

Chapter One - Storm on the Coast - Outcast

1	How does the author write about the gale? What animal does she say it is? What poetic device is this known as? Why does the author use this device?	A large bird - metaphor. Gives a better picture of the way the storm moves and how it is affecting the little village below.
2	The village is describes as 'huddling close to the ground, as though for safety'. Again the author is using a poetic device - personification. Can you think why it's called that and why the author has used it so soon after the metaphor?	Personification - where an object/animal is given human qualities - the dark wrapped his hands around me. The author wants the reader to really feel the impact of the storm to realise how strong and dangerous it is. To make you see the village at the mercy of the elements and to make you realise that that is what you would be doing in such a storm, cowering down trying to get out of it.
3	How did the smoke escape from Cunori's house?	No chimney, just a hole in the roof for the smoke to get out.
4	Why did Cunori not need to go out that night?	Lambing was over so he didn't have to go out to check on his animals.
5	Why ws Cunori replacing the shaft on his spear?	He had used it so many times for hunting, that it was worn - bent, splintered and notched from failed throws, from hitting animals and bones and the ground.
6	Where was the only place women could sit in this hut?	On the Women's Side.
7	Why had Cunori asked for Guinear of her father	'He liked it when she laughed...so that he could have her laughter by his own fire.'
8	When had the laughter stopped and why?	She had given birth to a baby daughter but it had lived only for a day. That was half a moon since (two weeks, get the children to work that out from previous knowledge of the moon's orbit).
9	Why would Cunori have been sorrier about the baby if it had been a boy?	Girls were good for doing work but you had to get them married and hand over your weapons, to seal the bargain. Sons went hunting with you, they brought wives into the family to do the work, they hunted for you when you were too old.
10	Why did he want to give Guinear so many presents if the harvest was good?	He loved Guinear; he was sorry for the baby, but he was a man and not allowed to show sympathy, he was a hunter after all; there wasn't anything he could do to make her happy and so they only thing he could do to show he card was to give her presents.

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11	'Luath, the pack leader, opened eyes like twin yellow lamps...' What poetic device has the author used this time? There is another in the previous paragraph, can you find it?	A simile, comparing something to something else, 'as...as', or 'like'. 'flinging in wave after wavelike the blows of a hammer...'
12	What was the only reason Flann was out in the night in such a storm?	His red horse, a mare, had got out and he had had to chase her. Why is a female horse so important to him? (from her you can breed more horses to use or trade).
13	What was Cunori's first thought when told about the ship? To save the crew or the goods on board?	The goods. 'There had been many things washed up by the sea afterwards.'
14	What is a stockade? How did they ensure they were completely secure? Why did they have to be safe behind the stockade? What might be out there?	Wooden fence around the village. The only gap in it, the gateway, was filled in at night with a thorn bush. Wolves after the animals, bears, enemies from other tribes.
15	What phase of the moon was it when Guinear's baby died?	New moon
16	Where/when have we seen the moon similarly described in Year 5, using metaphors	'The Highwayman' poem, 'the moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas.'
17	Who did the men think had brought them this wreck?	Camulus the Lord of Storms (one of the 300 or so Celtic gods then!).
18	Who or what was the 'Killer'?	One of a heap of rocks in the water, but this one was hidden by the water, except at low tide, so easy for sailors, who didn't know the area, to wreck their boats upon.
19	What was the ship?	A Roman merchantman, (can they work out what this means?) a trading ship, carrying goods from port to port.
20	What happened to these ships in a north-easterly wind?	They were embayed (sailed into the shelter of bays, inlets) and then, not knowing the bays, were blown onto the rocks by the powerful winds. The goods came ashore, along with the bodies of the dead crew.
21	Why was Merddyn the Druid so excited watching the wreck? What does he mean by the 'Eagle People'?	He enjoyed watching the waves destroy the Roman ship, knowing that Romans (they carried an <u>Eagle</u> at the front of their marching legion) were dying.

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22	Why did the tribesmen not try to help those in the ship?	There was nothing they could do. They would risk their own lives if they did. 'To take from the sea was unlucky.' They would help those who reached the shore alive.
23	What finally destroyed and sank the ship?	One final big wave - 'a huge curled and crested wave reared up, arching over it: the great wave that Merddyn had called for.'
24	As soon as the ship sank the author wrote that 'the world was quenched in darkness.' Why did she do this? She could have kept the moon shining in the sky?	It's the end of an episode, the end of a ship and the end of the crew's lives. The author is saying that however hard they struggled against the waves, once the ship had gone so had their lives and any hope of survival. The tribesmen could stop watching and move onto the next phase, looking for what they could find.
25	Why did they have to make sure the sailors were buried properly?	To stop 'their wet ghosts come dripping to the hearths of the village.' To stop them haunting the huts of the village because they were unburied.
26	Why were the bodies found by Cunori different to the others strewn around?	This was a man and a woman, not seamen as elsewhere, and they were holding onto each other tightly. And they had a live baby between them!
27	Why did Cunori know the young man was a soldier?	Because he was a warrior himself so he recognised that look in the dead man. Hard-looking? Determined? Disciplined, maybe?
28	Why did Cunori hesitate before cutting the baby free?	The baby was almost dead itself, blue with cold and half drowned. If he'd left it, it would have died very soon.
29	Why did he hide it in his cloak, 'with a hurried and almost shame-faced gesture...'?	He was a warrior, a man, babies belonged to women. But his mind was mixed up, now he'd found the baby - don't forget that he had just lost a baby himself, he thought of it as a replacement for Guinear, he wasn't thinking straight.
30	Why did Merddyn want so much for Cunori to abandon the baby?	He knew it was unlucky to rob the sea (although the baby was alive when beached); the baby was Roman and they were Celts; the Romans had destroyed their holy places and killed lots of their tribespeople in the past (60 years ago)
31	Did Guinear accept the baby right at the end?	Not as such, but she ticked him off for holding the baby wrongly and then took it herself. His idea had worked.

Chapter Two - Pack Law - Outcast

1	Why did Cunori give a black ram for Beric?	To assuage the gods as he had taken him from the sea, although not really as the baby had been alive when washed ashore. It was done really to keep Merdyyn happy.
2	What was it that Guinear did to Beric in his second year and why?	Tattooed him! These tattoos marked him out to be a warrior and of his tribe.
3	Why has the author spent a whole paragraph repeating nine times?	To show the years passing but she didn't want to just say nine years later, she wanted to point out all the things that happened in nature and in the tribe's life over those nine years. She wanted to emphasise the amount of time and how filled it was with events.
4	Did Guinear have more babies?	It is implied. There are certainly three children with her now.
5	'Every year when the harvest was in..' What time of the year would that be then? Why didn't the author just write the name of the month, what effect was she after?	August, Sept, She is using the sentence to draw a picture. In August would tell you nothing, but by saying that you get a picture of the tribe in the fields cutting the wheat, picking fruit, etc. This author's strength is her ability to draw images with words.
6	When did you become a man in this tribe?	At 15.
7	How were the boars cooked? What do you know and what do you have to work out for yourself?	In cooking pits. It is implied by the word 'pits' and the fact that the boar have to be 'lifted out' that holes were dug and fires made in them and then the boar put in them and cooked somehow, might have been through smoking, hot rocks or just on a spit to stop the dogs getting at it!
8	When had it been a much bigger event?	'Before the Romans came with their meddlesome patrols) ensure the children can define 'meddlesome'.
9	Why would the boys of nine have to stand before the clan?	They were about to begin their training as warriors.
10	Did Beric feel different about being not actually of his family but 'adopted'?	No, to him it was just a story, it was 'his' family as much as his brothers'
11	Why was there so much argument about Beric being included with the other children for training?	Because he wasn't a true member of the tribe and it wasn't as if he was a member of another tribe, he was 'Red Crest', a Roman.
12	What does the author mean - '...for a moment it looked as if there might be trouble - the kind of snapping, snarling trouble that breaks out suddenly between hounds...' It's an interesting simile?	She is describing the sort of fight that just comes out of nowhere, like in a pub, tipping beer on someone, pushing past someone in the street; the sort of reaction that happens at once, without thought of the results, or reflecting on what has happened first. She is saying it was almost an animal reaction not that of humans.

