5: He is still on the rock, looking at the village. The town appears normal. He then sees John and the stranger from the night before riding their horses to the church. He then hears the church bells ringing frantically. The whole village gathers in front of the church. John, the stranger, and Father Quinel (the boy’s only friend) all address the group. Father Quinel brings everyone into the church. The boy says that he wanted to go and see what it was all about, but he was scared.

Ch. 6: The people come out of the church and go back to their homes. The boy decides that he wants to go and talk with Father Quinel, but as he looks around he sees the Bailiff come out of the Manner house with a group of men from the village (all armed). He realizes that they are a search party looking for him. He decides that he will have to visit the priest that night to talk to him, because that is the only person he trusts. Right now he must hide from the search party.

Ch. 7: He spends all day hiding from the search party. He finds out that they are really looking for him when he overhears, Luke and Matthew talking as he hid in a tree. Matthew asks Luke if he thinks that the boy actually stole money from the Manner House. The boy realizes that this is what John has told everyone in the village. Neither Luke nor Matthew believe that he stole the money, but they have to look for him. Asta’s Son is hiding all night. After a long while, he creeps towards the church so he can talk with Father Quinel.

Ch. 8: He arrives at Father Quinel’s home. He tells him that he must go to the church, that way if someone finds them, he can claim sanctuary. He describes the church (Virgin Mary, Christ on the cross). The Father gives him some bread to eat. The boy explains that he didn’t steal any money and the Father believes him. The person that Aycliffe met with is named, Sir Richard Du Brey. Sir Du Brey told the Father that Lord Fernival was ill and expected to die, he had returned from the war. The Father tells the boy that John A. had declared him a “Wolf’s Head,” which means that he is considered not human. So, anyone can kill him whenever he is spotted. The boy asked why. The Father looked stressed. The boy asked him if it was about his mother. The Father then tells him that he must leave now. The Father tells him that the boy was baptized in a secret ceremony and the name he was given was, Crispin. Crispin begins to ask the Father if it has anything to do with his father, and the Father tells him that he must leave and go to another town. Father Quinel tells him that if he can stay there for a year and a day, he will gain his freedom. He could become a Lord or King. Crispin doesn’t understand. He tells him to meet him at Goodwife Peregrine’s (the oldest person in the village) home the next night—ready to leave. He said he would then tell Crispin about his father. The Father asks him if he can read or write like his mother could. Crispin cannot read or write, and did not know that his mother could. Father Quinel gives
Crispin his mother’s cross of lead which had writing on it, which he had seen her write on it. Crispin escapes back to the forest to hide for the night. Tons of questions are running through his mind.

**Ch. 9:** He climbs back on the rock to see if anyone is searching for him. He spends the day praying, looking for acorns and berries and saying, “Crispin” out loud. That night, he goes back into town to meet up with Quinel. When he gets there he is met by Cerdic (a village boy). Cerdic told him that Father Quinel wasn’t coming, but he didn’t tell him why. He told him to lead him to the road that leads west, but Crispin wants to go home to make sure. He goes to Goodwife Peregrine’s to make sure. He finds out that John has a reward out for his head of 20 shillings (half a year’s wages). He finds out that the bailiff told people to search north, so Crispin heads south. Peregrine gives him a leather pouch and porridge and bread to eat before he leaves. She says, “God be with you.”

**Ch. 10:** Cerdic tells him not to go south, because the steward said he would be looking north, but he would really be looking south. He announced that to trick Crispin. That is what Father Quinel had said to do, go west. Crispin wanted to see the Father, so he goes to the church, but no one is there. Cerdic said that maybe he is waiting on the other side of the river and that is why he told him to go west. He begins to head west, which goes right past the Manner House (where John A. lives). As Crispin is walking toward the river to cross it, Cerdic tells him to keep going, but Cerdic stops. Crispin sees 4 men rise from the shadows to block his way. He turned around and saw 2 men with glaives and swords. He realizes that he had been lead into a trap.

**Ch. 11:** Aycliffe closes in on him with his horse and he tells all the men to kill Crispin. Crispin runs away. He runs to the mill and tries to get away, but they are shooting arrows at him, so he decides to run around the side of the mill. He can’t see, so he falls into the river, but the river is only up to his chest. He wades up the river a ways and escapes. He doesn’t know how to swim, so he decides to sneak back through town and head south. As he is passing through town, he sees someone lying on the ground. He goes to them and finds that it is Father Quinel who had his throat slit. He thought God had completely abandoned him.

**Ch. 12:** He is running on a muddy, narrow road. He realizes that he lost his sack with the food, but he still has his pouch with the cross of lead in it. As he was thinking about how he had become a wolf’s head, he hears an owl hooting and calls it the devil’s own bird. He feels that something is lurking near. He prays to Jesus, Mary, and Saint Giles. He goes to sleep unsure about the next day.

**Ch. 13:** He wakes up to the sound of John Aycliffe and the bailiff riding down the road, but he is far enough away, so they can’t see him. He is hungry, so he looks in the pouch with the cross of lead. All he finds is one seed of wheat, one seed of oat, and one seed of barley. He throws the seeds away. He presses on, because

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<td>How would that feel to never know your name?</td>
<td>I would want to say it out loud as well.</td>
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<td>Prediction: Cerdic is really not trying to help Crispin.</td>
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<td>How will he get away?</td>
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<td>What do these things in his pouch mean?</td>
<td>Predictions: Maybe these things in his pouch will help him.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connections: In the movie Pay Check, Tom Cruise leaves himself a bunch of items that end of helping him</td>
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Quinel told him that he had to find a town that had its own liberties. He was scared, because the descriptions of the towns Quinel had given him, made him too timid. He no longer wishes to live, which he knew was a sin. He no longer wishes to save his life.

