

# **The Perilous Gard Study Guide**

**The Perilous Gard by Elizabeth Marie Pope**

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## Plot Summary

Kate Sutton is living in the household of Princess Elizabeth with her sister, Alicia Sutton. The living conditions are near poverty levels, considering the opulence of life at court. Alicia writes to the Queen, complaining of the situation. Kate knows that the Queen will be furious, but when the reply comes, the Queen blames Kate for leading Alicia astray. Kate is sent to Perilous Gard, a castle fraught with myths and superstitions. She's under the care of Sir Geoffrey. Before she even arrives, Kate catches sight of the Lady in Green, who later turns out to be the leader of the Fairy Folk.

At the castle, Kate meets Sir Geoffrey's brother, Christopher, and is left in the charge of Master John when Sir Geoffrey leaves the castle. Kate quickly hears rumors of Sir Geoffrey's daughter, Cecily, who apparently drowned in a Holy Well located on the property. As she becomes better acquainted with Christopher, Kate learns that he was in charge of Cecily the day she went missing, and that he'd actually thrown a penny into the well and wished that Cecily was someone else's responsibility. Christopher is eaten with grief and returns to the castle only when Sir Geoffrey is around. When he's not there, Christopher lives in poverty in a leper's hut. Kate begins to hear rumors of the Fairy Folk taking children and adults to become slaves. There is also a requirement for the owners of the property to pay a "teind," which is a sacrifice required when the land or the people need healing. Christopher turns himself in to the Fairy Folk, willing to pay the teind in return for Cecily's release. Cecily is returned to the castle but Kate is taken hostage when it becomes evident that she knows about the Fairy Folk.

Sir Geoffrey receives a note sent by Kate outlining the story and the belief that Cecily is alive. He is on the way back while Kate and Christopher are being held hostage. Kate manages to help Christopher escape but when she recovers, she's in the house and Christopher is gone. Kate talks to Sir Geoffrey about the situation and he wants to find a way to eliminate all the Fairy Folk, fearing that they'll come after Cecily or Christopher. Kate assures Sir Geoffrey that the Fairy Folk will have scattered and won't be a problem in the future. Kate asks how Sir Geoffrey plans to counter the rumors that are certain to run rampant. Sir Geoffrey says that few people understand what really happened. He predicts that Randal will eventually sing a ballad about the Fairy Folk. Sir Geoffrey says people will believe that any stories told are just tall tales. When Christopher returns with Kate's father and sister, Kate believes that Alicia has won Christopher's heart. He soon corrects the misunderstanding, telling Kate that he loves her and plans to marry her. As the story comes to a close, Kate hears Randal singing a new song about the Fairy Folk, citing Kate's role in the situation.



# Chapters 1 and 2

## Chapters 1 and 2 Summary

In chapter one, "The True Sister," Kate Sutton is talking with her sister, Alicia. Alicia says that the Queen won't be angry over a letter Alicia wrote complaining of the living conditions for the Queen's sister, Princess Elizabeth. Alicia and Kate are ladies-in-waiting in Elizabeth's household and the house is always cold, with never enough coal to warm the entire establishment and never enough blankets to go around to all the members of the house. Kate knows that complaining to the Queen could be disastrous and that the Queen knows very well everything that goes on in the household, but Alicia believes that the Queen will rectify the situation once she's aware. Kate eventually convinces Alicia that she could be in trouble for writing the letter. Alicia says that if Kate is a "true sister," she'll claim to have written the letter, thereby exonerating Alicia from blame and sparing her the wrath of the Queen. Alicia doesn't say why it would be better for Kate to be punished but Kate refuses, saying she'll have to find some other way of declaring his sisterly loyalty to Alicia.

Just then, a servant walks in. Her name is Blanche Parry and she's been with the princess since childhood. Miss Parry says that Elizabeth is searching for Kate and Alicia, and orders that they join her downstairs immediately. Miss Parry says she doesn't know what's happening but says a messenger has arrived from London. Elizabeth reveals that the message is from the Queen and Alicia begins to cry, saying that she'd only been trying to help Elizabeth. Elizabeth responds that Alicia will be of no help if she's executed for her efforts. Elizabeth reads the Queen's message, which indicates that the Queen doesn't believe Alicia could possibly have come up with the letter on her own. Instead, the Queen believes that Kate must have written the letter or put the idea in Alicia's head to write the letter, and therefore fully blames Kate for the message. Alicia's first reaction is to say that she'd known that the Queen couldn't be angry at her, completely ignoring the fact that Kate is in trouble for Alicia's actions.

The letter goes on to say that Kate must be punished for her actions and the Queen says that Kate will be exiled into the custody of a man named Sir Geoffrey at an estate called Perilous Gard. Alicia comes to realize that Kate is being sent away and goes on a rampage, swearing that she'll insist that the Queen change her mind. Kate and the Princess quiet Alicia, telling her that Kate isn't being sent to be chained up in a dungeon and that any attempt they make to change the Queen's mind would make the situation worse. The teacher, Master Roger, says that he's heard tales of the estate through a friend who said there were so many stories he couldn't pay attention to all of them. The Princess asks what kind of stories and Master Roger becomes vague, eventually tapering off and telling the Princess that there's no need to bother her with the details.

In chapter two, Kate is on a horse headed to the estate with Sir Geoffrey. The journey has been tedious and she reflects that it's more so because there's no way for her to know how much farther they'll have to go. They are forced to stop when a cart



encounters difficulties, and Sir Geoffrey asks if she's alright. Her answer is formal and he urges that she be "plain" with him. She smiles and tells him that she wants a roof, a warm fire, dry clothing, a soft bed, and a roast chicken. She immediately fears that she might have been impertinent but he smiles back and tells her that they've already arrived on the property belonging to the estate, but that there's still some distance to cover. Just then they hear singing, and Kate notes that the singer has a good voice. Sir Geoffrey says that it's Randal, "the harper," who is a wandering minstrel. Sir Geoffrey calls out to Randal, who says that he's "looking for the way in." He says that he once knew the way but "they" took the knowledge away. He says that there are three ways, including through the tower, by the well and near a particular tree. Sir Geoffrey interrupts, telling Randal not to speak of that again. Randall hints that he's hungry but Sir Geoffrey tells him that Kate has the last of their food and urges that Randall go to the estate with them. Kate interrupts, giving Randall the rest of the bread and cheese she has, prompting him to thank her

Randall looks carefully at Kate. He then poses a question, asking that she be careful not to be lost "like the other girl." He says that some people say that girl went "of her own free will" but others believe she was "taken." Kate doesn't know what he's talking about and says there's a "breathless kind of pause" as she realizes that Sir Geoffrey is standing nearby and has his fists clenched. Kate sees a woman in the edge of the trees as they again begin the journey, but when she looks again, the woman is gone.