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13	What was Rhiada's reason for supporting Beric?	That from what he had said he showed himself to be bold and brave enough to be a warrior, and wasn't that what was needed?
14	'Also being all of them warriors, the game-cock way in which the boy had spoken up for himself appealed to them.' What does that mean, 'game-cock' way? What is she comparing him to and why?	Cock-fighting, the cocks attack each other until the death. They don't hesitate, and that is how Beric behaved. He didn't stop to think, he defended himself to the best of his ability by attacking first before the adults got their way.
15	Why did he dodge away from his mother when he saw her? What might he have done if she'd comforted him?	He was full of anger and relief, he was wound up tight inside him. If his mother had put her arms around him he might have lashed out and upset her; or he might just have let go and howled and howled. He didn't dare let himself near her whichever way!
16	Why was it such a shock for him? Why did he have to remind himself that they were his people?	It was the first time his different-ness had been highlighted and made clear to everyone and himself.
17	What did his brother think of him?	They thought he was wonderful because he was going off to begin his training for a warrior. He was a 'superman' in their eyes, off to be an 'almost' man!
18	As he walked past the huts how could he know which hut was a house and which wasn't?	By the 'blue woodsmoke that rose like so many jays' feathers from the roofs of the living-huts...
19	Why did Pridforth tell the boys they weren't as good as their fathers?	To encourage them to prove him wrong, to get them riled up or embarrassed so they were determined to do well.
20	They could all throw a javelin so why did they have to learn again? What were they learning?	They had never had any proper training, just copied the warriors so they needed to relearn from the beginning again. They needed to learn to throw with one perfect curve, body and javelin.
21	'Beric faced them, panting a little.' Look at the way the boys are described in this paragraph, what do you notice, and why has the author written about it in this way?	They are described like a pack of young dogs or wolves. 'Played and fought and tumbled' is used to describe the way puppies play, notice he stands there 'panting a little'. The author just builds up the idea carefully. The comparison is used to show how easily people can turn on someone different.
22	Why did Beric know he had to fight so hard against Cathlan?	'he was fighting in earnest now, fighting for his place in the Clan...' Beric had to win this or he would always be picked on, ignored, treated badly - badly enough that something nasty might happen to him during training. And this treatment by the other boys would slowly feed through to the rest of the clan. His life would be made unliveable.

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23	What words are used by the author, through these paragraphs, to keep up the comparison we talked about in Q 21?	'Champion of the pack', 'squealing and yelping', 'panting silence'.
24	All through this fight the author compares the boys to animals, what are they and why does she, what is she trying to say?	Dogs/wolves, wild cat, stallion. I think the author is trying to say how like animals people are when they fight, that it is reasonless and that people should be able to sort out problems with words. She is implying that when people fight they behave like animals and react instinctively, not using their brain.
25	Why did he very rarely go as far along the cliffs as he did today?	It was too uncomfortable going as far as the rocks where he was found; it made him feel unsafe, it rubbed against the edge of his tribal world.
26	Why did he not feel elated? He had won the fight after all?	Yes, he had but, his difference had been raised and now would never go away what ever he did, it would always be there at the back of his mind and the minds of those he lived with.
27	Why does the author spend so much effort in describing the life going on around him as he sat on the cliff? The sea, the birds, the grass?	Anyone else would notice it. The picture she draws is beautiful and relaxing, it is a lovely day, but he is so wound up in his misery that even this beautiful day cannot get through to him.
28	As he sat there what did he realise about his mother and father?	That it was not a story, that they had been real, it had happened and he knew nothing about them.
29	What excuse did Cathlan come up with as to why he had followed Beric?	That he needed a wash and the stream was too crowded, and he liked bathing in the sea best.
30	Why did Cathlan come to make friends with Beric?	He had been bested in the fight; he had taunted Beric and been proved wrong. He had found an equal, and wanted him as a friend.

Outcast - Chapters Three and Four

Chapter Three - The Outcast		
1	<p>'He learned to follow a three-day-old spoor as though it were a beaten trail.'</p> <p>Can you work out what a spoor is from this sentence and the paragraph it's in?</p>	<p>spoor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noun the track or scent of an animal.
2	<p>Why when he trained Gelert, did 'he learn as much as Gelert did...?'</p>	<p>He learned to control; he found out all about looking after animals; he had to find out how best to train his dog; how to use him in hunting and tracking.</p>
3	<p>Was it obvious as he grew up that he was different from the rest of the tribe?</p>	<p>'...there was little in his square brown face with the cleft chin and level eyes, nor in his tawny colouring, to set him apart from the rest.'</p>
4	<p>Why did his clansmen start to look at him and whisper and draw aside as he walked by?</p>	<p>Looking for something to blame for the bad harvest and lambing, they began to remember that he was not of their clan and thought that he had brought bad luck to their tribe.</p>
5	<p>'...the knowledge turned him cold', why? p32</p>	<p>He remembered 'that six-year-distant fight with Cathlan, and the hostile faces of the other boys crowding in on him; remembering the dog-pack turning on the stranger in their midst.' Beric knew what might happen again; that he would have to fight his battle all over again to keep his place in the tribe, but this was serious now.</p>
6	<p>Why was it strange for Beric to find his mother idle - '...found her alone in the big living-hut, and sitting idle with her hands in her lap, which was a very strange thing with her.'</p>	<p>She had much to do, not only in the house, but out. At the very beginning of this chapter it says that the cattle and the fields were tended to by the women. Remember everything had to be made from the bare ingredients. Cloth had to be made from wool; food from what they hunted, grew or gathered.</p>
7	<p>'She took a smoking bowl from the hot ash as she spoke, thrusting aside Gelert's enquiring muzzle.' What was Gelert up to?</p>	<p>Having a sniff at the food, hoping that it might be for him? Checking what it was she had in her hand.</p>
8	<p>Why was he no longer hungry when the food was put in front of him? What was preventing him eating? Have you ever felt like that?</p>	<p>'..sat down miserably...'</p> <p>Beric knew something horrible to do with him was going on at the meeting and that everyone was blaming him. His throat shut up with anxiety and sadness.</p>
9	<p>What was the same and what was different about him coming into the firelit circle this time?</p>	<p>This time he was a warrior, he had his spear and his shield with him. But he stood in the same place as he had done before.</p>

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10	Why did Istoreth say that Beric had to be driven out?	'...before it is too late, before yet greater evils fall upon the Clan...that he may take the anger of the Gods with him, and the good times may return!'
11	Did Beric try to fight, to stand up for himself as he had done six years ago? How do you know?	He thought 'drearily' drearily · dully, bleakly, and depressed. 'It was finished; and they were going to drive him out.'
12	What was Rhiada's argument supporting Beric?	That he had been accepted into the tribe when he began to train as a warrior for the clan, so he must be one of them now. '...is he not of the Tribe and the Clan and the Men's Side of the Clan by the second birth of his initiation, that brought him into the Spear Brotherhood?'
13	Why did Beric not respond when his other tried to hug him and tend to him?	He was in shock; he could not respond or he would have broken down and 'blubbed' like a boy, not the warrior he had become. He was using all his energy to keep his dignity, keep himself together.
14	Why did Beric take Cathlan's spear, after all he had just been given one by his mother?	'I take it for the good hunting that we have had together...' For Beric it would remind him of the strong friendship he and Cathlan had had. He could look at it and think back to better times.
15	'Bid the moon tarry but for a single heartbeat.' What did he want the moon to do, and why?	bid² · verb 2 archaic command (someone) to do something. tarry² · verb archaic stay longer than intended; delay leaving a place. He wanted the moon to just pause a moment in its rising so that he could say goodbye to his mother. He wanted to know that she did not believe as the rest of the tribe did, he could not have stood that.
16	What hope did his father, Cunori hold out for the future?	'And when the good times come, they will forget. It may be that on a few years-' Cunori was trying to say that it would all soon blow over as soon as the harvest were good and the sickness went, and then he would be able to return and nobody would say a word.
17	Why did the stone-throwing upset him so much?	He had been part of them; it was the warriors he had run and hunted with that were throwing the stones at him. He knew they were throwing at the bad harvest, etc, but they could have aimed to miss.
18	Why did he break down when Gelert arrived and what was the hardest thing he had to do?	His dog believed in him. He had followed him. That was enough to make him cry. He knew he couldn't take him away with him, so he had to send him back home.

