

Welcome!

Hello from Historic Environment Scotland!

We're delighted to be working together with the team from Cranachan and Barbara Henderson to support learning and creativity celebrating Scotland's incredible heritage.

Although not everyone will be able to visit Caerlaverock Castle near Dumfries, *The Siege of Caerlaverock* gives us all the chance to travel there through time and space.

You're also warmly invited to explore Scotland's heritage online at historicenvironment.scot/Learn or in person at one of our 300+ historic sites across Scotland.



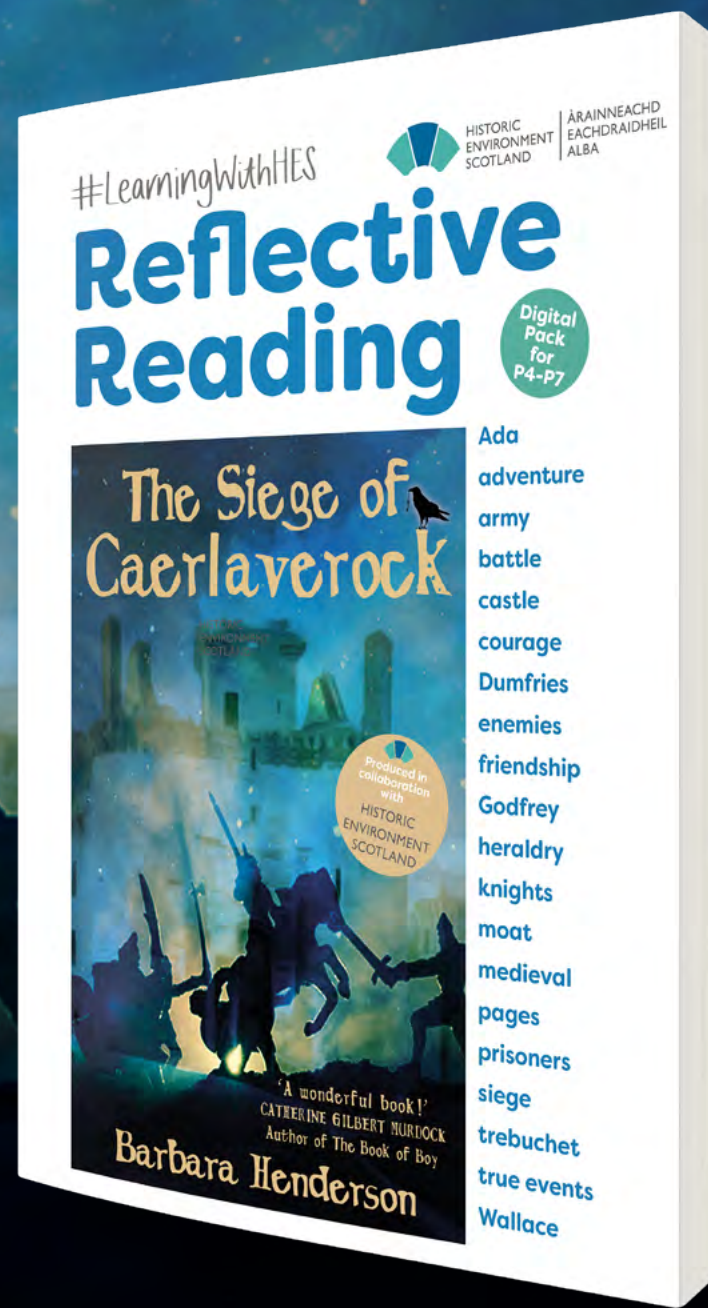
#LearningWithHES



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA



cranachan



#LearningWithHES



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Reflective Reading

Digital Pack for P4-P7



- Ada
- adventure
- army
- battle
- castle
- courage
- Dumfries
- enemies
- friendship
- Godfrey
- heraldry
- knights
- moat
- medieval
- pages
- prisoners
- siege
- trebuchet
- true events
- Wallace

Read and Understand

Ch1: Begin a **Character List** in your jotter; write a one line description or fact about each one.