## Chapters 1 and 2 Analysis

The relationship between Kate and Alicia becomes evident from the opening pages of the book. Kate is not an ugly girl but fades in beauty next to Alicia. Alicia is accustomed to the attention and has come to believe that she's entitled to it. When Kate is berating Alicia for having written to the Queen, Alicia becomes defensive and pleads with Kate to stop. But when Kate doesn't, Alicia tells Kate not to "lurch," which essentially means to stand up straight. Kate, taller than Alicia, has apparently been admonished about this by her mother in the past and the admonition from Alicia is an effort to put Kate on the defensive in order to stop the argument. Alicia should know that she was wrong to take the action, but she tells Kate that there's no way the Queen will be angry at her - another indication that she believes she's entitled to admiration.

Randall begins to talk about the "way in" and refers to "they," but Sir Geoffrey interrupts, telling him to stop talking about it or he'll become ill again. It's not made clear for some time, but Randall is actually talking about a way of reaching the secret dwellings of the Fairy Folk. Kate doesn't understand what he's talking about and doesn't question it at the moment.

An interesting aspect of Kate's personality is seen when Randall thanks her profusely for the bread and cheese she gives him. Kate stiffens and is obviously uncomfortable with the attention. She admits to herself that she doesn't like it when people thank her. Kate sees it only as a little thing that she's done and doesn't realize that Randall probably doesn't experience a great deal of kindness.



# Chapters 3 and 4

## Chapters 3 and 4 Summary

In chapter three, Kate spends the next two miles of the journey trying to convince herself that the mysterious woman at the edge of the woods was nothing more than someone who lives nearby. Kate soon sees her again, wearing a green cloak, but is so tired that she has trouble thinking coherently. When she wakes the following day, she's in bed. She rises and takes stock of her surroundings, seeing that the courtyard is somewhat as Master Roger had described. She dresses and goes downstairs, where she finds that Sir Geoffrey is talking with several people. One of them is Old Dorothy, a household servant who worked for the family as the nurse of Sir Geoffrey's late wife. Another is Master John, who is the overseer of the estate. There's also a young man who Kate later learns is Sir Geoffrey's brother, Christopher. As soon as Sir Geoffrey leaves the room, Christopher leaves by a different door. Kate finds their lack of communication and their indifference toward each other odd, but no one else in the room seems to notice. Old Dorothy takes Kate for a tour and Kate realizes that the rooms are beautifully furnished, indicating that the estate is rich.

Kate begins sharing information with Kate and Kate listens, hoping that the old woman will satisfy her curiosity about the estate and its people. Sir John interrupts and it's obvious that he doesn't approve of Old Dorothy's gossiping. Sir Geoffrey tells Kate that she cannot send or receive letters and cannot leave the estate without his permission. He says that he's leaving for a time and that she'll answer to Master John.

In chapter four, Kate begins to settle into her life. She says that Master John and the other servants are all polite to her but that they effectively shut her out of all aspects of daily life, leaving her lonely and bored. Kate sees people constantly filing past the courtyard and questions Dorothy about it. She learns that there is a holy well nearby and that people go there on pilgrimages hoping to heal their ills, which range from heartache to physical ailments. Kate finds herself outdoors and notes that there's a gate open. She cautiously steps through expecting to be caught and forced back at any moment. Once she's outside the gate, she realizes that there's only a large gorge surrounded by high cliffs, meaning she's outside but still effectively cut off.

Kate finds her way to the holy well and is inside a cave. Kate is surprised to see Christopher there, this time dressed in a ragged shepherd's outfit. Christopher is obviously angry and accuses Kate of knowing what happened to Cecily. Kate denies having heard the name but eventually admits that Old Dorothy had said that Christopher killed Sir Geoffrey's child in order to gain the entire estate for himself. Christopher says that's a better story than what really happened, prompting Kate to ask what that is. Christopher says that he'll tell her what really happened, though Kate tries to tell him that she doesn't really want to know.



Christopher says that Sir Geoffrey married Anne Warden about five years earlier, though she was "sickly" and always afraid. Sir Geoffrey was obviously very much in love with Anne, who had died the previous year. Christopher says that Sir Geoffrey had returned to the estate with Cecily after Anne's death the previous year when Cecily was four. Christopher's sister, Linda, who lives in London, asked to bring Cecily up with her own children, but Sir Geoffrey couldn't bear to part with her. Christopher says that Cecily was heartbroken and demanded a great deal of attention. Christopher was often left in charge of her while Sir Geoffrey worked on the estate accounts. Christopher says that Cecily always wanted to play a game called "Cecily is lost", in which she would hide from Christopher. On this particular day, Christopher had wanted a little time away from Cecily and went to the well but Cecily sneaked away and followed. Christopher says he was so angry that he didn't acknowledge her. A short time later, she disappeared. Some believe she fell into the well, but Old Dorothy says Cecily was "taken by the well." Kate learns that Christopher stays in the leper's hut on the estate grounds, wearing rags and eating little, except when Sir Geoffrey returns. She suggests that he leave the place so that he doesn't have to spend all his time thinking about Cecily, but he doesn't give the idea any credence.

## Chapters 3 and 4 Analysis

Christopher tells Kate about the many people who travel to the holy well. He says that a person who throws in a penny will get good luck, but a person who throws in a larger amount of money will get a greater wish granted, such as healing. Christopher says that many of the people who travel to the well make regular trips, returning often and throwing all they have into the well. There's a discussion of how much a person would throw in and it's noted that poor people are more likely to throw their money into the well than the rich. It's an interesting concept and indicates the idea that the poor are more superstitious than the wealthy.

Christopher and Sir Geoffrey are brothers but are obviously not on good terms. Christopher feels guilty about Cecily's death but is unable to share that guilt with Sir Geoffrey. Christopher is punishing himself by remaining in the leper's hut, wearing ragged clothes and eating little while Sir Geoffrey is away. But when Sir Geoffrey returns, Christopher returns to the castle, dresses as a wealthy land owner and makes no effort to let Sir Geoffrey know that he's hurting over Cecily's death. Sir Geoffrey tries to stay away from the estate as much as possible and it's apparent that no one tells him of Christopher's actions when he's away.



# Chapters 5 and 6

## Chapters 5 and 6 Summary

In chapter six, Kate goes directly to the leper's hut, hoping to find Christopher there. He isn't, and she hopes that he hasn't seen her arrival and is avoiding her. Kate asks Christopher to tell her about Cecily's disappearance. He is angry, but she tells him what she knows about the lady in green and the Fairy Folk. She challenges him, asking if he hasn't ever wondered if there's some truth to the tales and whether Cecily might be alive somewhere. Just then they hear Randal singing a ballad and Christopher explains the story to Kate. Randal says that he manages to find his way back to the Fairy Folk some nights. He then tells the story about having been with the Fairy Folk and seeing a lot of gold, but waking and finding only the slipper of a shoe given to him by a golden haired girl. He has the slipper and Christopher's reaction indicates that he recognizes it as Cecily's.