Outcast - Chapters Three and Four

Chapter Four - The Men from the Sea		
19	Why was he 'hesitating, wary as a wild animal that scents a trap' standing in front of the gateway into Isca?	He had never been there before; never been in a Roman town; it was all very new and different from what he was used to. He didn't know what he would find inside.
20	What was his first impression of the town, why was it so different to what he knew?	'His first impression was of straight lines everywhere, straight walls and roof-edges, a long street running away from him straight as a spearshaft...' The huts in his village were round.
21	Why does the author use the simile 'straight as a spearshaft'?	She is describing it through Beric's eyes. For Beric a spear shaft is probably the straightest thing he knows in his life. A spearshaft is a very familiar thing to him, as he used them everyday as a warrior and hunter.
22	Why did he not go up to the fort straightaway, but decide to wait for morning?	'..it had not looked so large and formidable as it did now...the fort seemed to crouch, watchful and faintly menacing...perhaps in the morning it would look less dangerous.' Beric was scared; everything was new, and somehow the fort seemed to loom over him; he didn't want to go there just yet, so he put it off.
23	Why were there blackened ruins in the town?	'been burned down after the rising.' 'This was the place where the Tribe had risen against the Egales...the Eagles had been too strong...and they had been beaten back, with the loss of many men...'
24	What did he find odd as he looked around the shops?	'How odd to buy meat instead of hunting for it...'
25	What was so special about the soldier that he couldn't stop staring at?	His helmet had a red crest, unlike the ones he'd seen at the gate. '...this was his first real Red Crest.'
26	When did you, as reader, realise that all was not well for Beric, that the Greek had something on his mind when he helped him?	For me, it was when Beric said that he was on his own and the Greek suddenly stopped and looked at him ('The Greek looked at him with a suddenly arrested eye.') p50 Doubly so when he is offered a bed for the night on the ship ('...the best thing you can do is to come along with me, back to the <i>Clio!</i> ') p51 And definitely when the men laugh at him when he is introduced. P52
27	Why was he more at home beyond the River Gate?	There were familiar sights and smells. The huts looked familiar to those of his village. '...the familiar smell of wood-smoke and horse-droppings about, that was the smell of home.'

Outcast - Chapters Three and Four

28	<p>Why did he ignore the hints his brain were giving him that something was not quite right? '...a little warning hammer began to beat. 'Danger! Danger!''</p>	<p>He couldn't trust it. If he walked off it would have been rude and impolite, after all, his new friend had gone out of his way to help him and offer him a bed. He was from the Tribe, he wasn't used to these town ways, so he didn't expect anything nasty to happen. He was happy to accept these people for what they seemed to be - nice, friendly, helpful.</p>
29	<p>What does 'vittles' mean, and how, from the text, do you know this? (top of p 55)</p>	<p>'But not tonight, eh, lad?' said the barrel-chested man, with an eye on the cheese, and there was a general laugh...' Vittles - food!</p>
30	<p>What happened to Beric at the end of the chapter? What does the author write that helps us to understand?</p>	<p>He gets knocked out by a blow on the head. '...something seemed to burst in the back of his head and he stumbled forward into a spinning blackness shot with coloured lights.'</p>

Outcast - Chapters Five and Six

Chapter Five - The Arm-Ring		
1	Why has the author used the words 'human animal' to describe what the master builder was looking for? What is she trying to get across?	To point out to the reader that that is what the builder thought of the slaves he used, they were there to do a task and he didn't think of them as proper humans like himself.
2	Why were the slaves so quiet?	'as listlessly and hopeless as himself.' There was nothing they could do. They couldn't escape, there was nowhere to go. They had come to accept their slavery.
3	Why would Aaron Ben Malachi, the trader be ruined soon?	'I shall be ruined if the market does not improve!' The traders are not getting as much for selling their slaves as they wanted; people aren't wanting to buy so many. They are hoping that more people will want more slaves soon and then the price can go back up.
4	Why does Beric count time in moons, rather than months as we would?	His tribe didn't have fixed months as we do. There time was marked in lengths of day, and in new moon to new moon. That is how they measured time passing. Can you remember how long it is from new moon to new moon? Roughly 28 days.
5	Why had the slavers not beaten Beric more when he protested?	'...it was in their interest to get the cargo in reasonably good condition to its destination, but sufficient to school him.' They couldn't hurt him too much or he would be 'damaged goods'; there would be marks on him when they tried to sell him and he would be worth less. They just hit him enough to teach him how to behave and enough to stop him fighting back.
6	'Sold and resold from one trader to another, like a dressed skin or cooking-pot;' Why does the author describe the way Beric was moved around like this?	Emphasis - that to the many traders he was only something to buy and sell and make money on. They didn't see him as another human being to pity or feel sorry for.
7	What had Beric stopped thinking about, but what one thing could still make him miserable when he thought about back home?	'At the thought of <i>Gelert</i> , a wave of blinding misery swept over Beric. His Tribe, his father and mother, even Cathlan, he had shut away from him; but his dog, that was another matter.'
8	Why did Beric not react when told to get up and kicked?	'...he was well-used to kicks by now.' There had been plenty of knocks about on his way to Rome. It was nothing new. He knew he just had to do as he was told. There was nothing else he could do that would help him.

Outcast - Chapters Five and Six

9	Why did the Lady Julia not buy Beric? Why was she so fussy? Did she think of them as human?	She wanted a Gaul, and he had to be blonde ('a golden Gaul'). She wanted the slaves who carried her litter (litter • noun 7 historical a vehicle containing a bed or seat enclosed by curtains and carried by men or animals.) to all look exactly the same. She didn't think of them as human, we know that because she refers to them as 'my matched team', which is how you'd refer to a team of horses.
10	Why did Beric have hope when the young man spoke to the dealer? P64	'He spoke to Ben Malachi, but his gaze remained on Beric.' The young man was looking at Beric as if he were a person not an item to be purchased.
11	How did the small stout man look at Beric? P65	'...looking him up and down exactly as they might have studied the points of a pony-' He was checking him over like you would check over a pony before buying it.
12	How did the household of Piso treat him when he arrived and was standing in the courtyard?	Like a new animal, or object: '...people were swarming in...to gather round him, pointing and staring...'
13	Why did the slave girl say he was soft in the head?	He was just standing there, bewildered. He hadn't answered any of the questions they'd asked him.
14	What did he wash himself with? Why?	Silver sand. No soap remember and he was only a slave; if you were rich you rubbed in and scraped off oil with a strigil.
15	Why do you think his rags were 'stinking' and 'filthy'?	He was still wearing the same clothes as when he left home. He had been squashed into places with lots of other slaves. No chance to wash, not given the chance to wash. They may well have been alive with lice. Think of all the sweat, food stains, dirt that would be on those rags!
16	What did Beric find out at the end of the chapter that surprised him?	That the steward, the person in charge of them all was a slave himself, wearing an arm-ring too
Chapter Six - A Friend and an Enemy		
17	Why did Beric live 'in a state of perpetual bewilderment' for the first few days he lived at Piso's house? What does it mean to begin with?	perpetual • adjective 1 never ending or changing. 2 occurring repeatedly; seemingly continual. Bewilder • verb perplex or confuse. He was <u>constantly confused</u> about everything, where he was, what he should be doing; It was all so new and different for him that he just couldn't make sense of it all.