Page 1 begins with four unusual sentences: 'Don't drop the candle. Don't drop the bread.' etc. What type of sentence is this? Who is Ada talking to? Why is this part of the book written in italics?



Infer What's Not There

Ch2: Who is Ada? What clues give you an idea about her age and whether she comes from a rich or a poor family? What else do you guess about her? Choose three **adjectives** to describe her and find quotes from the text to back these up.

Draw a picture of Ada and annotate it with your clues, adjectives and quotes.

Read and Understand

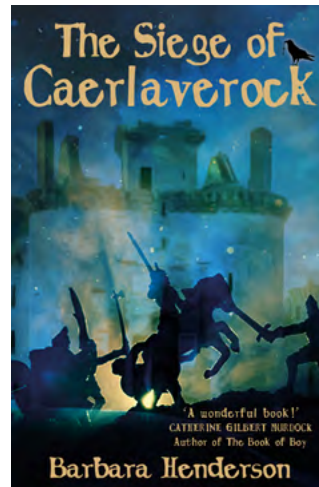
Ch1: 'He knows. My breathing speeds, my pores moisten and a chill would shake the very core of my heart. *He knows, he knows, he knows.* De Berclay knows!' (p6)

What is the effect of this repetition? How does it make the reader feel? Explain your answer.

Reflect and Respond

Ch2-4: Name a character you like in the book so far, and one you dislike. Why is this? Explain your answer for each one.

Ch2-4: Who is afraid in these chapters, and who is not? Make a list of who is afraid and what they are worried about.



Chapters 1-4



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Connect 4

Ch1: What may be some understandable reasons why people today may break a rule or law (like Ada does)?

GROUP CHAT

Ch3: As a churchman, Friar Malcolm is a person Ada should be able to trust. Who are the adults you can trust in a crisis nowadays? Make a list.

Infer What's Not There

Ch3: At the end of this chapter, the text says: '*The Commander is up to no good, of that I am sure*'.

List the clues and **speculate**: What do you think DeBerclay is up to? Discuss in your group, then write your own answer.

Explore Some More

Ch4: Ada is stressed in the second half of this chapter. Find three clues in the text which back up this claim.

Add them to your drawing of Ada.

Create Something Great

Design and build your own cardboard medieval castle using [the HES instructions in the pdf provided](#).



For inspiration, check out the 3D model of Caerlaverock Castle here:

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/caerlaverock-castle-4a21aeea4daf4317aeb13a2fff7dad7f>

Read and Understand

Ch5: Find a clue on p28 that tells us that Godfrey is struggling and upset.

Update your **Character List** to include new characters from these chapters. Match them to the following activities: hurrying, preparing food, interfering, sneaking, confiding, fleeing.



Infer What's Not There

Ch6:

'Oh, Almighty God, at least I was at confession today.' (p33)

Why is Ada glad about this? Explain your answer.

Reflect and Respond

Ch5-7:

GROUP
CHAT

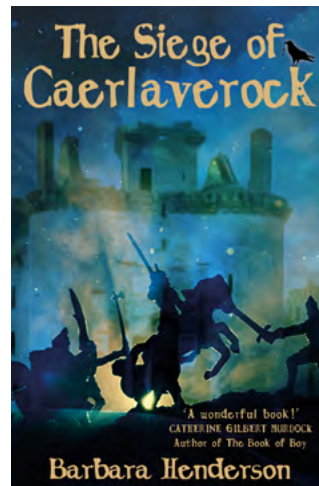
Are you enjoying the story?
Discuss in your group what you like and dislike about *The Siege of Caerlaverock* so far.

Share with the rest of the class.

Explore Some More

Find some examples of old-fashioned words in each chapter as you read, and write their modern meaning or definition beside them.

Try to find at least 8 examples altogether.
Which group will find the most?




**Reflective
Reading**

Chapters 5-8



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Connect 4

'If something happened to Godfrey, there would be questions asked. Wouldn't there?' (Ch6)

Whose job is it to protect children from harm nowadays?

Brainstorm some suggestions for organisations in your group or as a class.