Kate tells Christopher that it makes sense considering that Anne never tried to teach Sir Geoffrey about the Fairy Folk. Kate says that Sir Geoffrey hasn't kept up his role as caretaker of the estate and the estate has recently suffered a harvest failure. The two combined seem to indicate that Sir Geoffrey isn't willing to take care of the Fairy Folk. Christopher obviously realizes that the stories are true and that Cecily is actually being held hostage to ensure that the members of the castle household will meet the needs of the Fairy Folk. Christopher and Kate begin to discuss the time frame available for rescuing Cecily and how they might go about it. Based on Randal's songs, they believe that they have until All Hallows Eve to pay the dues in order to rescue Cecily. They worry that the timing in their world might not be the same as in the world of the Fairy Folk, but decide it's the only measurement they have.

Christopher tells Kate that she should return to the castle before Master John and Old Dorothy become suspicious about her absence. She agrees that she won't do anything to rouse suspicion and that she'll write a letter explaining everything to Sir Geoffrey, urging that he return to the estate as soon as possible. Christopher reminds Kate that Randal will take the letter but that she must keep her instructions very simple in order for him to remember them.

## Chapters 5 and 6 Analysis

Kate comes to realize that the situation involving Cecily's disappearance has to do with the Fairy Folk, the holy well and the relationship between the family in control of the estate and the Fairies. The family in control has always provided for the Fairy Folk, a fact that Sir Geoffrey was told but never understood. Kate suddenly realizes that this is what Old Dorothy meant when she was explaining about Sir Geoffrey's lack of understanding about the land. Sir Geoffrey hasn't kept up the support, which means that the Fairy Folk came to collect a child as payment. That child happened to be Cecily.



What's interesting is that Christopher hears Kate's explanation and immediately accepts it. He takes steps to turn himself over to the Fairy Folk in return for Cecily's release.



# Chapters 7 and 8

## Chapters 7 and 8 Summary

In chapter seven, Kate returns to the castle and finds that Old Dorothy is angry because she's muddy from her adventure at the river. Kate tries to explain that she'd helped rescue a little boy, but Old Dorothy continues to fuss, saying that it wouldn't matter if all the children from the village were drowned and that Kate has made more work for the servants. It takes a lot of food to feed the entire cast of servants and the cooks are required to offer everything to Kate before handing it off to the servants. This protocol is followed, even though Kate is the only one in the house other than the servants. It takes a long time for her to get through all the dishes being offered that night. When she finally finishes the meal, she sets out to find pen and paper. That's an equally difficult task because Kate isn't allowed to communicate with anyone and therefore can't ask for a pen and paper. She encounters Christopher, who tells her that she should give the letter to Randal when she finishes it. Kate realizes that Christopher has some plan in mind and pleads with him to tell her, but he refuses.

Kate follows Christopher as he leaves and finds that he's going to the holy well. He discovers her presence and demands that she hide and be quiet. She does and hears him call out to someone else. The other person turns out to be Master John. Kate watches as a creature appears and Christopher walks toward it. When the creature disappears into a cave, Kate is amazed to see it return seconds later with a little girl in its arms. Kate continues to watch as Christopher walks past her, following the creature. His face is a complete blank as he takes the little girl, places her in the arms of Master John, and returns to the mouth of the cave. When he's gone, Master John tells Kate to come out. When she doesn't immediately obey, he says that she must either come out of hiding or he'll send servants to get her.

When they arrive at the castle, Master John hands Cecily to Old Dorothy and orders that Kate go with him to another room. Old Dorothy immediately cries out that she has spoken ill of Christopher, believing him to have been responsible for Cecily's death, and that she retracts her words. Kate begins to question Master John as soon as they are alone and he says that Christopher is only being kept quiet for a short time, "until they can be sure of him." Master John insists that he's not one of the Fairy Folk who live in the well and that the "tiend," or payment due to them by the owners of the castle, has nothing to do with him. Master John is very mysterious, saying that he "supplies certain goods and certain services to certain people," and that he's paid for his efforts. Master John goes on to say that it's no different from a person who sells corn he's raised - that person doesn't ask what the person is going to do with the corn he's bought. Master John goes on to say that whatever deal Christopher made - his own life in return for Cecily's - is also none of his business. Kate points out that when Sir Geoffrey returns he'll find Cecily at the house and that it will be impossible for Master John to explain how she came to be returned. He counters, saying that Sir Geoffrey won't return for some time and that by then Cecily's stories will be nothing but confused ramblings of a



child. Master John says he'll have his own story, of Christopher's bribing of gypsies to take Cecily away, their return of the child and Christopher's decision to run away rather than face Sir Geoffrey. Master John says that he further hopes that when Sir Geoffrey hears the story he'll decide that he hates Perilous Gard and will leave, never to return. Kate takes several tactics, trying to persuade Master John that he's going to be caught in the lie, but he has an answer for each. He says that Sir Geoffrey wouldn't believe anything Old Dorothy tells him because she doesn't know the entire story, that the village people are ignorant, that Randal is mad, and that Master John is going to make sure Kate isn't around to tell Sir Geoffrey. Master John admits that it would seem strange for Kate and Christopher to disappear at the same time, especially since Master John was supposed to keep an eye on them. He says that he "and his associates" will consider how to handle this situation and that he'll return as soon as there's a decision.

In chapter eight, Kate considers destroying the room in an effort to leave a clue as to her fate but knows that Master John would simply cover it up so that there was no sign of a struggle by the time Sir Geoffrey returns. Kate knows the door is locked but discovers an open window. She finds Randal is waiting outside as they'd previously arranged. She has the letter, written before her meeting with Christopher, and hands it through the window to Randal with the instructions that he's to take it to Sir Geoffrey. Randal is immediately confused, pointing out that Kate isn't at the window in her own room. Kate tries to keep him on track, fearing that he'll forget his mission if he has other things to think about. Just then Master John returns. When he steps into the room, he drops to one knee and the Lady in Green passes by him. Kate takes note of the woman's regal bearing and realizes that she's accustomed to making decisions and being in command. Master John says that he'd prefer that Kate were killed but the woman says the Fairy Folk keep some women captive under the hill to be servants. The woman says she believes Kate could be trained to serve that purpose.