| 54-80 | Ch. 14: Crispin awoke the third morning to a thick gray fog. He also sees a figure in the fog and realized it was a corpse that had been hung. He approaches the body, and looks it over. The body is swollen and the birds are eating him. A piece of paper was stuck to him by a broken arrow, but Crispin can’t read, so he couldn’t read it. He drops to his knees because of fear and began to pray. He wished not to die, but to live. He asked God which path he should take, and ended up following the path of the misty sun. **Ch. 15:** Crispin follows the westerly path, and comes upon a village situated in a dell. He sneaks into the village to find it empty. He was very scared, but he realized that it was the “great plague” that killed the entire village. He started to look for food, and finds a skeleton in a house. He runs away. As he is running, he passes the Church. He hears one voice singing inside. **Ch. 16:** Crispin goes to see who is singing in the church. He finds a large, huge man singing and beating on a drum. The man has a dagger and a big sack. He sees Crispin and he starts to question him about where he is from and where he is going. Crispin is very vague in his answers. The man asks if he is hungry, and Crispin says yes. The man talks of the king, and how he means well, but the officials are greedy, which is why people like Crispin and he go hungry. Crispin approaches the man, and the man pulls out a loaf of bread. As Crispin reaches towards it, the man grabs him with his free hand and holds him. The man is wearing a hat that bends over and has bells on the corners of it. **Ch. 17:** The man is holding his arm, and makes Crispin tell him where he is really coming from and what he is doing. Crispin tells him that he is declared a wolf’s-head. He tells him why, but that he is innocent. The entire time, the man is squeezing his arm tighter, the thinks his arm is about to snap. He lets him go, but blocks the doorway. **Ch. 18:** The man tells him that he has a new lord now, because whoever finds a slave who has left his true master, becomes the property of whoever finds him. If he doesn’t like it, he will take him back to his village and the steward will kill him—just like the man on the road. (that piece of paper on the hung man said he had stolen from his master). He makes Crispin swear an oath in the name of Jesus that if he runs or doesn’t obey him, that God can strike him down. **Ch. 19:** He gave Crispin some bread, and he ate. He asked him if he wanted to know his name, and Crispin told him no. The man pulls out some leather balls from his sack, and begins to juggle. Crispin asks him what he is. He tells him that he is a juggler and travels from town to town. He asks Crispin’s name and he tells him. Bear says that his name is too fine and noble for such rubbish as you. He asked him if he knew anything about music or juggling. Crispin said |

| Description/ Visual pg. 55 | Inferencing: The man might have been a court-jester for the king. Maybe that is where the hard feelings come from. | Loathsome pg. 54 | Moldy pg. 55 | Grotesquely pg. 55 | Pillaged pg. 56 | Dell pg. 57 | Trepidation pg. 58 | Garbed pg. 61 | Venison pg. 65 | Brandishing pg. 70 | Brute pg. 79 |
no. Crispin told the man that he was planning to go to a town where he could gain his liberty. He told Crispin to ask him questions. Crispin asks him his name and the man tells him that his name is Orson Hrothgar but everyone calls him “Bear” because of his size and strength. Bear says that he is on his way to Wexly, but in the mean time they are going to wander from town to town, because they are not going to Wexly until the feast of St. John the Baptist.

What is Bear planning on doing at the feast in Wexly?

Ch. 20: They walk along for while and they can’t see anyone. Crispin asks Bear why there is no people, and he tells him it is because of the pestilence. Bear tells him about the cities and how there are so many around, like 40,000 in London. Bear tells him not to call him “sir.”

Ch. 21: They stopped to relax for a little bit and eat bread. Bear tells him that he was given to a priest in the city of York (north). From the priest he began to study in an abbey to become a monk. He was there for seven years. Before he was to become a monk, he came upon a group of mummers (gypsies). He decided to run off with them. While he was in the abbey, he learned to read Latin, French, and English. From the mummers he learned laughter. He says he prefers to be alone, and Crispin asks him why he needs him then. Bear then teaches him how to juggle two balls together. He tells him that he will teach him how to juggle and to sing. Bear said that he had joined the army for a brief while. Bear sings a song and starts playing it on a recorder, then screams at Crispin to sing along. Crispin has decided that Bear is absolutely mad.

Ch. 22: He ties Crispin to a tree and goes and catches a rabbit. Crispin tries to get away, but he is too weak. Bear gives him meat, and Crispin says that he had only had meat twice before in his life. Crispin loves the rabbit. Bear tells Crispin that God sent Crispin to him, so that he could teach him. Crispin reveals that his lord is Lord Furnival, and that he was from Stromford. Bear tells Crispin that it is time that he learn the truth about him.

Ch. 23: Bear asks him about his mother and father. Crispin tells him that everyone in the village shunned his mother, and sometimes she would find Crispin repulsive. She didn’t have any kin, because she said that everyone, including his father had died in the “Great Death.” Bear tells him that he escaped the plague by fleeing to Scotland. Crispin doesn’t know his surname, he wants to, but doesn’t know how. Bear asks him how he became a wolf’s head.

Ch. 24: He told Bear the story about wolf’s head. Bear thought it was injustice. Crispin told him that they also killed the priest. Crispin tells him that it was his doing that had got the priest killed. Bear told him that wasn’t true, and that he should lose his sorrows and when he did that, he would find freedom. Bear also told him that it is questions that keep you living, not answers. He tells Crispin that he is going to go to many villages and asks him if he wants to come. Crispin tells him that he doesn’t have a choice. Bear tells him that every man should govern himself. Bear goes to sleep. Crispin begins to pray while holding his cross of lead. Bear rolls
over and tells him that it is nothing but a trinket, and that many were made during the plague to give people a false sense of comfort. Bear says you don’t need any crosses or priests to approach God. Crispin begins to pray out loud again. He tells Bear he is sorry that he knows so little; Bears says that it is okay. He decides that it is not so bad to be with Bear. Crispin asks himself he was to live by questions, what questions would they be.

**Ch. 25:** Bear tells him what he does when he goes into a village. He walks straight into the church and says a prayer at Mass. Crispin says that is fake, because that is not what he believes. Bear says that what he believes and what he does are two different things. Crispin tells him that if God wants him to change, then He will change him. Bear leads him to the river and has him look at his reflection in the stream. Bear then makes him wash his face. Bear cuts his hair with a dagger. Bear then tells him to look again at how much he has changed. Bear tells him to imagine what he would be if he were cleansed of 13 years of slavery. Crispin is concerned because he thinks he will be recognized. Bear isn’t worried about it, because he doesn’t matter. Bear tells Crispin he will teach him how to sing, but Crispin tells him that he can’t do it. Bear disagrees. Bear says he will make Crispin feel his soul, because Crispin says he has never felt his soul before.