Infer What's Not There

Ch8:

'They're here!'
'The English army is coming over yon hill.'
'They are outside the castle walls.' *'Make safe! Make safe! Make Caerlaverock safe!'* (p51)

What are the castle dwellers worried about?
What clue(s) helped you to understand that the King and his army are bad news?

Read and Understand

Using **Who, What, Where, When*, Why, How** write a short (one or sentences) summary of today's chapter.

You should have a summary for Chapters 5-8 by the end of the week.

Create Something Great

Draw a map of southern Scotland and the English-Scottish border.

Include Dumfries, Carlisle, Berwick, the Solway Firth, Caerlaverock, Glencaple and Whithorn. Add any other places of interest if you like. Use an atlas or the internet to help you. (Tracing paper may come in handy!)

Read and Understand

Ch9: 'We must surrender, for the love of God,' mutters Mary. (p54)

Do you agree with her? Why? Why not? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of surrendering?

Discuss and write your answer.



Explore Some More

Ch9: 'From there, she must have an excellent view of our shifting sea of enemies, rising like a terrifying tide.' (p55)

What two **literary devices** are used here? Explain in what way the enemy army is like a shifting sea.

Are these images effective?

Reflect and Respond

Ch10:

Mary speaks a lot on pages 59-60. How would you describe her **tone** in these passages? (Tone describes the mood, attitude or feeling)

On p60, Fa scolds: 'Don't be idle, Ada!' Is this fair? Why/why not? Do your parents/ carer tell you off? Is it sometimes fair?

Explore Some More

Ch11: 'There is dust. Shouting. Whizzing of objects as they slice through the air above our heads. The smell of smoke, too, as flaming missiles find dry wood.' (p66)

What is the effect of the short, incomplete sentences and the list structure? Why do you think the short sentences are used? Now try to rewrite this quote in a different sentence structure. Is it more, or less, effective?



Chapters 9-12



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Connect 4

In Chapter 11, Ada and Godfrey are faced with a medical emergency. Have you ever faced an emergency or witnessed one? What did you do?

Do you know what to do in an emergency? Discuss in your group.



Make a list of the emergency services that you know about and how to contact them.

Explore Some More

Ch12:

Look at the title of this chapter. What does 'coveting' mean?

Make an educated guess, then check your answer using a dictionary. Write down the definition.

Infer What's Not There

Ch12:

'Colban Graham clearly used his time well.' (p74)

Make a list of the things Colban Graham has done while Ada was gone.

Create Something Great

Old Sir Walter Weir wears a helmet with a visor. Here are some instructions for making your own jousting helmet! (pdf available in pack and below)



<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/6647/make-a-jousting-helmet.pdf>

Read and Understand

Ch13: 'But my speculation comes to an abrupt end as the grey light of dawn edges over the horizon: the bell, that dreaded sound. Where he lies, Fa's eyes crack open. The sound of death; the summoning to Heaven or to Hell. I know for whom the bell tolls. It has to be. Poor Old Sir Walter.' (p81)

Sum up what happens in this paragraph in a single sentence.



Reflect and Respond

Have these chapters changed your mind about any of the characters?

If you had to rate them out of 10 for how much you like them, how would Ada, De Berclay, Godfrey, and the prisoner Colban Graham score? Discuss your reasons with your group/the whole class.

Infer What's Not There

Ch14: 'Dead perhaps? My soul stirs a little at that, however much I despise him.' (p87)
Explain fully, in your own words, what this means.

Ch15: 'How my heart dances at that.' (p97)
Why is Ada so relieved that the vase is unbroken? What would be the consequence of it breaking?

Reflect and Respond

A word often has **connotations**, or additional meanings. What is implied by the following word choices:

'sniggers' (p90) Ch14

'cunning' (p91) Ch14

'flabbergasted' (p95) Ch15

'tucked into an embroidered pocket on its own' (p97) Ch15



Chapters 13-16



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Connect 4

'It is said to contain the most precious of relics, a bone from St Andrew himself.' (p87)

Saints and relics are very important in the Middle Ages. (Is there a saint of your name? What are they famous for?)

What do people hope will bring them luck or protection today? Do you believe in these things?