Outcast - Chapters Five and Six

18	Why did none of the slaves ever seem to have specific jobs to do?	'it was partly because the Lady Poppaea was in the habit of calling to any slave she saw and ordering him to drop what he was doing and run instantly and do something else; partly because Publius Piso changed his slaves so often that there were always some in the household who did not know their jobs.'
19	Why did the slaves not escape, they had plenty of opportunities?	'it was because most of them knew no other life, and for the few like himself who did, there was nowhere to run to.' Some had never known a life when they had not been slaves; they had been slaves from childhood and so were used to it.
20	Why was Beric less lonely with the horses?	'Publius Piso kept fine horses and did not sell them as often as he did his slaves.' Beric could get to know the horses. With the slaves there were always some going and some new ones arriving.
21	Why was the coming of spring so hard on him?	He was allowed out to exercise the horses, and could have escaped, but there was nowhere to go. He was a long way from home.
22	Why did the Lady Lucilla not look up as Beric approached with her breakfast?	Well, it wasn't any important; to her slaves are just there to do jobs for her; it didn't matter who it was; it was what he was bringing that was important.
23	Why was Lady Lucilla sorry about talking about the swallows?	She realised that she had made him think about his home and that would have made him sad. She had realised that he was a person like her.
24	Why did Beric care that the Lady Lucilla should be happy about marrying? He was her slave after all?	'As the Lady Lucilla had cared whether he was homesick, so he cared whether she was happy.'
25	Why could Hippias not be sold with a broken leg?	No-one would want to buy a slave with a broken leg. What could he do? He couldn't work!
26	Why did Venetia, the mare, nuzzle his shoulder?	'with some dim remembrance of the tongue that had been familiar to her when she was a foal...' Beric had been talking to her in his Celtic language.
27	Beric drew himself to attention, making the obeisance that had become habit with him now. What does that mean - obeisance - can you work it out from who has just entered and the rest of the sentence?	obeisance • noun 1 deferential respect or homage. 2 a gesture expressing this, such as a bow. Try to get the children to work it out for themselves, by thinking about it; that one of his masters has entered, and what should he do.
28	Why had Beric not started saving to buy his freedom?	'It is not easy to save, without money,'

Outcast - Chapter Seven and Eight

Chapter Seven - The Dark Days		
1	Why did Beric have an uneasy feeling?	He felt Glaucus was waiting to do something big and nasty to him. 'the son...was merely keeping his hand in until the chance of some bigger hurt came his way.'
2	What are Lucilla's friends compared to? Why do you think this is?	'...like a flock of many-coloured birds.' They all wore lovely clothes, all different colours and they talked a lot, like birds chirp a lot. (You might need to question them further or lead them to get the bit about chattering like birds)
3	Why did the 'shadowed court' seem very quiet in the 'cool of the evening'?	It had been full of chattering girls all afternoon, so the silence was a lovely contrast to the noise previously.
4	Why was Lucilla so taken by Beric hoping that she would be happy in her marriage?	'You said that as though you really cared...so few people do. They are too busy being pleased that Father has arranged such a good match for me.'
5	What must a young man do in Beric's tribe before he can go looking for a girl?	Kill his first wolf.
6	'For three days Beric carried his little newly-lit hope with him.' What does that mean?	Every minute of his waking day he spent thinking about it and hoping it would happen. He was thinking about what his new life might be like, away from Glaucus, and to be treated like a human being.
7	Why did he no longer hope for freedom?	It was an impossibility for him. He was part of slave life, far away from his country. He knew that slaves didn't easily get their freedom, so he had given up hoping for it. He knew it would not happen in this household.
8	When was the best time for Lucilla to approach her father about Beric?	'When Father has had a bath and a good dinner, he will be in a good mood.'
9	Did Glaucus really want Beric?	No, he was being spiteful to both Beric and his sister. He wanted to spoil it for them both. He didn't want Beric to have a happy life, and because his sister wanted something badly, he decided he wanted it too.
10	Why was Beric so homesick, that night, knowing that he now belonged to Glaucus?	Before there had been hope, that one day, as a slave of Lucilla, he might have been allowed to go home; but now, not a hope.

Outcast - Chapter Seven and Eight

11	Why was Lucilla not supposed to go on her own to the temple of Sylvan Pan? Can you work it out by reading the end of the paragraph at the top of p92?	Teeming slums. teem ¹ • verb (teem with) be full of or swarming with. slum • noun 1 a squalid and overcrowded urban area inhabited by very poor people.
12	Why did Beric want Lucilla to have Hippas?	'You are afraid that Glaucus may try to hurt you by hurting him?' Glaucus is a nasty piece of work. Beric could imagine Glaucus using Hippas to make Beric unhappy.
Chapter Eight - Breaking-Point		
13	Why did Glaucus change Beric's name?	Because he could; to point out to Beric that he could do what he liked with him; to annoy Beric because he already had a name that was <i>him</i> .
14	Why did Beric not react to Glaucus's smack across his face?	He could not; he was a slave. Do you remember, you found out that slaves could be killed by their masters? They were belongings. That's why Glaucus pointed it out to Beric that he belonged to him just like his sandals did.
15	'A black time of injustice and casual-seeming cruelties and humiliations that made him writhe.' What was Beric's life like?	Glaucus was always niggling at him. Being nasty, ensuring that Beric had an unhappy time; blaming him for things that had nothing to do with him; picking on him all the time and making him remember all the time that he was a slave.
16	'...the distinctive carriage of the regular soldier...; What does the author mean? How might you be able to pick out a soldier? They were all wearing togas.	Sitting upright, stiffly. He's learned it from the parade ground. Not very conversational, he's been brought up only allowed to talk when permission has been given.
17	Why did Beric yearn to be Justinus's slave? What did he think as he looked at him?	'...the eyes of a man who might be merciless at times, but would never be unjust (unlike Glaucus!).'
18	Why did the quietly spoken words of the centurion seem like a shout to Beric?	He mentioned Britain, his homeland.
19	Why was the centurion not bothered with being promoted and becoming a commander, or being one of the special guards in Rome?	'...I am a thoroughly good engineer...' 'I have very few leanings towards the work of a camp commandant...' He liked his job, it gave him satisfaction. He wanted to see his work completed, by him. It would be his achievement, his marsh drained.

Outcast - Chapter Seven and Eight

20	Why would Justinus stay in Britain when he retired?	<p>His mother was part British; he had bought a farm there.</p> <p>'...I have grown to feel the place my home.'</p> <p>'I have lived over long in the wilds to settle into the life of cities.'</p> <p>'I want my wide marsh skies, and my small outland farm, and the wild geese flighting down from the north with the autumn gales.'</p>
21	Why did Beric nearly cry out when Justinus talked about the skies and the geese?	<p>It brought it all back to him. He saw it in his head. It was, for him, just as Justinus had said. For a moment he remembered what it was like to stand in his land and look up and out.</p> <p>'for a moment...he was a thousand miles...away, and free.'</p>
22	Why did Beric react to Glaucus's smack? He had had others before from him?	<p>There was blood this time. He had also just been thinking about Justinus being a fair person; and had seen that scene of his homeland in his head. It was all just too much for him. He had remembered what it was like to be free just a few moments ago.</p> <p>'Perhaps it was because of that moment, scarcely passed, when his freedom and his own world and returned to him so vividly...'</p>
23	Why was Justinus the only one to try and intervene?	<p>'...had grown unused to the ways of civilisation.'</p> <p>He knew it was his fault and didn't want Beric to get punished. He also thought it unfair of Glaucus to hit Beric for such a little thing. It was only a few drops.</p>
24	Why did Glaucus not order the thirty strokes to take place immediately?	<p>'...it will be something for him to look forward to, through the night.'</p> <p>It was just like Glaucus to make Beric suffer. It would have been sensible to have beaten him straightway, but he was vicious and spiteful and wanted to make the suspense build up. Would it hurt? How long would it take?</p>