**Ch. 26:** Bear showed Crispin how to play the recorder. By the end of the day Crispin knew how to play a song. Crispin was very excited. They were headed to a town and they were going to make some money—“The Bear and his cub” is what Bear said.

**Ch. 27:** They set off at dawn heading towards the town. They noticed some birds that were freaking out. Bear sneaked up to see who was bothering the birds. He saw a group of men sitting on a bridge that crossed a creek. It was John Aycliffe and a group of men, all armed with swords and long bows. They went around the group.

**Ch. 28:** They continued to move around the group in order not to be seen. Bear is wondering why they are after him. Crispin is reassuring Bear that he didn’t do anything. They begin to talk about his mother again. Crispin tells him that his mother could read. Bear thinks it is curious that a peasant woman could read. Crispin gets out the cross, and Bear asks him if he can read it. Bear says that he can’t read it, but Crispin doesn’t believe him.

**Ch. 29:** They approach a different town. Crispin is practicing the tunes he will play. Bear tells Crispin that if anyone catches him, don’t worry about the oath, just run. Crispin asks him why they have to go to Great Wexly if he needs to get away. Bears says he belongs to a brotherhood that is formed to bring about change—to make things better. He tells Crispin that he has been observing all these different towns and he has to report his findings at the Feast of St. John the Baptist. Crispin asks Bear what the cross said, and Bear won’t answer him.

**Ch. 30:** They enter into a village called Lodgecot. Crispin plays music and Bear dances...
all the way to the church. Bear appeals to the young priest to be able to sing in their village. Bear sings a church song, and they allow him to perform. The priest pronounces a blessing on Bear. Bear introduces them as Bear and his son. Crispin plays music while Bear juggles and dances. Bear snatches a mazer from a young one-eyed boy. Bear then juggles it with the balls. Bear continues to juggle, and every time the boy goes to get the mazer back, he snatches it back and continues juggling. After the show is over, they are mobbed by questions from the group. They go the church to have a prayer with the priest. Bear accidentally tells him that they are headed to Great Wexly. The priest warns them that there is a murderer on the loose, who robbed the Manner house and killed a priest. He tells them they could get paid 20 schillings for finding him. The one-eyed boy keeps staring at Crispin.

**Ch. 31:** They left town and Crispin played while Bear danced. When they got out of town, Crispin speaks with Bear about how they are saying he killed the Father, and about the one-eyed boy. Bear says it was no big deal, it was because they were strangers. They count their money, they earned 4 silver pennies, 4 farthings, and 6 loafs of bread. Bear declares that they are both free men and gives Crispin one of the silver pennies.

| 134-160 | **Ch. 32:** Over the next 20 days, Crispin and Bear go from town to town performing. Crispin gets a lot better at playing and even juggles a few times. Bear asks him if he knows how to use weapons. Crispin doesn’t and asks him why he asked him that. Bear tells him that since he is declared a wolf’s head, he might as well have some fangs. Crispin was a little upset about this, but mostly because he was in a position where he needed to learn how to protect himself. Bear tells Crispin that you can see someone’s soul through his or her eyes. When Bear first met Crispin, he looked down at the ground. Bear couldn’t see his soul. Crispin tells Bear that whenever he doesn’t look at him to call, “Eyes!” to him to remind him. Crispin asks Bear to teach him how to catch rabbit in case he is ever on his own again. Bear tells Crispin that they will be in Great Wexly tomorrow. They speak of what the Devil looks like, and Bear thinks that the Devil is Lord Furnival now. Crispin asks Bear if he will betray him, Bear is angry by this question. He tells Crispin that he cares for him, and that he reminds him of himself. Bear asks Crispin if he will be his apprentice. He says that he will be his teacher, not his master. Crispin agrees to this. They lay down to sleep, but Crispin can’t sleep. He is struggling with the idea of trusting Bear or not. He goes to pray about it, but then thinks that he must start making decisions on his own, because he has asked God for too much already. He decides he will trust Bear. He stares at the stars until he falls asleep.

| 134-160 | **Ch. 33:** They set out for Great Wexly, the road was empty, until they grew closer to Great Wexly. The road became more crowded as the day went. Crispin doesn’t know much about what is around him, so Bear starts explaining... | **What will Crispin do with his money?** | **Will he stay with Bear?** | **Will there be trouble at Great Wexly?** | **Will they make friends there?** | **Personification Pg. 143 “It may seem odd, but it made me think the town had long hair, and each strand** | **Rueful pg. 136**
**Commenced pg. 136**
**Apprentice pg. 138**
**Flemish pg. 140**
**Friars pg. 141**
**Apothecary pg. 141**
**Irate pg. 141**
**Loomed pg. 142**
**Swagger pg. 142**
**Glaives pg. 144**
**Portcullis pg. 144**
**Timorous pg 145**
**Palpable pg 146**
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**Tavern pg 150**
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**Tankards pg. 151**
**Buxom pg. 151**
**Kirtle pg. 151**
**Escapades pg. 152**
**Befallen pg. 152**
**Illegitimate pg. 154**
**Relinquish pg. 155**
**Slake pg. 155**
**Solar pg. 156**
**Pallet pg. 156**
**Brazenly pg. 158**
**Aggrieved pg.**
**Privies pg. 160** |
different things and people they see (i.e. pilgrims, wagons with wheels rimmed with iron, peasants, London, Flemish, and Italian merchants, priests, nuns, monks, begging friars, doctors, lawyers, an apothecary, and a tax collector (which made Bear irate)). They saw people “crying” their goods to sell on the side of the road. They arrived at Great Wexly. The walls around the town went as far as they could see. Bear told Crispin they were for keeping enemies out and in. The walls had large spires on top of them. They went through the city wall into the town. The wall was very deep, tunnel-like. The entryway was called, “The Bishop Gate,” it consisted of two massive black wooden doors with studded iron bolts. Soldiers with iron plates covering their chests, guarded the doors. The soldiers were only allowing a few people in at a time. Crispin remembers the men at the bridge and whispers to Bear, “I think they’re looking for someone.”