She offers Kate a drug saying that the drug will help Kate accept her fate. Kate declines. The Lady in Green says that Kate will not be able to withstand the servitude without the drug. Kate says she would prefer to wait until there's a need for it. Kate follows without argument as they descend into the cave. She's blindfolded. The Lady in Green lets Kate hold to her cape in order to keep up. Kate focuses on counting the steps and turns so that she'll be able to eventually find her way out. Then she's warned that the path becomes slippery and isn't able to focus on anything but keeping her balance. By the time they're past that section and the walking is easier, Kate is hopelessly lost. They eventually stop and the Lady in Green tells Kate to go to sleep. Kate asks to remove her blindfold and is given permission but finds that it's so dark that she can't see anything at all, even without it. Kate believes that she's being forced to lie down on the floor with animals - probably pigs by the sound of it - but discovers that it's actually some other women and that they're sleeping on velvet bedding. Kate knows that she's going to have to work on an escape plan but is too tired to do anything more and gives in to sleep.



## Chapters 7 and 8 Analysis

Old Dorothy's comment about being better off if all the children of the village were drowned is an example of her prejudice. This attitude is reasonably common among servants of wealthy households toward the poor people of the region. Old Dorothy and the other servants are never hungry. While they are all very poor, the majority of them have much easier lives than the people of the village who work very hard just to make ends meet with no guarantees that they'll have enough food for the coming year. The servants of many of these households felt they were better than the poor people.

Master John tells Kate that he believes Sir Geoffrey will leave Perilous Gard after hearing the story that Christopher had arranged Cecily's disappearance and that he'd run away. He qualifies this belief by saying that Sir Geoffrey and Christopher are close and that Christopher's betrayal will be hurtful so that Sir Geoffrey never again wants to return. When Kate hears this, she says that - following that logic - Christopher should be so hurt by Cecily's disappearance that he wanted to leave the estate and never return. Master John says that Christopher has remained in order to punish himself. In fact, a great many of Christopher's actions seem to be his way of punishing himself. He remains in the leper's hut when the family has a huge castle, and he eats little when there's plenty of food available. The point is that Christopher is punishing himself in an effort to ease his guilt over what he believes to be his role in Cecily's death.



# Chapter 9 and 10

## Chapter 9 and 10 Summary

In chapter nine, Kate wakes when someone shines a light in her eyes and asks if it's morning but is told that there isn't any attention paid to morning or night. There are other girls in the room where Kate has been sleeping and she introduces herself. The girls, obviously drugged, have no interest and are not in the least curious about her. The girl who is a member of the Fairy Folk and is responsible for waking Kate says that there's no need for Kate to know the names of any of the Fairy Folk, but gives in to Kate's questions and says that Kate can call her "Gwenhyfara" if she simply has to have a name. Gwenhyfara directs Kate to a chest where she finds clean linens, soap and other supplies.

The other women who are human servants are obviously agitated after they wake. Once they reach a great hall, under Gwenhyfara's direction, they rush to the Lady in Green. She gives each of them a drink from a cup and talks quietly to them. After a moment, each is calm and graceful. There are thirteen women in the room, all members of the Fairy Folk and all dressed in green. Kate learns that the other women are Joan, Marian and Betty. The three do their chores then sleep with no interest in anything else. Gwenhyfara shows Kate what's expected of her, leading her to a place where she's to wash the dishes used for the meal. When they've finished their chores, including scrubbing the walls and floors, Gwenhyfara leads the four back to their chamber. By the time they are making that trip, the three women under the influence of the drugs are yawning and obviously fighting sleep. Gwenhyfara tells Kate to undress and go to bed. Kate asks when they'll be awakened and Gwenhyfara says that she'll come get Kate when she's needed again. Until then, she's expected to simply go to sleep. It's only just before she leaves that Gwenhyfara reveals that the humans feel the weight of the mountain above them as a physical fear. Kate feels it during the night and is frightened but remains firm in her commitment not to be drugged in order to withstand it. The following day, Gwenhyfara says that the Fairy Folk can endure the weight without fear because they are in tune with nature.

Kate eventually comes to realize that there's a pattern to the times she's called on by the Fairy Folk for work. With that in mind, she slips away from her room during the time she knows she won't be needed. Kate finds her way along the passage, being certain to listen as she advances. She hears Christopher's voice, whispering out for help. She finds her way to him and announces her presence. He isn't happy to find her there.

In chapter ten, Kate is angry that Christopher isn't happy to see her, but Christopher says that it's because he doesn't want her to be also help captive in this horrible place. Christopher shares some of his information with her but she knows that he's holding back some of the details. Christopher says that he's basically to fulfill an old role in the tribe and will be killed on All Hallows Eve. He reminds Kate that Randal is probably on his way to see Sir Geoffrey so there's still some hope. Kate promises to return but



Christopher asks what risk she's taking in order to make the visit. She assures him that she'll manage.

Later, Kate has a bout of bearing the weight during her chores in the great hall where the Fairy Folk are gathered. She has trouble staying on her feet but does withstand it. The Lady in Green realizes what's happening and urges Kate to reconsider the use of the drug, saying that it would ease Kate's fears. She says that she knows Kate is hoping to be rescued but that it won't happen. The Lady in Green says that she'll kill every mortal in the caves before she allows them to be rescued. Kate assures the Lady in Green that she's not suffering from the weight but has only been momentarily clumsy. The Lady gives in, accepting that explanation though she tells Kate that the drug makes the other women graceful and that Kate's acceptance of the drug would make it easier on everyone and create fewer distractions in the hall. The issue is again allowed to remain unresolved though the Lady says that Gwenhyfara will teach Kate to move more gracefully.

Kate relates this new development to Christopher when she talks to him that night. As they talk, Christopher reveals his dream of establishing a farm on some family property that's largely swamp land. He believes that ditching and draining could make the property fit his plans. The next day Gwenhyfara begins Kate's lessons. The next night, Kate has Christopher pick up with the stories of his plans. He tells Kate that the house is something of a "wreck." Kate immediately seizes the topic, asking Christopher how he'll fix the house. When he seems perplexed, she points out that he can't spend all his time outside on the land. Every time they are together, they continue to build on the plans, adding details and figuring how to make the various components fit together.

One night Kate laughingly says that she has become less of a workhorse in Gwenhyfara's eyes and more like a dog that might be trained to be of use. The comment makes Christopher angry and they share a heated exchange before they turn the conversation back to what they would do if they had the opportunity to build a life on the property Christopher dreams of cultivating.

## Chapter 9 and 10 Analysis

At one point during her first day in the cave, Kate asks Gwenhyfara for a candle. Gwenhyfara says there's no need for her to have a candle and refuses. It's obvious that Kate simply doesn't want to be left in the darkness that's so complete that she can see nothing. The other girls don't care because they simply sleep until they're called again. But about this same time Kate comes to realize that they're very deep in the mountain. The ceiling above her looks like a giant rock and Kate can't get that image out of her mind. She is fearful of the idea of the rock over her head. This could be symbolic of Kate's fear of the situation and her inability to do anything about it or to control it.