Outcast - Chapters Nine and Ten

Chapter Nine - Escape!		
1	Why was the staple sticking out of the wall?	'..the place had been used as a makeshift prison before...'
2	Why did he make no resistance as he was shackled?	It all happened so fast. He knew it was hopeless. Glaucus would only make the punishment worse. He was a slave and had attacked his master. What could he do? They were many and he was only one.
3	What were the reasons that had kept him from escaping before?	'No use, yet, to think of what he was to do afterwards.' He was so far from home, where would he go? What would he do? How could he survive, an escaped slave surrounded by Romans?
4	'...his heart was drubbing against his ribs...' Explain what the author means? What would we say? What word does she use later on to describe the beat of his heart?	Drub · verb (drubbed, drubbing) 1 hit or beat repeatedly. Thumping? Trying to escape the ribcage? Beating? Drumming.
5	Why did he walk boldly across the outer court rather than creeping round the edge?	'...anyone catching sight of him would be the less likely to suspect anything...' By walking boldly straight across he looked like he was meant to be there, fulfilling a task, so people would just ignore him. If he was caught creeping, it would look suspicious and he would be more likely to be questioned.
6	Why did the court 'stretch out like a vast plain in a nightmare'?	He was escaping; every second he was out in the open he could be caught. Every step he was waiting for the shout from someone.
7	'...an instant later was crouching under a dense mass of ilex and oleander in the garden'? What does he crouch under? How do you know from the text?	Under some bushes. In the text it says a dense mass and in the garden. What could there be a big lump of in the garden that he could hide under? What do you find in a garden? It has to be plants. Oleander is a flowering plant; ilex is holly, not necessarily the prickly one though.
8	Why did he choose Lucilla's temple place to work his file in?	'No one comes here; even the Watch only pokes its nose in at the gate once a night, and then goes on.' It was safe, no one visited it, and especially not at night.
9	Why did he sit and persist? He was so close to the house, yet he stayed to work the file?	He wanted to up and run, but 'at the gates there was always the chance of being searched.' His shackle would be found and they would know he was an escaped slave. The gates were the only way out of Rome.

Outcast - Chapters Nine and Ten

10	Why did he stay in Rome to dump the shackle? Why didn't he just head for the gates?	'...because he had no other means of saying goodbye to her.' By dumping the shackle and the arm-ring, he wanted to let the Lady Lucilla know what had happened to him; she had been a friend to him, before she'd got married.
11	Why were the roads just busier and noisier than during the day?	'the heavy wheeled traffic that was not allowed in the streets of Rome in the daytime was rumbling up and down...endless streams of market carts coming and going...' All the trade carts had to come and go at night; they were big noisy, trundling things full of goods.
12	Why did he leave Rome by the great coast road, the Aurelian Way?	'it would have meant going right through the fortifications of Janiculum, and making a long loop down to the coast, so that at the end of the day he would be scarcely any farther north than when he set out.' He didn't want to walk through a horde of legionaries; and he didn't see the point of a detour when he could just head straight across the hills and meet up with it later.
13	Why did he turn 'homeward blindly'?	It was the only place he could think of. It was his home; it was where he wanted to be. He had only known two places really - home and Rome - and he certainly didn't want to stay near Rome!
14	What does it mean - 'he realised his empty stomach'?	He realised that he was hungry! He hadn't eaten for a long time.
Chapter Ten - The Farm in the Hills		
15	Why did the woman look at him 'shrewdly, uncomfortably shrewdly'?	shrewdly · adverb having or showing sharp powers of judgement; astute. She knew he was getting away from someone. The scratches and bruised on his face told her. 'And by the looks of you, somebody tried their best to stop you coming away at all.' Why would someone be three miles way from the main road unless he didn't want to be seen?
16	What puzzled him about the house?	The house was tatty and looked poor but there was - the brooch of gold she wore; the shawl with silver thread; really good wine; lots of seating.
17	Why did the group of men 'roar in appreciation' when Rhodope said, '...I thought you might be robbers.'	They were robbers themselves! Look at what they said they'd been doing!

Outcast - Chapters Nine and Ten

18	How did she know that he was an escaped slave?	'the white mark of the slave ring on your arm.' He'd taken the ring off, but he was tanned from the Roman sun so once off it left a band of untanned skin. Like when you wear a watch and take it off in the summer, you get a pale band where the watchstrap has been.
19	What did the woman say would happen to him if the robbers found him?	No good, probably death. She implies it by what she says: 'if they knew you were here, even that would not save you, for they are lads that take no chances .'
20	Why does the soldier say 'would you now? - Oh, no you don't...'?	Because Beric tries to escape and make a run for it. He struggles. 'Beric kicked out wildly, and ducked under the man's arm...'
21	Why did Beric not tell them that he was no part of the robbers' band? What is meant by the cross?	He felt that the galleys or the cross were better than Glaucus and the salt-mines! '...at least the galleys were better than the salt-mines; and the cross? Well, at least that was quick, a few days at most, sometimes only a few hours...' The cross is to be crucified, like Jesus; a punishment for common criminals.
22	What is a mistral? Can you make inferences from the rest of the sentence?	A wind. We know that because it says it was 'blowing, blowing stray bits of garbage...' and it's only the wind that blows like that. The Mistral is a cold, dry wind blowing from the north over the northwest coast of the Mediterranean Sea,
23	Why did Beric have dry lips while he waited for the sentence?	It was only one of two decisions. He had a 50:50 chance of dying on the cross; he had realised that if he was sentence to the cross it would be too quick, there would be no chance of escaping. He didn't want to die; he was afraid. <i>Beric's thoughts about the cross are on the previous page.</i>

Outcast - Chapters Nine and Ten

24 What is a galley then? How do you know?

It's got to be a boat, because the judge says 'there to row at the oar...'

Galley · noun (pl. **galleys**) 1 historical a low, flat ship with one or more sails and up to three banks of oars, often manned by slaves or criminals.



25 Why did he know he would never forget everything about the cabbage leaf?

It was what he was looking at when sentence was passed. It was the last thing he saw before going back into slavery for the rest of his life - 'henceforth until you life's end.'

Outcast - Chapters Eleven & Twelve

Chapter Eleven - <i>The Alcestis of the Rhenu Fleet</i>		
1	What was the ordered bustle on the ship? What might have been going on on the ships?	They were getting ready to sail. They may have been washing the decks, taking on board provisions and goods to trade; organising where all this was going (stowing the goods); checking the sails; coiling or uncoiling the ropes.
2	How was it clear that the other three were officials?	It says on the next page - 'a little plump man whose many-folded toga...' The soldiers were wearing their soldier costumes, but the other three wore togas, which pointed them out to be important but not part of the army.
3	Why did the Legate prefer the Upper Province new soldiers?	Just because he felt like it. He was fed up to the back teeth with the governor whittering on about how wonderful his Lower Province was. He just wanted to annoy him, get a dig in, and be contrary. 'He had spent all yesterday evening...listening to...the infinite superiority of the Lower Province and everything in it; and had reached the stage where the man's simplest remark annoyed him.'
4	Why had the Legate not enjoyed his stay in Germany? Would he like Britannia better do you think?	'He was tired of German forests; swampy, mist-shrouded, rain-drenched German forests...in what seemed...to have been ceaseless rain. Three half-drowned months.' Not much; he wouldn't escape the rain!
5	What do we know about the galley that Beric is in?	Forty oars - only one row of oars; had an underwater ram (for ramming boats); it contained seamen and marines (soldiers) as well as the oarsmen; has a rowing master (Hortator) and a poop. It is the lead galley as the Legate is about to board her. poop ¹ • noun a raised deck at the stern of a ship, especially a sailing ship.
6	How did Beric know that he'd been at the oars for nearly two years?	By the seasons; '...it had been late spring when first he was shackled...and there had been another spring since then, and now it was spring again.'
7	Why did the rowing benches filled with men reek?	They were shackled to the benches. Think about it. If you are tied to a bench you can't go anywhere to do anything! They were only there to row the oars. They wouldn't have water to wash. With all that rowing they would be very sweaty! Storms would wash through them, but otherwise everything would stay there that came out of them!
8	Why was he not above stealing food from the others?	'They all grabbed more than their share when they got the chance, for they were always hungry.'
9	Why were there always fresh slaves coming?	'...to fill the places of those that wore out and died.'