Ch. 34: They approach the city walls, and Bear decides that the best way to get through the gates (without bringing attention to Crispin) is to sing and dance while Crispin plays the recorder. The soldiers smile and allow them in without any problems. They are on a stone road packed with people selling, yelling, etc. People are friendly to Crispin. No one is paying attention to them because no one knows anyone else in the city, so Crispin feels safe. Crispin describes the stench of the city coming from various vile substances (dung, slop, swill, etc.), the stench is so horrible that Crispin almost faints. There is a gutter full of filth and Crispin describes it as an open gut. The market is right beside the street, and those in the markets simply open their windows and dump their trash and rotten food onto the street hitting people. There are animals everywhere and no one thinks anything of it. The buildings are really close together. Many places have a black cloth draped with intertwining ribbons of blue and gold. He asks Bear what this means and Bear explains that someone important has died. He notices the shops and the various activities, and is astonished of many of the activities (the swan white bread). Bear has to yell for him continually. He sees a lot of meat which he believes that it is more than the entire kingdom could consume. At this point he realizes that his village is terribly destitute. Bear tells him to look at a building with a straw stuffed man, painted all green, dangling from a pole. Bear tells him that this is the Green Man Tavern where he will conduct all of his business in Great Wexly. He pushes through the door bringing Crispin with him. Crispin is nervous because Bear had explained that his business is dangerous.

Ch. 35: They entered into the empty tavern to meet a large lady behind the counter. She is very happy to see Bear and comes around the counter to hug him in the middle of the room. Bear calls her, “Widow Daventry.” She welcomes him back to Great Wexly, asking if it was to court her. He says it is because of his business and she punches him in the chest. They laugh together and she asks him of his adventures while he was away. He points to

blown by wind was yet another color.”

Simile: pg 144 “Behind them, a portcullis had been raised halfway up, looking like teeth prepared to bite.”

Simile: pg 146 “It all appeared to my eyes and ears like a flock of crows screaming at one another in a crowded field of new-threshed wheat. No it was more like a dense forest, not of trees, but of people.”

Good description of town: pg 147-148

Very good character description of the lady at the tavern. Pg. 151
Crispin and she asks him if he is his or from some swamp. Bear tells her that God’s grace allowed him to find Crispin. She asks how they met and Bear tells her in an abandoned village. He tells her that Crispin left his village to find a grader world. She asks of his parents and Bear tells her. She wonders if anyone is looking for him, but Bear says that is another story and by the laws of this realm, he is fully bound to him, as his apprentice. She asks Crispin what his name is and where he is from. She says any friend of Bear’s is a friend of her’s. She makes mention that his name is a highborn name for such a lowly lad. They say that Crispin is from one of Lord Furnival’s holdings. She asks if they have heard that he has died about two weeks ago. Bear knew this information, but Crispin did not. Bear said that he knew from the black cloth and extra soldiers at the gates. The woman said that when great men die, there is always unrest. She said that he died from war wounds he earned at the French wars. She says to Bear that it will only encourage his enterprise. Bear tells her that it is not his enterprise. Bear asks who will succeed the lord. The woman tells them that there is no legal heirs, though there is rumors that there are some illegitimate ones. Lady Furnival has all of his property until some “bastard son, with an army at his back, makes a claim.” She doesn’t think that Lady Furnival will remarry, because she wants all the power. There was an awkward moment of silence; Bear was tense. This reminded Crispin of something Father Quinel had told him at confession: a moment of silence in the midst of talks means Death’s Angel is close at hand. Crispin shudders.

**Ch. 36:** The woman asks Bear to tell her all the things he has learned since he was last there. He asks her to fetch him the key to his room in the solar—the special one, so he can settle Crispin and then he will talk with her. Crispin goes up with him. They have to climb a couple flights of stairs, Crispin has never been in a home with multiple levels. Bear fluffed up his pallet. Crispin notices the smell of sweat and ale in the room. The room was closed up, with no fresh air. Crispin asks Bear if the building might fall down, because it is so high. Bear laughs and tells him no chance. Widow Daventry knocks on the door and brings in a bowl with meat in thick sauce and bread. Crispin was surprised that she gave it to him. Bear’s was downstairs. The woman goes back down. Crispin begins to eat as Bear puts his dagger on the table. Crispin asks if they will perform here. Bear says no, and that their time here was short. Bear goes to the wall and feels the wooden boards, under the pressure of his hands a slab of wood popped out from the wall. Bear tells him that it is a special room that his friends always gives him. It’s a hiding place, that will hold Bear and Crispin, if there’s a need. Crispin asks him if there will be a need, and Bear prays that there won’t be. Crispin asks him what he really does. Bear laughs and says that he is a fool because he should likely to be in Heaven before he dies. Crispin tells him that he doesn’t want to stay in the close, stinky room, but Bear tells him to stay...

**Foreshadow:**

The talk again about Crispin’s name, and the talk of “illegitimate ones.” Maybe Crispin is the rightful heir.

**What is Bear’s business?**

What is Bear’s business?

**Is Death’s Angel coming for one of them?**

Is Death’s Angel coming for one of them?

**Why has Bear needed to use the hiding place many times before?**

Why has Bear needed to use the hiding place many times before?

**Who would Bear need to hide from?**

Who would Bear need to hide from?

**Prediction:**

Crispin is going to get in trouble, or maybe even get caught, because he isn’t following Bear’s instructions.
in the room on his life. Bear leaves him and agrees not to lock the door. Crispin is disappointed, because he likes the town and wants to explore more. He has gotten the feeling that for the remaining of their stay in Great Wexly, Crispin was going to be in that room. Crispin decides he wants to sneak out and explore the town more. His plan was to be back before Bear even noticed. He takes Bear’s dagger from the table, hides it under his tunic and makes his way out of the tavern. He takes a back door, which leads to an alley that has an appalling stench (a place where privies were set over open ditches). Crispin holds his nose, shuts the door behind him, and races away.

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**Ch. 37:** It is mid-afternoon when Crispin is on the street of Great Wexly. He sees much going on. A crowd of children rushes by him yelling and laughing, so he runs after them. They turned all which ways, and then he lost them. He continues to ramble on looking at everything around him. He purchases some white bread from a street vendor with his penny. He leaves the main street and turns down some back ways. They were made of mud and dirt and smelled worse than the main street. These roads turned in all directions and at every turn Crispin could choose which way he wanted to continue on. Many people were on these streets as well. He found his way back to the main street again to find a woman riding sidesaddle dressed more beautifully than he had ever seen. It goes into great detail about her dress and those around her. There is a boy blaring notes from a horn every now and then in front of her. People stop, kneel, bow their head, or tip their hats to her. After she left, everything went on as normal, as if she hadn’t been there. Crispin turns to a boy and asks whom that was. The boy looks at him; surprised that he doesn’t know, and tells him it was Lady Furnival. Crispin turns to look after her, but she had already gone.