Kate's refusal to give in to the offer of drugs - referred to as "easing" - is at least partly because she feels it's the only thing she has a choice about. She knows that she has no



options with regard to her situation yet but that she can remain alert by refusing the drug.

One night Kate and Christopher are talking easily together when Kate says that she's "coming up" in the world of the Fairy folk. She says that Gwenhyfara had treated her like a "workhorse" initially but had recently suggested that she would ask the Lady in Green for permission to teach Kate to speak properly. Kate says this means that she's no longer a workhorse but has now become a dog that could be trained to do tricks. Kate is kidding, but Christopher immediately becomes angry, almost irrationally so. He seems to believe that Kate has forgotten that they are prisoners and that their fates are questionable. In truth, Kate so greatly enjoys her time with Christopher that she hadn't considered how her comment might sound.



# Chapter 11 through 13

## Chapter 11 through 13 Summary

In chapter eleven, Christopher and Kate are talking about their plans for the property when the conversation turns to a particular piece of land that used only by the villagers. In Kate's opinion, that land could be better utilized but Christopher says that a poor person is much more dependent on the few resources available, which turns the conversation to the rights of privileges of individuals, in this case the people of the village. Suddenly, Christopher stops the conversation, saying he'd heard voices. Kate soon hears it as well and realizes that it's children singing. Kate rushes back toward the room where she sleeps, but young Fairy Folk catch up with her long before she can get inside. She expects to be chastised but the young boy in the lead - a young man she'd see playing for the gatherings - is laughing and tells her to hurry and join them. She's caught up in the rush of young people and suddenly finds herself stepping through a waterfall and into the open air. Kate says that the suddenness of the change is a shock and that she feels the weight of the mountain being lifted from her shoulders. She is handed a cup and drinks, noting the sweet taste of flowers and spice, and then she joins as the group is singing. The rhythm is fast and furious and Kate is participating, then she wakes in the room with the other mortal women and Gwenhyfara is waking them.

That night Kate tries to tell Christopher about it. He believes that the drink must have affected her, but she doesn't believe that. She points out that the others drank from the same cup and tries to explain that it was more about being outside, but her explanation falls short of what she's trying to convey. Kate thinks back to her time outside and says that she believes more time has passed than they'd thought because of the falling leaves.

The next day Kate is going through her exercises with Gwenhyfara when she suddenly realizes that the cross given to her by the village woman is wearing through the ribbon. Kate knows that she'll be in trouble for wearing the cross but also knows that she's in danger of exposing it to Gwenhyfara. Just then there's a knock and the door and the Lady in Green comes in. She tells Kate that she's pleased with Kate's performance and that she's proven she can live as one of the Fairy Folk. Toward that end, she's to be adopted into the family. The Lady in Green says that Kate will be taught herb lore and to talk and act as the Fairy Folk. Kate is astonished, but then the Lady in Green says that Kate will also be allowed to have a light, will no longer live with the mortal women and will be taught to recognize the signs in the passages. Kate's attention is caught by that.

The Lady in Green then says that Kate has a great deal more to learn and that she'll understand more about the Fairy Folk once she's seen the teind paid. The teind is the payment landlords make to the Fairy Folk, and in this case it will be paid with Christopher's life. Kate uses the opportunity to see how long it will be before that occurs. She hopes it will happen in a week or a month, but the Lady in Green says it will happen





that night. The Lady in Green says life is the only way for the Fairy Folk to gain strength. Kate argues that there's got to be another way, but the Lady says that isn't true. Kate asks to speak to Christopher but the Lady in Green refuses, saying that Kate will try to claim Christopher. Kate argues that she doesn't know how to "claim" him, but the Lady in Green says that Kate is bound to have heard Randal's song, and that the answer lies in the lyrics. She says that she won't allow Kate to see the teind paid for the same reason. The Lady in Green tries to hypnotize Kate and Kate pretends to fall under the spell, going to bed as ordered. Once she's alone, she rushes to the place Christopher has been held and calls his name, but he doesn't answer.

In chapter twelve, Kate remembers that there are candles on the wall in the great hall and goes there so that she'll have a light. Kate finds her way to the waterfall and into the glade. There, she encounters Randal and learns that it's only about ten at night, giving her a couple of hours before Christopher is to be sacrificed. Randal says that he'd relayed the letter to Sir Geoffrey and that they'd ridden fast back to the castle. Someone had stretched a rope across the path and Sir Geoffrey's horse had fallen. Randal says that Sir Geoffrey had struck his head but doesn't know what his condition is.

Kate says she wants to go to the village and Randal agrees to show her the way. He soon tells her that she should go to the castle instead. He says that he'd noted immediately that she carries herself now like a member of the Fairy Folk and that the village people will also see it, meaning they'll close their doors to Kate. Randal tells Kate that the people of the castle are in an "enchanted" sleep. When they reach the castle, Kate discovers that all the servants are asleep and can't be roused. She realizes that it's Master John's way of ensuring that no one learns of the paying of the teind. The Fairy Folk begin to arrive, and Master John is with them as they begin to gather. Just then there's the sound of more horses and Kate sees Christopher riding into the glade. Kate knows from her talks with Christopher that he is to be accepting of the payment he's about to make. Kate believes this means he'll be drugged but discovers that it's more like he's alert but willing to accept his fate.

Kate takes a new tact, trying to reach through Christopher's haze. She asks what he's planning to do about a specific section of the manor, referring to the property they've talked about so many evenings. The keeper of the well intervenes, saying that the life of a farmer is not a good life. There's a reference to Christopher as a "god" and she intervenes, saying that he doesn't look like a god to her. He's suddenly shaken from his reverie and turns his attention on her. He says that she's in danger and promises to hold off the Fairy Folk while she runs away. The immediate reaction from the Fairy Folk is one of enraged dismay because they know that Christopher is no longer quietly willing to pay the teind. Christopher reaches out to grab Kate just as the sound of horses heralds the arrival of Sir Geoffrey.

In chapter thirteen, Kate wakes to find that she's in bed in the castle. Old Dorothy is tending her and says that Sir Geoffrey has left instructions that Kate is to remain in bed all day. Old Dorothy also says that Christopher has gone to London and that Master John is gone. Kate says that she wants to get dressed and Old Dorothy helps her. Kate finds Sir Geoffrey and he says that Christopher has taken Cecily to her aunt's home. Sir



Geoffrey fears that the Fairy Folk will retaliate against them, coming after either Christopher or Cecily. Kate assures him that this won't be the case. She says that Christopher paid the teind for Cecily, meaning Cecily is off limits, and that Kate had claimed Christopher, meaning Christopher is off limits as well.