Outcast - Chapters Eleven & Twelve

10	Beric and Jason had become friends, but how, in 'the silence of the well-disciplined gallery'?	'It was seldom that they could speak to each other. That brief, wordless contact of hand against hand on the oar-loom had to do instead.' They had lived side by side for two years and helped each other just by being there, by a brief touch, a glance.
11	Why did Beric think the Legate should have praised Porcus, the overseer, for the manoeuvre they'd just carried out (mooring); what is the author implying about the training?	'...Porcus, whose whiplash had given them their training...' The only way they'd learnt to be so good was by being whipped often by Porcus until they got it right.
12	Why did 'the bitterness of despair' rise in his throat?	He heard the Governor say 'Britain'. It made him homesick; but it also made him realise that however close he got to his own home he would never get there because of where he was, chained to the oar-benches.
13	Why did he know everything about the Alcestis?	He'd been on it for nearly two years, all the time, day and night, fine and stormy.
14	What was the Hortator's job?	To beat out a rhythm for the men to row by so they all rowed together and at the speed wanted. 'The beat of the Hortator's hammer setting the rowing pace when needful...'
Chapter Twelve - Storm at Sea		
15	Why did Beric know what the conversation up on the poop deck was about, he couldn't hear them?	'He knew the weather signs...the indefinable smell of coming tempest in the wind.' He had been on the boat and rowed in all weathers; he knew the signs of good or bad weather now. He knew a storm was coming and so did they. They just had to decide whether to go or wait for it to blow over.
16	Why did they stand off half the rowers? What would be the danger if they had separate crews?	It would take too long and too much palaver to swap the rowers around, unshackling and the re-shackling them. Imagine what a bunch of criminals sentenced to death in the galleys might decide to do if they were free for a moment in the changeover. They might attack the other people on the ship, might even take it over.
17	Why did Beric now not notice the changing weather?	He was tired and exhausted; he had no energy for anything other than keeping going on the oars, or dropping to sleep under the benches. The constant forward and backward of the rowing hypnotised him almost. '...drugged by the unchanging rhythm of effort into a state in which he was barely conscious that he was rowing at all...when...the watch was relieved again, he curled up like a dog under the bench and was instantly asleep.'

Outcast - Chapters Eleven & Twelve

18	'A bat-winged sky', what sort of sky?	Dark - stormclouds. A bat being dark coloured, or at least looking black when seen at dusk.
19	Why did they furl the sail on the Alcestis?	With the sail up the wind was driving her in the wrong direction to where they wanted to go. With the sail down then the oarsmen could work against the sea only. '...fought to keep her on the course against the wind that was already driving her too far south.'
20	What is the difference between the way Porcus and the Master sees the oarsmen?	Porcus sees them as rubbish, untermensch (sub-human, less than men); they are just there to keep the ship going and he will work them until they die, he sees nothing wrong in that. The Master, on the other hand, tells the Legate, 'The rowers are flesh and blood, sir; and flesh and blood reaches breaking point at last.' The Master realise they are human, that is why he fed them meat before the crossing. He realise they have to be treated relatively well to get anything out of them.
21	How did the Master persuade the oarsmen to continue rowing?	It's either that or you die along with us? Plus a bribe of red wine and meat. 'If you do not, then the odds are that we shall not make Dubris.'
22	Why did the slaves, have no chance if they were wrecked?	They were chained to their benches and to each other. They could not jump in and hope to survive by swimming or floating. When the ship went down, they would do, dragged down by the chains attached to the benches.
23	Why did Jason's cough worry Beric so?	It was a 'terrible' cough. Jason's body was 'wasted' (skinny from not enough food). He was 'grey-white to the lips' (not pink as a healthy person should be). Jason was worn out; this was a constant cough, not something that he had managed to get over. Jason was obviously worn out. Beric feared for Jason's life and then who would there be for him on the benches?

Outcast - Chapters Thirteen & Fourteen

Chapter Thirteen - Jason's Island		
1	Why did the Legate turn in loathing from the cold fried chicken legs offered to him?	He was seasick! Loathe • verb feel hatred or disgust for.
2	What about the slaves? Why did they not fight over the food?	They were 'spent'. Spent past and past participle of SPEND . • adjective used up; exhausted. They were exhausted, too tired to want to eat. They had been rowing for their lives remember.
3	What are the shackle-galls and the stripes that hurt Beric in the mornings? Read on and make inferences.	gall ² - a sore on the skin made by chafing (rubbing). They should be able to work it out from the sentences following in the book and from what they know about his living conditions and situation. His wrists and ankles were red-raw. What from? Must be the shackles. So that must be the shackle-galls. What were the stripes? What else happened to them that might give them stripes? Being whipped.
4	Why was Jason not afraid of death?	Life was so bad on the benches and death so close to them now that it couldn't be that bad. At least it would be the end of their suffering on the boat. 'Life is none so sweet on the rowing benches, and death none so far from any of us...'
5	Why were the little boats on the water?	'...with officers to speak to the Legate, and vegetables for sale.'
6	Why, when the order came to be ready for sea, were the rowers ready before all others?	They had nowhere else to go, other than sit on their benches. That was the choice they had. '...they had been ready on their benches a long while, sitting as that had sat all yesterday...'
7	Why when Porcus speaks to Beric after he asks for help for Jason are the 'yous' in italics?	Denoting surprise and amazement that a slave (!) would dare to tell him what to do. 'You', meaning all the insults he shouts at them - Tiber scum being one from the previous chapter. 'You', meaning sub-human scum.
8	What was it he saw in Jason's face that made him stop his demands?	He saw that Jason was accepting of death; he knew it was on its way, that he would die soon. <i>Get them to really look at the bit about the gladiator and think about it, what happens.</i>
9	Why did they not put the sail up and lessen the load for the rowers?	'...the light wind was too far westerly to serve the galley's sail...' The wind wasn't blowing in the direction they wanted.

Outcast - Chapters Thirteen & Fourteen

10	How did the Overseer know that Jason was dead? What told him?	The results of the whipping. '...the blood came slowly, very slowly, scarcely at all.' His heart had stopped beating, so his blood did not run out as it would have done if he'd been alive. Think about when you cut yourself, you bleed a lot, well he didn't.
11	Why did Beric attack Porcus, the Overseer? After all he must have known he would be punished severely?	He had just lost his only friend; seen him whipped as he lay dying to check if he still had any life in him. Heard and seen him thrown overboard like a piece of rubbish. He just lost it; he was mad with grief and the unfairness of it all; if only they'd listened to him earlier and swapped Jason, he might still be alive.
12	Beric had had little to eat, like the others and yet he was strong enough to nearly strangle Porcus. Why was that? There are two reasons.	One - all that rowing had made his arms and hands very powerful and muscular. Two - being mad with grief gave him superhuman strength; he was so desperate to kill Porcus that he found the extra strength he needed.
13	How did the Legate regard the incident?	Only as something that delayed him getting to where he wanted to go! '...looked on with the cold impatience of the delay.'
14	How did he suffer after the whipping?	At first he was numb, but then the pain came and made him writhe in agony. Then he had the pain of his arms stretched above his head. He grew thirstier and thirstier. Writhe • verb twist or squirm in pain or as if in pain.
15	What was so shocking about the end of this chapter?	That they chucked Beric overboard, even though he wasn't yet dead! They wanted to save themselves the effort of having to bury him the next day! 'Slip him over, then, sir?' 'Might as well...save burying him tomorrow...someone else can deal with him.'
Chapter Fourteen - The House above the Mist		
16	'...a cold douche on the face of a sleeper...' What does that mean? Look at what has happened to Beric if you can't think and try to work it out from that.	It means when someone throws cold water on you when you're asleep and makes you wide awake at once! <i>They should be able to work it out from what happens to Beric when he hits the water.</i> Douche • noun 1 a shower of water. Also French for 'shower'.
17	Why did he not shout to the galleys now he was awake?	That would have meant ending up back on the benches again. He preferred to take his chances with the sea. '...he might be picked: but then there would be the galleys again. Better the sea than that.'