**Ch. 38:** Crispin wandered the streets all afternoon. He then came upon the town’s great square. It was a great open space, larger than Stromfords’s entire commons. He noticed two buildings. The first was the church, which was huge, and standing on its own, unlike the rest of the buildings that were right next to each other. The church was so beautiful, with huge towers on either side of it. Opposite the church, on the other side of the square was a large, stone building three stories high. The first level were big wooden doors which had bee set an open space, caged in with metal bars. The second level had four huge windows and a balcony. The third level had smaller windows. This building was between two other normal buildings. The great open space, in the middle of the square held crowds of people buying and selling goods. He had never seen most of the things being sold before. He wished he hadn’t spent his penny. He wanted to go in the church and pray. He saw soldiers guarding the place, but when he saw children go in, he went as well. When he walked in, he was amazed at the building. The ceilings were so high, it was hard to see them. A chorus of chant was heard, which Crispin thought sounded like the beating
of angels’ wings. He thought this must be paradise itself. Crispin fell to his knees. There were many people in the church praying and such, but he noticed one devout man kneeling, with his hands closed tightly. He was wearing a soldier’s outfit, but he looked familiar. After a while, the man began to look around, and Crispin noticed that it was John Aycliffe. He was also with many men that were dressed like the men that were with Lady Furnival. Before Crispin could think of something, John turned and looked right at him. Their eyes met, and John yelled “The boy, the wolf’s head! He’s here! Catch him!” Crispin ran as fast as he could, winding around the streets, not looking back. All he could think of was getting back to Bear. He ran for a long time, when a man leaped in front of him and cried, “Halt!” He prevented Crispin from passing.

**Ch. 39:** Crispin spun around to find another man behind him. Crispin puts his back against the wall and takes the dagger out that he had taken from Bear. He warns them to stay away and jumps at one man with a stick. The man slams the stick down on Crispin’s wrist, causing much pain, and he drops the dagger. The other man’s arms wrap around him. Crispin kicks and head butts until the grasp is loose. Head down, Crispin then charged straight at the man with the stick, catching him in the chest. The man fell back, and Crispin runs past him down the alley. He keeps running until he has lost everyone. He is frantic, because everything now looks the same and he can’t find his way around. He remembers that Bear had told him that the wall surrounded the entire city. Crispin decides he is going to walk in a straight line until he finds the wall, follow it until he sees the door out of the town. He remembers Bear told him to run away if anyone was after him. He sees fewer and fewer people around town. More and more people are going into their homes. The streets are becoming dark. He now realizes that the wall around the city is not one big, nice circle, it is serpentine. Then not too far away, he saw the gate in which, he thinks he and Bear entered in from. There are soldiers around it. He walks towards it to see the men closing the gate and locking it down. One soldier asked him if he wanted to leave, and Crispin told him yes. The man told him that it was now too late and the gate would open in the morning at Prime. He told him that he better leave, because the curfew has begun. It was now night and Crispin did not know where to go. He heard the sound of marching and leaped into a narrow alley and looked out. It was many soldiers calling to all those who were still out, that they had better get in doors. Crispin was praying he would somehow stumble over the Green Man. He heard running feet and fell against a wall. He could see them dressed in blue and gold livery, just the same as Lady Furnival’s group, but he recognized them as John’s men. He then remembered that some stranger in the forest had said that Aycliffe was Lady Furnival’s kin. He wanted to think this through, but ran down a very narrow alley. He saw someone lurching toward him, hooded with a lantern in hand.

**Will this man help or hurt Crispin?**

Is John Aycliffe going to be the new king? Is Crispin related to Aycliffe?
Crispin began to run in the opposite direction to hear, “Crispin! Stop!”

**Ch. 40:** Crispin was so terrified, so he stopped and turned around. The angry voice said, “Crispin, you stunted son of a scoundrel!” It was Bear. Bear asked him where he had been and that he had waited for him all day. Crispin tells him of his day and how the men attacked him and were after him. He tells Bear of how he remembers that Aycliffe was Lady Furnival’s kin and that she must have called for him to her home here in Great Wexly. Bear said that he was afraid of that, and Crispin wanted to know why he hadn’t told him. Bear said he wanted to avoid it all. The returned to Widow Daventry's inn. Crispin asks Bear, “You need to tell me what I should do…” then the widow came in the room and Bear put his hand up to silence him. She tells Bear that she is afraid that John Ball has just arrived. He gets Crispin to his room, with food and new clothes. The widow comes in and tells him that John is getting anxious. Bear tells her that he is coming. Crispin asks Bear if he will truly forgive him. Bear says that there is nothing to forgive and sometimes he forgets how little Crispin knows. Bear leaves the room and Crispin has no heart to question Bear after all he has done for him today.

**Ch. 41:** Crispin is sitting on the pallet eating his bread, he pulls out the cross of lead and begins to pray for his mother’s soul, his father’s soul, and Bear. He wonders who John Ball and wonders why Bear was hiding Crispin from him. He sneaks down the stairs to see John Ball, Bear, and the widow conversing. John Ball is dressed in brown robes and has tonsured hair, which meant he was a priest. This surprised Crispin because Bear has little faith in priests. He hears John Ball and Bear talking about rebellion. Bear talks a little bit about his travels and what he found out there. Bear says that they will have to wait until King Edward does which should be soon. The next successor to him could be the Duke of Lancaster, the most hated man in England, they believe this would help their cause. Conversely it could be the king’s grandson, Richard of Bordeaux, which is good as well because he is just a child, and even weaker. They are apparently speaking of an uprising in London. Bear asks why he thinks it is a good time for these parts right now. Ball responds by saying that since Lord Furnival was dead without any heirs the area was in confusion. Bear says that he has discovered something of great importance, regarding Lord Furnivals heirs. Crispin couldn’t hear any more, so he goes back up to his room. He knew Bear was engaged in some kind of rebellious activities, which was considered a hanging offense in his town (Stromford). He realizes that Bear isn’t just a juggler, he is some kind of spy. He goes back to his room and looks out the window. He sees a figure standing in the shadow of an overhanging building, watching where they are. He wants to tell Bear, but Bear has instructed him to stay in the room. Crispin then lies down and falls asleep.