Sir Geoffrey then explains what happened after Kate swooned. He says that the Fairy Folk flooded the well after Sir Geoffrey and his men arrived. He shows Kate the meadow, which is now flooded. The well is destroyed and Sir Geoffrey says pilgrims have been upset at that development. Kate also explains that she'd learned that there were few of the Fairy Folk around, meaning the group from Perilous Gard would have no option but to disband. Sir Geoffrey isn't so sure, but Kate eventually convinces him that there's nothing to fear from the Fairy Folk.

Kate says that there are many people who know about the situation, and that rumors will soon spread. Sir Geoffrey responds that there have always been rumors and that the Perilous Gard can withstand some more. He says that Master John, upon realizing that Sir Geoffrey was aware of the situation, has fled. Many of the soldiers with Sir Geoffrey believe that Master John stole Cecily away in order to create problems between Sir Geoffrey and Christopher. Sir Geoffrey predicts that soon people will tell some version of what really happened and that it will become just one more story about the castle.

Sir Geoffrey says that Christopher will soon return from London, but weeks pass without his arrival. One day Kate is called downstairs and finds her father, Sir Thomas Sutton. He says that the Queen has died, leaving Lady Elizabeth as ruler, and that Kate has been given permission to return to court. Just then Alicia walks into the room with Christopher. Kate quickly believes that Christopher has fallen in love with Alicia, who hints at an upcoming betrothal. Alicia also tells Kate that Christopher has sold the golden ornaments he was wearing when the Fairy Folk were about to collect the teind and has bought property near Sir Geoffrey's home with the money. Kate prepares herself to be happy for her sister. Later, Kate is alone outside when the Lady in Green, disguised as a gypsy, arrives. She pleads with Kate to ask Sir Geoffrey to spare the dancing tree when he begins cutting trees in the forest. Kate agrees and the Lady in Green says that she'll do a favor for Kate in return. She offers Kate a shriveled berry and says that Kate should put it in Christopher's wine at supper, and that it will make him love Kate instead of Alicia. Kate declines.

After the Lady in Green has left, Christopher arrives and urges Kate indoors. There she reveals that Alicia has already told her about his plans to purchase the property. Christopher responds that Alicia has probably also shared the news of the engagement ring, the wedding and Kate's dowry. Kate questions what her dowry has to do with his marriage to Alicia. Christopher responds that he's not in love with Alicia, but with Kate, and that he wants to marry Kate. As Kate and Christopher reenter the main living areas, they find Randal there. He's singing a song that is obviously something he's just made up. The song includes a reference to the women of the Fairy Folk, to Kate's presence among them, and that the well is no longer available as an entrance to the land of the



Fairy Folk. Kate realizes that Sir Geoffrey is right, and that it will soon be passed off as nothing more than a tale to be retold.

## Chapter 11 through 13 Analysis

The teind is referenced several times but it's not really fully explained. It seems to be a very superstitious belief that prompts the idea of the teind. The Lady in Green says that the teind provides relief when the "land or the people are weak and in need." Kate noted earlier that there had been difficult years on the estate. This payment is a central theme in the story.

The Lady in Green says that there are not many Fairy Folk in the world and that the group living at Perilous Gard is among the only large groups remaining. It seems that the willingness of Master John to continue supporting the Fairy Folk and the large number of people who throw money into the well are the reasons that group remains established.

It's soon evident that Christopher has been brainwashed to believe that no one cares for him and that he's accomplishing an act that will provide peace and freedom if he chooses to die. It seems that he must choose this fate and that he's willing to do so. When Kate "claims" him, the keeper of the well reminds Christopher that no one really cares about him. When Kate says that Sir Geoffrey will soon arrive, having received word weeks ago about the situation, the keeper tells Christopher to think about that. He says that if Sir Geoffrey had been notified weeks earlier, he'd have had ample time to arrive. The keeper uses that time frame to convince Christopher that Sir Geoffrey isn't going to intervene because he doesn't care about Christopher.



# Characters

## Christopher Heron

Christopher is the younger brother of Sir Geoffrey who becomes Kate's guardian after Kate is exiled. Christopher is, in many ways, like his brother, though he is living under the weight of guilt when he first meets Kate. Christopher believes he is responsible for the disappearance and apparent death of his niece, Cecily. He tells Kate that Cecily had desperately needed the fulltime attention of both Christopher and Sir Geoffrey after the death of her mother. He describes spending time with the child in an attempt to comfort her, but on a particular day she followed him away from the castle and he turned his back on her, wanting only a little time to himself. Cecily disappeared during those moments and Christopher is unable to see that his desire to be alone for a few moments was a human emotion rather than a selfish one. Christopher's relationship with his brother is such that he refuses to allow Sir Geoffrey to see him living in his self-imposed poverty. Whenever Sir Geoffrey is around, Christopher pretends there's nothing wrong, but acts aloof and indifferent. It's while he's held captive that Christopher falls in love with Kate. When Kate suggests that Christopher might be in love with Alicia, he dismisses the idea as ridiculous because Alicia is empty-headed and silly.

## Master John

The overseer of the Perilous Gard, Master John's involved with the Fairy Folk and offers up food to them. Though he seems welcoming, Kate takes an instant dislike to him and is upset when Sir Geoffrey leaves Master John in charge of Kate's actions. It is eventually revealed that Master John has been in constant contact with the Fairy Folk, supporting them and arranging for them to have whatever they need. He runs away after Sir Geoffrey discovers the truth.

## Randal

A simple-minded young minstrel, he's first introduced to Kate on the trail to Perilous Gard. He is musical and moves around the region at will. He tells stories of the Fairy Folk, but most people believe the stories to be figments of his imagination. Kate calls on Randall to take a message to Sir Geoffrey after she's taken hostage.

## Old Dorothy

A servant in the household of the Perilous Gard, she obviously doesn't like Sir Geoffrey and is willing to share a great deal of gossip with Kate until Master John orders that she stop. She is a long-time member of the household and is somewhat prideful because the fact that she has been involved with the family for so long.



## Sir Geoffrey

The man who is ordered by the Queen to take charge of Kate after her exile from Lady Elizabeth's household. He is a somber man, probably more so because of the death of his wife and the disappearance of his daughter. It's noted that he takes little interest in Perilous Gard and doesn't particularly care to oversee the property.

## Alicia

Kate's sister, Alecia, is beautiful and spoiled. It's Alicia's actions that prompt Queen Mary to send Kate to Perilous Gard. Alicia is so self-centered that all she can think when she learns of the Queen's anger against Kate is that the Queen isn't angry at Alicia.

## Lady Elizabeth

A princess as the story opens, she is living in something akin to poverty, considering her rank. Lady Elizabeth is upset when she learns that Alicia has contacted the Queen, complaining of the situation, even though she knows Alicia's motives were pure. She is elevated to Queen upon the death of the Queen.