Outcast - Chapters Thirteen & Fourteen

18	How did he feel the sea as a friend then?	He felt it helping him to float on the surface. '...the buoyant lift of it under him like a hand bearing him up.'
19	'He had very little idea of being picked up, even less of making land...' What was he intending to do, what was he hoping for?	Nothing to both questions. He didn't think anybody would find him in the sea and rescue him and he didn't think he would be swept to shore.
20	Why did Beric scarcely believe it when he saw land?	He was resigned to dying in the sea, and now, suddenly, there was hope. If he could see land, he could perhaps reach it and survive! '...only a heart-bursting fight for life that had suddenly become real and urgent to him again.'
21	Why could he not tell what time of day it was when he awoke? What was the mist masking?	The mist hid the Sun from him. No Sun, no shadows, so he could not tell the time of day from the shadows of the type of light.
22	Why did he run?	'Behind him was the sea, and the sea meant the galleys.' He had to get as far from the sea as he could, so there was little chance of being found and hauled back to the galleys. It was an instinctive flight. He wasn't thinking; it was sheer panic.
23	What would have happened if he'd been seen by the soldiers? Justify your answers.	<i>As long as they can clearly justify their choices, that's fine.</i> <i>They should make references to what the soldiers are doing; Beric's physical state.</i>
24	Why did he lap like a dog at the water?	He was too far gone to cup it up in his hand and drink from it like that. He was at the very end of his strength; we know that from the mist that's gathering in his head. He had no energy left to kneel and think, so he took the easiest option.
25	Why did he draw closer to the farm?	'...he was going to die tonight; and outcast as he was, he was lonely.' He wanted some human warmth, even though Jason had been the only one to show him any over the last two years. He didn't want to die like an animal, under some bush, on his own.
26	How did the man know that 'he has been on the run overlong...'?	By the state of him, the look on his face. Remember, he was at the very end of his strength and his will to live.
27	What was so important for his recovery?	'He trusted Justinus.' If he hadn't trusted Justinus he would have been worrying all the time about having to go back and about the soldiers coming to get him. Realising he could trust Justinus meant that he could concentrate only on getting better and not on worrying about what might happen.

Outcast - Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

Chapter Fifteen - The Builder of Roads and Drainer of Marshes		
1	Why was it so wonderful for Beric to lie quiet?	As a slave he had always to be up and doing. As a rower he had never had time to lie quietly and do nothing; there was always the reminders around him of his slavery.
2	Why did Beric react so to Cordaella?	He had taken some time to trust Justinus and now here was someone new and different and it was not Justinus. He had lost his trust in men.
3	Why did Beric sound so defiant?	'...he was suddenly afraid that last night had been only part of his dream.' He wanted it to be true. If he said it certainly enough then it must be true!
4	What was it about her that made him take the food?	'It was a kind face, broad and soft-eyed and gentle.' It was not the sort of face that would do him harm. She had talked to him gently ('said the woman soothingly').
5	Why do you think she refused to give any more to eat just then?	<i>Make them think about it; he has not been used to eating much and nothing at all recently. His stomach will be unused to food. It may go down, but it may come back up again or give him severe stomach ache. See if you can elicit this from the children through questioning.</i>
6	Why did he stare so at the bandage on his wrist?	'The sight seemed to him so surprising...' He couldn't believe that someone had gone to some effort to look after him and tend his wounds. It showed somebody cared for him and this was very new to him, that somebody cared enough for his wellbeing to do something about it.
7	'Beric found that he did not want to appeal against her.' Why?	He had eaten and now he was tired again. Remember he had been out of it only the day before. Just confronting her and eating had worn him out. Looking ahead we can see 'his tired mind...' and further on 'almost at once he was asleep.'
8	Why does the author describe him crawling 'out like an old man'?	To tell us just how weak and feeble he was, how lacking in energy he was, how enfeebled he was. He was a young man and yet he walked like an old man, treading slowly and unbalanced.
9	Why had Servius and Cordaella just accepted the arrival of Beric without complaint and comment?	'...whatever Justinus did was right...' to Servius and for Cordaella 'no sort of stray could ever come amiss'. She was always happy to welcome and feed anyone/thing in need of it.

Outcast - Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

10	Why did Beric flinch when Servius talked to him? Think back to the galley.	'...as though expecting a blow.' On the galley a whipping usually accompanied being talked to. The sound of someone talking to him made his mind automatically return to the galley so he flinched.
11	'For a moment he thought Servius was going to ask questions, and he added quickly...' Why did he interrupt?	He didn't want to answer any questions. He didn't want to think about his previous life, it hurt too much. By asking a question himself he could direct the conversation the way he wanted it to go.
12	What made him feel so desolate all of a sudden?	'Servius had let the future in...there would be no place for him...' Servius had unknowingly pointed out to him that he had a future here, had plans, but Beric was not included and Beric had no plans of his own, he was on his own again.
13	What was it about 'a hearth fire and a woman singing to herself' that made him aware of his loneliness?	He had been part of that life as a child back home; yet now he was no longer part of it, having been sent away. '...they were part of a long-forgotten world that he had once belonged to...and he did not belong to that world now.'
14	Why was Beric not fluent with words when he told Justinius about everything that had happened since they'd last met?	'...it was two years and more since he had strung more than a score of words together at a time...' Remember, they had not been allowed to talk much on the galley - 'the silence of the well-disciplined galley'?
15	Looking back after the conversation that Beric overheard between Servius and Cordaella, earlier, why did Justinius get up abruptly and go to stand, looking out of the open doorway, after Beric had explained where he had come from?	Justinius had, like the others seen a similarity between Beric and his late wife. For a moment he had hoped that perhaps the child had survived and he had not been informed. For a moment there he had hoped that Beric was his son. He had had to get up and go to the window to hide his disappointment from him, when Beric explained how he had been fostered and he'd realised that Beric could not possibly be his son.
16	Why was Beric so upset?	'It had not been for him at all, the caring in Justinius's hands.' Beric realised that Justinius had cared for him, hoping that he was his son. He thought it could not possibly continue; now he knew he was no relation.
Chapter Sixteen - Another Stray		
17	Why did Beric hardly hear the man berating him for coming out on the track so suddenly?	He was blind to him; he had eyes only for the little mongrel who had befriended him when he had felt so alone, and was now lying hurt in the road..

Outcast - Chapters Fifteen & Sixteen

18	Why was he so fierce about the mongrel?	He had taken to her. Something had clicked between them. He had someone who cared for him, and he would do his best. He was not alone any more. 'The poor little brute in his arms was the only thing that mattered.'
19	Why was Cordaella so ruffled, upset that she spoke roughly?	She had been worried about Beric all day; he'd been gone before she'd got up and she did not know where he was or what to do. She was upset because he had been left in her care by Justinus and she was worried about what he might say if he came back and Beric was still gone. 'I have been half out of my wits!...and what the Commander would say...'
20	What did Beric realise as he watched Justinus check the mongrel over?	'...that perhaps the caring in Justinus's hands...had not been entirely a mistake, after all.' He began to think that perhaps Justinus was the sort of man who cared for everyone who needed it.
21	How did Justinus try to persuade Beric that he was not a runaway galley slave?	'You were put overboard from your galley for dead. There is no hunt on your trail.' There would be no-one looking for him, after all they thought he was nearly dead. Why would they look for him still?
22	How did Justinus get Glaucus to agree to sell Beric to him, and what did he do as soon as he had bought him?	'I now certain things about that young man that he would not wish known to his world.' He blackmailed Glaucus with all the unsavoury things that he had done and that Justinus knew about. '..taking a slim papyrus roll from the coffer...I had this made out at the same time...it was his manumission, his freedom from the arm-ring.' Justinus had made him free, no longer a slave.
23	Why had Justinus kept the papyrus roll for so long?	'I suppose that, against all reason, I hoped that you might come for it, one day.'
24	What did Beric point out to Justinus though about the manumission?	'...not I, but the son you thought I might be...' Beric pointed out that he'd kept it in the hope that he'd find his might be son again. He had not done it for Beric, being Beric, but for Beric, hopefully being his son.
25	Why did Justinus ask Beric to give him a chance and stay?	He realised that he would be lonely when he left the army soon. 'I have been finding that rather a lonely prospect...' Beric had looked glad to see him - 'It is twenty years since that happened to me.'