**Ch. 42:** The next morning he awakes to
deafening bells. For a moment he thought the
day of judgment had arrived, but then he
remembers he is in Great Wexly with its many
churches. It is the feast of John the Baptist. He
turn to tell Bear about the man he saw last night,
but realizes that Bear is still asleep. To assume
himself he decides to pluck fleas from the pallet
and crush them between his fingers. He gets
bored, so he walks halfway down the steps to
see what is going on. The tavern is very
crowded with all types of people, both rich and
poor, there is a lot of drinking and eating going.
The entire place is very loud. The widow is the
loudest and the ringleader of it all. There are
pigs and dogs wondering around. He then
notices a young man enter and look around the
room. It was the one-eyed boy from the first
town they had performed in. He wondered if he
was in search of him or Bear. He went up to the
room to tell Bear, but he was still asleep. So he
goes down the stairs to stay on guard. He
feels like something dangerous was drawing
upon them. This reminded Crispin of Bear
catching unsuspecting birds, he had eerie feeling
that they were now those birds.

Ch. 43: Crispin was watching from the steps for
a while when the widow noticed him. She
didn’t call him by name, but told him that he
should be in the kitchen working. She took him
into the back room and asked where Bear was.
He told her asleep and she said that he shouldn’t
be seen. The kitchen was filled with food of all
sorts. She put him in charge of getting the pies
out of the oven and placing them on the shelves.
He drops one, can’t find a place to hide it, so he
eats it in a hurry, but the widow knows and tells
him not to eat anymore. He worked for awhile,
and then she came back in and told him to come
with her. The tavern was empty. The widow had
him gather up the empty tankards. As they
worked, she seemed to be thinking. She
told Crispin that he has a great master, and that he
should help him stay close to his true calling—
juggling and music, because if he didn’t things
could go much worse for the both of them.

Ch. 44: Bear finally comes down stairs to have
breakfast. He finds Crispin sweeping the floor,
and is pleased to find him working. He sends
Crispin to get the widow. She comes out and he
asks her if Crispin can stay the day with her, and
work off some of their debt to her, while he goes
and handles some business this morning. She
asks him if he is meeting with John Ball again,
but he won’t tell her, because she then has less
to deny he says. She agrees and leaves the
room. Crispin asks Bear if he can go with him,
and Bear tells him that he must stay indoors
today with the widow, because that is the most
safe thing for him to do. Crispin tells Bear that
he thinks the one-eyed young man is spying on
them. He tells him about the man following
them to the church, and listening about Father
Quinel’s death. Bear tells Crispin that he needs
to stay out of sight. Crispin also tells him about
the shadow of a man watching them the other
night. Bear then leaves, and Crispin follows him
to the front door. As Bear left, Crispin sees the
one-eyed man standing across the street with a
man dressed in blue and gold livery of Lord
Furnival’s house. The one-eyed man pointed in the direction that Bear went, and then glanced at Crispin, but he ducked just in time. Crispin runs out the back door, into the alley and began to run towards Bear. He had to warn him.

**Ch. 45:** Crispin followed Bear around alleys and down the road until he darted into a three-story building. Over the door hung an image of a boot. Crispin didn’t follow, because he thought Bear would be mad about him disobeying him again. He waited outside, and staying guard. He saw other men walk into the building, watching around to see if anyone saw them. Crispin then saw John Ball enter. Crispin knew this was Bear’s dangerous business now. He found a back way over a wall and through a garden to the back door of the building, so he could listen. He heard John Ball talking about men living freely and everyone should be equal to one another. He speaks of corrupt priests and bishops and how they should be expelled. Holy priests should take their place and have no rights or wealth above that of the common man. Crispin realizes that he was talking about how he (Crispin) had lived. Their business was a rebellion against the realm of England. Crispin goes to leave, but sees soldiers coming his way. He notices that the man leading the group was John Aycliffe, and by his side was none other than Ol’ ONE EYE!

**Ch. 46:** Crispin ducked away from them and realizes that they are heading toward the building where Bear and the group of men are. Crispin darts back to the place where he was eavesdropping, flings open the door and alerts Bear that the soldiers are coming. Everyone runs out of the house and escapes over the wall. Bear helped everyone over the wall, Crispin last. As Bear began to climb over the wall, the soldiers close in and catch him. Bear tells Crispin to run because the soldiers are looking for him. Crispin runs and drops into an alley to listen. He hears sounds of blows, screams, shouts, and then silence. Crispin runs back to where the soldiers were with Bear, and finds that the place has been abandoned and everything is torn up. A soldier sees Crispin and tells him to stop, but Crispin runs away. Crispin realizes that they have been trapped.

**Ch. 47:** Crispin runs through the town asking if they have seen a red-bearded man in the custody of soldiers. He is pointed in the direction Bear went. He catches up with Bear and the soldiers, and maintains a safe distance. He sees them enter the building across from the church in the great square. He asks someone what the building was, and he is told that it is the Furnival’s palace. He sees John Aycliffe looking from a second floor window, as if he were searching for Crispin. Crispin realizes that they had taken Bear to get to him. He makes his way back to the tavern, and goes up to his room to lie down and think before he tells the widow about what happened. He hears a crash downstairs, that shakes the entire house. He hears screams, and crashing, and violence downstairs. He leaps up and goes and hides in the hiding place in the wall at the moment men break into his room. He hears them say “he’s

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**Why do you think they want Crispin so bad?**
not hear either.” He waits until he hears them
leave and walks into the hallway and is able to
hear weeping downstairs.