## Lady in Green

Leader of the Fairy Folk, she's dressed in Green and is mysterious and graceful. She is obviously accustomed to being in charge and demands acceptance. She offers Kate a drug that will make her enslavement easier, but Kate declines.

## Gwenhyfara

The member of the Fairy Folk who comes to get Kate on Kate's first morning in the Fairy Folk world. Gwenhyfara tells Kate that there's no need for Kate to know her name but gives in, saying that Kate can call her Gwenhyfara if she simply believes she has to have a name for her.



## Objects/Places

### Perilous Gard

The name of the remote castle where Kate Sutton is sent by Queen Mary.

### Elvenwood Hall

Another name for the Perilous Gard, it refers to the overall community that makes up the household.

### The Leper's Hut

The leper's hut is the small shack where Christopher stays when his brother is not in residence at the castle.

### Norfolk

Norfolk is where Sir Geoffrey is going when he leaves Perilous Gard.

### The Holy Well

The holy well is a well near the Perilous Gard where pilgrims often go in search of healing. It's also the opening for the caverns of the Fairy Folk.

### The Fairy Folk

The Fairy Folk are believed by some to be a mythical group of people, but others believe them to be real. Kate is captured by the Fairy Folk and held in underground caverns. They are also called the People of the Hill.

### A Great Hall in the Cavern

The main room where the Fairy Folk go for their meals and other gatherings. It's here that Kate sees the other human servants being given drugs to keep them calm.

### All Hallows Eve

The date Christopher and Kate believe to be the deadline for rescuing Cecily from the Fairy Folk.



## **The Teind**

A payment expected from the landlords of the property whenever the land or the people need healing.

## **Green**

The color of the clothing of the Fairy Folk. The color could be considered symbolic of renewed beginnings.



# Themes

## The Effects of Myths and Superstitions

The effects of myths and superstitions are seen throughout the story. While there is some truth to at least some of the myths, the myth itself is powerful. For example, Kate tries to visit in the village but isn't welcomed. It's only later that she learns that people are reluctant to befriend anyone associated with the castle for fear that the stories are true. Kate sees this up close when the village woman accuses Kate of taking her son only to discover that he'd actually fallen in the river. The woman realizes that Kate is nothing to be feared and gives her a necklace that will keep her safe from the beings that are believed to haunt the castle. Many pilgrims visit the holy well near the castle and throw in money that they hope will appease the gods who live there. They hope that the gods in the well will then provide peace, solace and healing. It's noted that the poorer people are more likely to spend everything they have. An interesting point is that Kate becomes aware of the stories of the Fairy Folk who live under the well and she believes that it means Cecily might be alive. When Kate is talking with Master John about the situation, she points out that people are going to figure out about the Fairy Folk. Master John says that it doesn't matter because no one who matters will tell the stories. As the book comes to a conclusion, Kate asks Sir Geoffrey how he plans to keep the stories from becoming public knowledge. He responds that it will be discounted as a tall tale that is nothing more than a myth.

## The Power of Love

The power of love is seen when Kate and Christopher save each other during their captivity. Kate manages to find her way to Christopher and remains with him throughout many of the hours she is supposed to be sleeping. Christopher is initially angry at Kate's presence because he has already come to care for her and doesn't want her to be a prisoner. They begin to talk about property Christopher wants to establish and spend hours discussing how to develop the property to best utilize the land and resources. This time together is what causes them to fall in love. When Kate learns that the time for Christopher to pay the teind, her love for him is evident to the Lady in Green. When Christopher is on the verge of being sacrificed, Kate attempts to reach him by reminding him of this imaginary life they've built together. It's enough and foils the plans of the Fairy Folk. There are other instances of this theme. It's seen in the relationship between Kate and Alicia. Alicia causes problems for Kate, but Kate's love for her sister is so strong that she doesn't hate Alicia for it. Kate's love for Alicia is seen again when she believes that Alicia has stolen Christopher's affection. Another example of this theme is seen in Christopher's love for Cecily. He feels so guilty over her disappearance that he lives in poverty as a way of living with the guilt.





## The Rituals of the Fairy Folk

The way the Fairy Folk live is a recurring theme throughout the story and it drives a great deal of the action. The paying of the teind is an important part of their lives. This happens, according to the Lady in Green, whenever the people or the land needs healing. There had been a storm and the people face a ruined harvest, which apparently prompts the need for the teind. The Fairy Folk have lived with this ritual for generations and the teind had always been honored by the owners of the castle. However, when Sir Geoffrey inherits the property, he doesn't know about the teind or the rituals of the Fairy Folk, and therefore doesn't make arrangements to meet their needs. This prompts their kidnapping of Cecily and later of Christopher and Kate. While Kate is in captivity, she learns a great deal about the ways of the Fairy Folk. She learns to walk and talk as they do, changes that are evident to those who knew her upon her return to the castle. The rituals of the Fairy Folk include a way for someone to claim the person destined to pay the teind. When Kate realizes this, she claims Christopher. The Fairy Folk live in caves underground and reveal to Kate that most of the groups have been eliminated so that there are only small groups remaining. The mortals who live with them are generally overwhelmed by the "weight" of living underground. Kate learns that most mortals accept drugs that make it easier to withstand this weight. Kate refuses the drugs. She is invited by the Lady in Green to live with the Fairy Folk as one of them because of her ability to live with them without drugs.



# Style

## Point of View

The story is written in third person but is limited to Kate's perspective. This method is probably necessary because it gives the author the ability to build suspense and to keep specific facts secret until the moment of revealing. A prime example of this is seen when Kate meets Christopher for the first time. Kate's attention is captured by Christopher's aloof manner and his dress. It seems that he pays a great deal of attention to style and that he couldn't care less what others think of him. In reality, he's punishing himself for what he believes to be his role in the death of his niece. Christopher's aloof manner appears more openly when his brother is present and at other times, Christopher leaves the castle and lives in near-abject poverty, a method of punishing himself for the moment he believes cost the life of his niece. Time passes before Kate discovers these facts and the reader only learns these things about Christopher as Kate learns them. If the author had chosen an omniscient perspective, the reader would have known of Christopher's attitude much earlier and the surprise twist of this situation would have been lost. The same is true of Master John's actions and his role in the Fairy Folk. Kate doesn't like Master John from the beginning and he takes on the aura of an evil character early in the book but the reader doesn't learn the truth about Master John's role in the situation until Kate learns the details. Again, the surprise would have been lost by some other perspective.