Infer What's Not There

Ch16: 'What about him there?' I ask Godfrey, gesturing back to where the henchman lies. Godfrey groans, but his heart is noble, for he turns immediately.' (p102)

Explain in your own words what Ada and Godfrey feel about the henchman at this point? What do they do next, and why?

Explore Some More

Ch16: Make a list of at least three key words which are repeated on p100. Why do you think the author chose to repeat them?

Chapter headings are tricky to write! The author has to give a flavour of what happens without giving everything away. Which chapter heading in the book is most effective so far, in your opinion? Write your own chapter headings for this week's chapters.

Create Something Great

PING! Make Your own mini catapult! Have a catapult competition! Measure your success and see whose contraption can throw the furthest!

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/6582/make-mini-catapult.pdf>

Also see the 'Craft Knight' video link for accompanying YouTube instructions.



Read and Understand

Ch17: 'If the cellar wall needs to come down, then let us give the King's army a taste of their own medicine.' (p109)

What does the Lady Maxwell mean by this?

What do the cellar walls have to do with the enemies?



Infer What's Not There

Ch17: On page 109, Ada uses a lot of *rhetorical questions*—the kind of questions she does not expect anyone to answer.

Write down an example of this technique.

Does your teacher ever use *rhetorical questions*—can you think of any examples?

Read and Understand

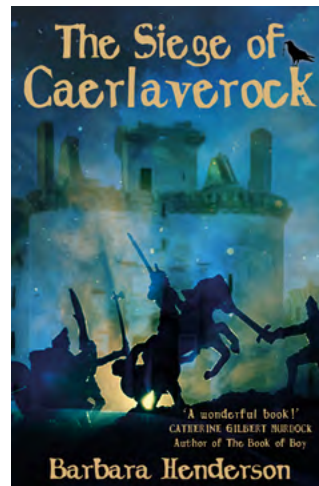
- Ch17-18: Find five words or phrases in these chapters which suggest that being in the castle is **dangerous and risky** at this time.
- Ch19: What surprises you about the lady on p120?
- Write a one sentence summary of today's chapter.

Connect 4

There are certain expectations about how a lady should behave. Do you think that's fair?

Are there still different expectations of men and women, boys and girls right now?

Do you think that's right? Discuss in your group and write your own answer.



Chapters 11-20



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Connect 4

'A horn sounds outside. Fa's face falls—so has the guard's. The Squires have turned to each other, standing stock-still.' (p113)

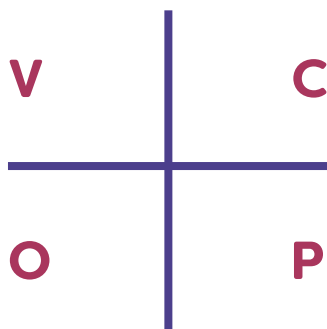
Can you think of any sounds which are signals now? What is their function?

'Yes, but I am alone. No husband to guide me.' (p116) This sentence feels old-fashioned from our point of view. Why?



Explore Some More

VCOP Hunt



Explore Some More

Ch20: 'It doesn't take long. The aggression outside pulses like a wound, oozing and angry, all around Caerlaverock.' (p122)

- What *literary device* is used here? What does the imagery add?
- Why is 'a TREBUCHET' written in capital letters? (p123)

Create Something Great

All medieval warriors and knights would have had their own unique shield.

Design your own, perhaps with your favourite animal, favourite colours and even your own Latin motto! Here is a pdf template if you need some help or inspiration.



<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/6274/make-your-own-heraldic-shield.pdf>

Read and Understand

Describe the atmosphere at the beginning of Chapter 21.

Page 1 begins with four unusual sentences: 'Don't drop the candle. Don't drop the bread.' etc. What type of sentence is this? Who is Ada talking to? Why is this part of the book written in *italics*?



Infer What's Not There

Ch21:

Why does Lady Maxwell repeat her instruction, shouting them loudly for all to hear on p132?

'She all but glides through the outer gate and onto the drawbridge with her head held high.'

What does the word 'glide' tell you about how the Lady is moving?