**Ch. 48:** He goes downstairs to see the whole
tavern has been smashed to pieces. He sees the
widow crying on the floor. Her clothes were
torn and her hair is messed. She hears him and
turns around, but turns back quickly. Crispin
sees bruises on her face and some blood coming
out of her mouth. He asks her what happened, and
she explained that the soldiers from the palace
were looking for him and she tells him that they
will kill him if they catch him. Crispin tells her
about Bear being taken. She begins to cry again
and he tells her that he heard John Ball say that
they had been betrayed. She says to be leery of
those men. She didn’t think they knew about the
meeting, they just wanted Crispin. She tells
Crispin that he would have to leave, because it is
too dangerous for him now. She explains that
they will torture Bear to find out where he is.
She tells him that he should go to the hiding
place and stay there. He goes and waits in the
dark. While there he ponders all of the bad that
had happed all because of him.

**Ch. 49:** He was in there for a while, the widow
came and gave him some food. She tells them
that she had two husbands and seven children,
and none of them are alive. He asks her if she
can read and she tells him that she can a little.
He asks her to read the cross of iron. She tells
him that Bear had told her what it says: Crispin
son of Furnival. Bear had guessed that Crispin
was Lord Furnival’s son, based on what the
cross said. Lord Furnival became fond of Asta.
She was a young lady of his court who could
read and write. When he saw that she was
pregnant, he banished her to Stromford, with
orders that she wasn’t to be killed, but she
wasn’t allowed to leave. She says that Bear
didn’t tell him all of this because he wanted to
protect him, because royal blood was like
poison. She tells him that his mother was the
daughter of Lord Douglas, and Lord Furnival
became infatuated with her. Later it was
circulated that Asta had died. They said that
Crispin could take power so they want him dead.
The widow didn’t tell Bear the entire story of
Crispin’s mother, because he thought of Crispin
as his son and didn’t want to distance them. The
widow told him that Lord Furnival probably had
a lot of sons out of wedlock, so he isn’t the only
one. She told him that he had to get as far away
form Great Wexly as possible. She touches his
face and prays that the Lord protect him. With
that she leaves.

**Ch. 50:** He lays down in the hiding place and
begins to piece together things from that he
didn’t understand. He now realizes that it was
Lady Furnival that commanded Aycliffe to kill
him. He also realizes that Aycliffe killed Father
Quinel because he knew the truth about
Crispin’s bloodline. He feels bad that Bear has
been taken, and will probably be killed because
of him. Now that he knew who he was he
wasn’t sure what to do.

**Ch. 51:** For the remainder of the day, he pieces
together other parts of his life. He feels now that
he has claimed a life of his own. He realized

| 214-239 | **Ch. 49:** He was in there for a while, the widow
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form Great Wexly as possible. She touches his
face and prays that the Lord protect him. With
that she leaves. | What do you
think Crispin
means when
he says, “To be
a Furnival was
to be a part of
that bondage?” |

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Illumination pg. 238 |
that Bear had granted him freedom, which was something he had never had. He thinks that he has lived in bondage his entire life. He says to be a Furnival, was to be a part of that bondage. He decides that since Bear had freed him, he would now free bear even if it cost him his life.

**Ch. 52:** The widow comes to Crispin and tells him that she has found someone to help him escape tonight. The man knows a safe way over the walls so the won’t be seen. They will go after curfew. Bear spoke of Scotland, so the widow thought that would be a good idea. Crispin remembers that John Ball had told Bear to meet him at the White Stag tonight. Crispin asks her where the White Stag is. She tells him it is by the Western Gate. He doesn’t tell her anything about John Ball. Crispin goes to sleep for a little bit and the widow comes back and tells him that the man is here and that it is time. Crispin gathers all of his things, and tries to pay the widow for their stay, but she refuses. The man is small and has one shoulder higher than the other. The widow walks him to the door and the man tells him to follow him. As the man walked one foot dragged making a scraping sound. The moon was full and Crispin can’t decide whether this is good or bad. Crispin realizes that he might not ever see the sun again.

**Ch. 53:** Crispin asks his guide to take him to the White Stag Tavern instead of the wall. Crispin paid the man; he took him and left him at the tavern. Crispin knocks on the door, but no one comes. He then knocks harder and someone cracks the door to ask who it is. He tells him that he is Crispin, Bear’s apprentice. They let him in. The men are hiding their faces with cowls. He thinks that John Ball is the one that is speaking to him. Crispin tells them that Bear was taken when they all fled, and he wants them to help him save him. They don’t think they have a chance, and that they don’t want to be caught either. Crispin tells them that Bear saved their lives to help them over the wall when the soldiers were coming after them. He tells them that he just needs someone to guide him the square to Lord Furnival’s palace. They recommend against, in case they did take Bear to bait Crispin. Crispin tells them that he must try. A man comes forward and says that he will bring him close.

**Ch. 54:** They reached the square, and Crispin guide disappears. The moon is giving him some light. He looks at the palace where Bear is being held, trying to think of a way in. Bear was probably being kept in the dungeon. There were central doors at the lower level, but two soldiers guarded them. One of the soldiers looked asleep, and the other was pacing. Crispin recalled seeing John Aycliffe on the second story balcony. He thought that area might not be as guarded. He found the narrow area between the palace the building beside it. The alley was narrow enough for put his back on one side of the building, and his feet on the other. The area was not even large enough for a man to squeeze through, but he was just a boy. It was too dark to see, but he felt around and made his way up the wall. He swung around holding onto the stone carving of a lion, and made his way onto
the second level balcony, without being noticed. He walked down the hall, pushing doors open carefully to see what was around. He walked into one room where he found many daggers and swords. He took one dagger and moved toward the end of the entry hall, leaned forward to peer in, and gasped.

**Ch. 55:** Crispin walked into a massive room. This room was bigger than he had ever seen. He figured that this room was probably large enough to fit all of Stromford in. The room had beautifully decorated ceilings and walls. There was a giant fireplace, and paintings of saints all over. There was a long table in the room fill with litter from an eaten meal, probably by a lot of people. There was food and glasses all over. There were a number of doors in this room. One door had light coming from it. Crispin edged toward this room and peeked in. The room was much like a church. There was gold and jewels everywhere. At the far end, was an altar with a cross of gold and candles. There were pictures of saints all over. On the altar one image had been placed. It was a picture of Mary, with Lord Furnival kneeling at her feet. He recognized the face of his father; it was the same face he had seen in the stream that day Bear had made him clean himself up. His father looked so devout in the picture, but Crispin knew what a horrible overlord he really was. He realized now that he was not this man, he was who he had become, himself. He dropped to his knees and prayed to God. Crispin then hears a voice behind him say, “Who are you? What are you doing here?”