## Setting

The story is set in England with several distinctive settings. The story opens with Kate and her sister serving as ladies-in-waiting for Elizabeth, who is a princess but will later ascend to the throne. This setting is described only by the details necessary to help the reader understand the story. The setting then switches to Perilous Gard, a castle also known as Elvenwood. It seems that the setting is chosen by Queen Mary because of its isolation. The castle and nearby village become secondary settings to the Holy Well, a place visited by those seeking the healing powers of the water. Another setting is the leper's hut where Christopher spends a great deal of time. The final and most important setting of the story is the web of caverns where Kate and Christopher are held hostage. These caverns are described to a great degree though much of the time Kate is held in darkness, unable to see anything around her. Mary Tudor was Queen of England during the 1500s and it seems reasonable that this is the time setting for the story. There are no modern conveniences and Kate's group travels by horseback to Perilous Gard. The settings are believable, at least partly because the overall setting of England during the 1500s is real.



## Language and Meaning

The story is written in a fairly straightforward manner that is, overall, easy to understand. There is a great deal of symbolism involved that may be more difficult for some readers to follow. For example, it can be assumed that the Fairy Folk are symbolic of religious dictates and superstitions of the day. The Fairy Folk have a great deal of control and power, at least partly because it is accepted that the people will bow to that power. The symbolism is not necessary in order to understand the storyline. The story is simplistic in that an overriding theme is that of people facing hardships. Kate and Christopher are each strong characters who are misunderstood. Kate faces exile rather than telling on her younger sister and Christopher accepts exile because he believes he is to blame for the death of his young niece. The words used throughout the book are easy to understand for the modern reader though there are some terms and phrases that are dated. These occur mainly in dialogue and are obviously an effort by the author to keep the conversations as much as possible in line with what modern readers would expect to hear from characters of the time period. For example, Sir Geoffrey tells Kate that she is not to have visitors "without my express leave." The phrase means that he has to give permission but the use of the word "leave" is rather dated. References of this type do not occur often in the book and most readers will not have difficulty understanding those that do occur.

## Structure

The book is divided into thirteen chapters. Each chapter is titled by Roman Numeral and by a title. The chapter titles are The True Sister, The Elvenwood, The Young Man at the Window, The Holy Well, The Redheaded Woman, The Leper's Hut, The Evidence Room, The Lady in the Green, The People of the Hill, Neither Sun nor Moon, The Cold Iron, All Hallows' Eve, and The Changeling. The chapters vary greatly in length. For example, chapter four is twenty-four pages in length and chapter ten is twenty-seven pages while chapter twelve is thirty pages. Chapter one, however, is only fifteen pages and chapter two is only ten pages. The story opens with a scene in which Kate is dealing with the spoiled actions of her sister. In chapter two, she is being sent to Perilous Gard. In chapter three, she arrives and in chapter four, begins to settle in and discovers the holy well. By chapter six, she has begun to learn about Christopher. In chapter eight, she's taken hostage and encounters Christopher in chapter ten. The remainder of the book focuses on Kate's endeavors to learn her way around her prison in order to escape. The book has several pictures depicting various scenes in the story. These include a two-page drawing of the scene in the cavern, another of Kate pulling the child from the river and another of Kate's first meeting with Christopher. Other drawings are of Master John when he took Kate hostage.



## Quotes

"There, Kate! Said Alicia, triumphantly, quite forgetting where she was. I told you she wasn't going to be angry with me."

Chap. 1, p. 9

"She was standing so still, her long dark hair and shadowy green cloak melting in and out of the shifting leaves, that for an instant Kate thought she was not real, only a trick of light and color like her first illusion about the ivy-covered stump. But she was real."

Chap. 2, p. 25

"The village was so far off the beaten road that she would not have been surprised to find the people shy of outsiders - silent, awkward, suspicious even - but she was entirely unprepared for the sort of fear and hatred that had swept over their faces when they saw her with the little boy."

Chap. 4, p. 45

"I went on to the Well without looking around, and threw my penny in the water and had my drink; and when it came to speaking my troubles aloud, I called out that Cecily Heron was a pestiferous brat and I wished that somebody else had the charge of her. I could see her out of the corner of my eye, over by the spring, peeping between those two big stone slabs, and I knew she was listening; but I was still so angry that I didn't try to go after her."

Chap. 4, p. 59

"It doesn't take a very clear mind to keep from throwing diamonds and rubies down a hole in the ground."

Chap. 4, p. 62

"The castle feeds them. Na, na, if they come about the village it's not food they want. It's a child to take away with them."

Chap. 5, p. 81

"I'm not saying the child didn't go down the Well, mind you. I'm saying there was something come up out of the Well, and it took her."

Chap. 5, p. 83

"It was a child's slipper which had once been fine leather, bright crimson, with a lace at the ankle, exactly like its mate that Christopher had found on the curbstone of the Holy Well - but this one was stained and faded and worn almost to rags."

Chap. 6, p. 93

"Stay in your room and spend your time taking a spider or teaching yourself Greek. You won't be safe otherwise."

Chap. 7, p. 109



"Then she lifted her chin and surveyed Master John in her stoniest manner. She knew it was ridiculous - a mouse driven into a corner might just as well have tried to stand on its dignity with the cat - but it was all she could do."

Chap. 7, p. 122

"Even supposing the 'days' and the 'nights' never varied in length (which was by no means certain), it would still be impossible to say how much earthly time had gone by without some way of telling the exact number of 'days' and 'nights' it took to make up twenty-four hours according to the heavens. Down in the enclosed world of the Fairy Folk, life was only a timeless, endless, monotonous round that was broken by nothing but the attacks of the weight."

Chap. 9, p. 162

"What would you do if you met your best friend in hell? Say you were happy to know he was there too, and it's the pitch hot?"

Chap. 10, p. 169

"One of these days you're going to start trying to carry the whole world on your own back, and then God won't have any more work to do."

Chap. 10, p. 171

"If you were any other woman, I could tell you I loved you, easily enough, but not you - because you've always seemed to me like a part of myself, and it would be like saying I loved my own eyes or my own mind. But have you ever thought what it would be to have to live without your mind or your eyes, Kate?"

Chap. 13, p. 279



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Kate Sutton. What kind of person is she? How does she change after she's taken captive by the Fairy Folk? What does this say about the Fairy Folk and about Kate?

Describe Christopher. How is he different from his brother, Sir Geoffrey? What is Christopher's dream? How does this dream help him survive his captivity?

Describe the Fairy Folk. What are the rumors that circulate about the Fairy Folk? What are the other names by which the Fairy Folk are known? How do the Fairy Folk affect the lives of the various characters of the story?

Compare Kate with the Lady in Green. What are the strengths of each? What are their weaknesses? How are they similar? How are they different?

Who is Alicia? Who is Sir Thomas Sutton? Who is Master John? Who is Randal? Who is Old Dorothy? Who is Gwenhyfara? What is the effect each has on the story and on Kate and Christopher?

What are the most important themes of the story? List two themes and at least two examples of each theme.

Who is Randal? What is Randal's job? What are Randal's actions that drive the story line? How important are Randal's actions in the scheme the story?