Reflect and Respond

Ch22: 'I too sink down on my knees—a castle in submission.' (p135)

How do you feel about this? Are you glad they surrender, or would you have hoped for a different ending?

Does Ch22 p.138 surprise you? Why? Does the chapter ending make you keen to find out what happens next?

Explore Some More

'I smile, and for the briefest of moments, I fancy she smiles back, tight like a bowstring.' (p132)

- What type of *literary device* is this?
- Can you find another example of this technique in Chapter 22?
- Find ten words or phrases in Chapter 23 which make the story tense at this point.



Chapters 21-24



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Connect 4

Ada's fate and that of everyone at Caerlaverock depends on the King. We still have a *monarchy* in this country.



Do you think this is outdated? Discuss your ideas and find out five arguments for having a monarchy and five against.

Infer What's Not There

- What questions do you still have by the end of Chapter 24 at this point in the book?
- What has not been resolved yet?
- What do you think will happen next?

Create Something Great

p118 describes the Lady's clothing, and elsewhere we have read about Ada's and Godfrey's clothes.

Draw labelled pictures of the characters, identifying medieval clothes. Use books or the internet to help you. For a fun class display, add photographs of class members as faces, so it looks like a medieval fashion show!

OR

Create Something Great

Make your own (almost life-size) trusty steed!

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/6658/make-your-own-horse.pdf>

Or make your own mini jousting horse and knight (easier to look after!)

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/6590/make-a-jousting-knight.pdf>

(See accompanying 'Craft Knight' video link and pdfs in teacher pack.)



Read and Understand

Ch25:

- Who does Friar Malcolm decide to pray to and why? Explain your answer.
- What are the 'four humours' that need to be restored according to the Friar? Do you think his treatment will work?



Reflect and Respond

Although this book is *fiction*, has it helped you learn about life in medieval Scotland?

Discuss in your group and make a list of the main things this book has taught you.

Do you prefer *fiction* or *non-fiction*? Explain your answer.

Infer What's Not There

Ch25/26: Think about the Friar. Based on what you know about him, answer the following questions as if you were in his shoes—you might need to use your imagination:

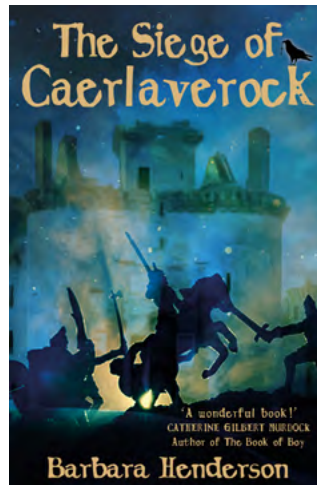
Did you grow up in a poor family? Have you had other dogs before Nosewise? What part of your job do you like and dislike? If you could pray one prayer which would definitely be answered, what would it be?

Read and Understand

Ch25/26: What three good things happen to Ada in these chapters?

Ch26: (Reflect and Respond)

Is this a satisfying end to the book?
Discuss as a group or a class.



Chapters 25-26



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Connect 4

'The world is not as I would have it, Ada, that much is true. But there are blessings, too. Blessings which may never have come to us without the hardships.' (Ch26, p157)



In what way is our world not 'as we would have it'? What would you change? Can you see good things in amongst the difficulties?

Explore Some More

Ch26:

- How does the author manipulate the readers' emotions in the final chapter? Find three examples of *emotive language*.
- On the last two pages of the novel there is a little *repetition*. Which words are repeated and why do you think the author chooses to repeat them? What effect does it have?

Reflect and Respond

Write your review of *The Siege of Caerlaverock*. Share online if you can. You can tweet the author Barbara Henderson [@scattyscribbler](https://twitter.com/scattyscribbler)

OR

Write a letter to the author, Barbara Henderson, to tell her what you thought of the book. (Address available on request from hello@cranachanpublishing.co.uk)

Create Something Great

The chapter heading illustrations are by artist Sandra McGowan. What other images would you have liked to be featured in the book?

Draw your own black and white, detailed line drawing of an item/place/animal from the book.

(If you create it in a larger format, it can be scanned and shrunk in size to make it look more impressive! You could even have a class gallery!)