Outcast - Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen

Chapter Seventeen - The Wind Rises		
1	'...the pack-ponies in whose panniers much of the earth was brought.' What are panniers? In the last chapter they were also mentioned - 'their canvas panniers laden with chalk...or winding home with their panniers hanging empty...'	<p>Pannier • noun 1 a bag or box fitted on either side of the rear wheel of a bicycle or motorcycle. 2 a basket, especially each of a pair carried by a beast of burden. Carried where the saddle would be, but carried on either side.</p> 
2	Why was he no closer to the people he worked with by the end of the summer?	<p>'It was as though the reek of the Alcestis's rowing-deck rose between him and all men...' Beric could not put it all behind him. He always had the picture of himself as a reeking slave shackled to the rowing bench.</p>
3	Why was he so sure that it was Lucilla that told Hippias what to say and not Hippias who had made it up?	<p>'He was quite sure, thinking it over, that it had been Lucilla who had thought of the story. Old Hippias was wonderful with horses, but he had not the kind of imagination that invents lanterns.'</p>
4	What did he miss about Canog; why did he give her that name?	<p>'He missed the light padding of her paws behind him, and her powers of conversation - she was a very talkative little dog.' 'It was because of her trick of singing...that he had called her Canog, a little Song.'</p>
5	Why was it better for him to follow the Rhee Wall, after dark?	<p>Too many bogs and ponds and mud to fall into and sink/drown. He could go the wrong way and end up at the edge of the land.</p>
6	What did Beric think as he hugged Gelert?	<p>'It could not be happening; it was a dream!' How could it be true? He had tried to forget about his life in the past. How could his dog be there in front of him?</p>

Outcast - Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen

7	Why did Beric tell Rhiada to feel that it was him?	He was blind, remember? <i>And if you had forgotten you should have been able to work it out from what Rhiada says next - 'I know you by your voice and your hands...'</i>
8	Why do you think that Rhiada left the village too after Beric left?	<i>They'll need to remember right back for this. If they do they'll remember that Rhiada supported Beric's right to stay in the village when everyone else wanted him gone.</i> Rhiada must have felt upset that his influence was not enough to save Beric. Upset that nobody listened, and so left the village rather than be around people who had opposed his idea and thrown a young man out, alone.
9	How did Beric know that Gelert had chosen Rhiada?	If they look back on the previous page - 'Gelert...collapsed panting at the harper's feet.' And on this on - 'Gelert...dropped his chin back on to the harper's feet.' He knew that if Gelert had chosen him, he would be lying on <i>his</i> feet now.
10	Why do you think the silence fell between them after Rhiada had told him about life back in the village?	I think that it made Beric aware of what he had missed out on. His best friend Cathlan had a wife and son, and he had been enslaved, condemned to the galleys until his death, and then thrown overboard for dead. What a contrast in their lives!
11	How did Rhiada know that the places Beric had been were not good?	Beric's voice had changed - 'his voice had hardened.' He was reluctant to talk about it, he said very little, just that he'd been elsewhere.
12	Why were the soldiers draining the marshes?	'He told him about the green fringe of pasture along the seaward shore; that was for a promise of what the whole Marsh would be one day, with the hungry sea shut out. 'Fine grazing there will be for many sheep, one day, from the sea-wall to the Weald.' They were draining the Marsh to make farmland.
13	How did Beric know that a storm was on the way?	'Surf on the shore and swell in the offing; that meant wild weather somewhere...Gelert whimpered uneasily. Gelert knew, and so did the gulls. The gulls had all flown inland.' There were signs all around him; remember how quiet it was when he came out onto the marsh - the calm before the storm?
14	Why did Beric not feel quite so desolate as he strode off alone?	'...the thought of small Canog came pattering to comfort him...'
15	How did Justinus know that this storm was going to be 'something that only happens once in a hundred years'?	His years of experience as an engineer out in all weathers. He has been draining the marsh for the last six years. Out in the open all day he can read the signs around him.

Outcast - Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen

Chapter Eighteen - The Great Storm		
16	What seemed to be the only thing preventing Beric's pony from blowing away?	'...the small, sturdy pony...seemed to be chiefly kept from blowing away itself by the growing load in its canvas panniers.' The weight of the rock on his back!
17	Why will there 'be women wailing along the coast tomorrow'? Think about the reasons why.	Fishermen, caught out at sea, will drown because of the storm. Men, fighting the storm to make their animals safe, might be fatally injured by flying debris.
18	Why was Beric's pony weary?	He had been carrying panniers of rock since midnight ('so it had been going on since midnight'). It was now dawn ('Dawn broke over the marsh' - opening sentence of the chapter).
19	Why could he now think of the Alcestis, without 'any of the old horror'?	He had agreed to stay with Justinus, he had met Rhiada and made links again with his old life. Life had moved on. It was not so close to him now. He had spent the summer working on the wall, and now he had been working through the night; there were other things to think about right now.
20	Why did Beric move so fast to join Justinus in the breach?	Two reason. 1] He thought that Justinus might have been hurt or swept away? Look at what happened before he headed for the breach. 'he saw Justinus up there in the breach...even as he looked, the lip of a green sea swept over the embankment, and for a moment the figures in the breach were lost in a spreading burst of spray. 2] he wanted Justinus to succeed; this man who had cared for him, needed to be paid back and this was the way to do it.
21	Why did it seem a losing fight?	Everything they put in the gap was washed away, again and again.
22	Why did he not notice that the waves were beginning to grow smaller after nearly drowning?	He was too busy helping to mend the breach, piling up the chalk to remake the wall. '...he had no leisure to notice...'
23	Why was he suddenly 'so tired he could barely crawl'?	They had been working for three days straight. We know that from the previous page when it mentions (writing about Justinus) 'the blue-black stubble of a three-days beard.' He didn't have to fight any more to fill the breach/gap. The storm was over. He relaxed and that is when the fatigue hit him.
24	Why was the man in the village not upset about the river having changed course?	It was closer to them; they didn't have to go so far to reach the river and launch their boats!

Outcast - Chapters Seventeen & Eighteen

25	Why was the bank not as high as Justinus wanted it?	'It should, and eventually it will be. It would have been by now, if I had ever been allowed more than two-thirds of the men I applied for.'
26	Why did the Legate not recognise Beric? Think carefully.	Why would he? He was not concerned with the slaves in the galleys. He might have been there when he was whipped but he was not looking carefully and committing faces to memory.
27	Why was Rhiada moving on?	'it is in my heart that this is no place for songs just now...I am for the next village...where maybe there will be less storm damage to come between men and the music of my harp.' All the villagers were busy putting everything back to rights after the storm; rebuilding, mending building, mending boats, etc.
28	Why did Justinus raise the idea of joining the legion?	He knew that Beric had thought of it before. Remember, when he ran away, he intended to join the legion? He had evidently told Justinus when he told him all about his life, earlier in the book after he had been found by Justinus. Justinus also would have wanted his son to follow him into the legion. 'I have always hankered for a son following in my old service.'