Crispin jumps to his feet to see John Aycliffe. Will John Aycliffe catch Crispin now? What will he do with Crispin? Does Crispin have a chance of saving Bear now?

**Ch. 56:** Aycliffe tells him that he is a filthy peasant, and a wolf’s head, and that he shouldn’t be allowed to be in the palace. Aycliffe refers to him as “Asta’s Son.” Crispin tell him that if he is intending to call the guards, then to tell them that Lord Funival’s son has arrived. He said that he is Crispin. Aycliffe doesn’t believe him but Crispin shows him the cross inscribed with “Crispin son of Furnival.” He tells him the whole story and that he knows where he was from, and that he knows that he killed Father Quinel. He recounts everything that is going on to Aycliffe. He tells him that he came for Bear and not for the throne. He promises that if he will let bear and him go then he will leave the city and he will never see him again. Aycliffe tells him he is a wolf’s head and he can kill him and then Aycliffe goes to leave the room. Crispin grabs the dagger, lunges at Aycliffe, knocks him to the ground, and presses the dagger to him throat. He tells him that if he calls the guards he will kill him. Crispin draws blood from his neck. Aycliffe then asks him if he will swear on that cross and the name of God that if he lets Bear and him go, that Crispin will never come and make a claim upon the house of Furnival, and give Aycliffe his cross. Crispin agrees to all of it, and that he will give Aycliffe the cross when he is out of the city. Crispin made Aycliffe swear upon God that he will allow Crispin and Bear to leave. They both swear and make their oaths. Crispin then tells Aycliffe to take him to Bear. Aycliffe got to his feet and told Crispin to follow him.
Ch. 57: Aycliffe took Crispin through the palace and down to the dungeon where Bear was kept. The soldiers seemed unsure, but because Aycliffe was with him, they did not question anything. They unlocked the room to where Bear was being kept. Crispin had to hunch down to get in the door. The room opened up to Bear held up by his wrists by ropes. Bear’s head was hanging down, he did not respond. Crispin called to him three times, with no response. Crispin drew his torch up to see Bear better. He could see how badly beaten Bear really was. He was bloody, barely clothed, and badly bruised. Crispin cut his bonds free, and Bear slumped to the floor. Crispin said that it was him. Bear says, “Crispin?” Crispin explains to him about how they are now free men and that he had to get up and leave with him. Bear is a little delusional, and thinks that Crispin was caught as well. Crispin gets Bear to understand and leave the room. Aycliffe and many of his men were standing there waiting on them with weapons. Crispin demands that they help Bear, and get him some water. The men do so, on Aycliffe’s agreement. Bear smacks the hands away, and yells for Crispin. They give Crispin the jug of water and Crispin gives it to Bear. They also give Bear some clothes upon Crispin’s demand. Aycliffe walks them out of the palace and down the road. Bear has to lean on Crispin’s shoulder to walk. Aycliffe demands for the cross, but Crispin says not until they are safe out of the city. Aycliffe gives Crispin looks of hatred. He yells at Aycliffe, asking if he should read the soldiers what his cross says. Aycliffe threatens to kill him and Bear right then. Crispin tells the soldiers that Aycliffe made a sacred vow on the cross. Aycliffe continues to take him to the city gates. Crispin runs to get Bear’s sack from beside the wall (he had to leave it in order to climb up the wall). They went slowly with the troop of soldiers and Aycliffe to the city gates. Crispin wonders if they will truly let him and Bear go.

Ch. 58: As they walked along the streets, many people stopped to watch. Crispin whispers to Bear that he has a dagger, and Bear tells him to give it to him. Bear hides it under his cloak. They got the city gates, and Aycliffe stands in front of them with a sword in one hand and a dagger in the other. Crispin yells to let them pass, but Aycliffe announces to all around that Crispin and Bear are traitors, and even though he made an oath, the boy is still a wolf’s head, so anyone can kill him. He offers a pound to anyone who will kill the boy. Bear calls him a coward and a traitor. Aycliffe says that he just wants Crispin, and the money could be Bear’s if he went ahead and killed him. Bear threw his cloak off. Crispin could see just how bloody Bear was. He could see the whip and burn marks all over his body, but the dagger was in his hand. The soldiers formed a circle around Crispin, Aycliffe, and Bear. Bear and Aycliffe begin to sword and dagger fight. The circle of soldiers now all held out their swords, making a wall of deadly spikes. Bear was tiring. Aycliffe knocked the dagger out of Bear’s hand. It feel to
the ground, and Aycliffe blocked Bear from retrieving it. Crispin yells that he has it, and Aycliffe turns toward him. When his back was to Bear, Bear hugged Aycliffe from behind, causing him to drop his sword. Bear picked up Aycliffe and flung him at his men, before they could move, Aycliffe was impaled by his own soldier’s swords. He fell to the ground, twitched, kicked, and then became still in a pool of his own blood. No one moved. Bear demanded that they let them by. They all move out of Bear and Crispin’s way. Crispin turns and leaves his cross of lead on Aycliffe’s bloody chest. They walked through the gates. Bear and Crispin embrace. Crispin takes Bear’s hat out of the sack, and places it on Bear’s head. Bear takes it off, and puts it on Crispin’s head. Bear then yells out, “I, Bear of York, do dub this boy, Crispin of Stromford, a full member of the guild of free men. In so being, he is free of all obligations save to his God.” Crispin takes out the recorder and starts to play. Bear begins to sing (not as well as before). Bear beat his drum while Crispin played as they walked forward on their journey. Crispin says that he is filled with more joy than he ever has before. He is eager to explore the world he does not know. He now knew the feeling of his newfound soul that lived in freedom. “And my name—I knew with all my heart—was Crispin.”

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<tr>
<th>Possible Culminating Activities:</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Create an illustrated map that follows Crispin’s travels, including Stromford, the abandoned town, Logecot, and Great Wexly. You could also have them write a brief summary of what happened at each destination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Write the first chapter of a story about what happens to Bear and Crispin after they leave great Wexly.</td>
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<td>- Work with a group to dramatize a scene from the novel.</td>
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<th>Where will Bear and Crispin go to next?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Will they meet more trouble from the house of Furnival?</td>
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