

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?
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?
3	How did the smoke escape from Cunori's house?
4	Why did Cunori not need to go out that night?
5	Why ws Cunori replacing the shaft on his spear?
6	Where was the only place women could sit in this hut?
7	Why had Cunori asked for Guinear of her father
8	When had the laughter stopped and why?
9	Why would Cunori have been sorrier about the baby if it had been a boy?
10	Why did he want to give Guinear so many presents if the harvest was good?
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?
12	What was the only reason Flann was out in the night in such a storm?
13	What was Cunori's first thought when told about the ship? To save the crew or the goods on board?
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?
15	What phase of the moon was it when Guinear's baby died?
16	Where/when have we seen the moon similarly described in Year 5, using metaphors
17	Who did the men think had brought them this wreck?
18	Who or what was the 'Killer'?
19	What was the ship?
20	What happened to these ships in a north-easterly wind?
21	Why was Merddyn the Druid so excited watching the wreck? What does he mean by the 'Eagle People'?
22	Why did the tribesmen not try to help those in the ship?
23	What finally destroyed and sank the ship?
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?
25	Why did they have to make sure the sailors were buried properly?
26	Why were the bodies found by Cunori different to the others strewn around?
27	Why did Cunori know the young man was a soldier?
28	Why did Cunori hesitate before cutting the baby free?
29	Why did he hide it in his cloak, 'with a hurried and almost shame-faced gesture...?'
30	Why did Merddyn want so much for Cunori to abandon the baby?
31	Did Guinear accept the baby right at the end?

Chapter Two - Pack Law - Outcast

1	Why did Cunori give a black ram for Beric?
2	What was it that Guinear did to Beric in his second year and why?
3	Why has the author spent a whole paragraph repeating nine times?
4	Did Guinear have more babies?
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?
6	When did you become a man in this tribe?
7	How were the boars cooked? What do you know and what do you have to work out for yourself?
8	When had it been a much bigger event?
9	Why would the boys of nine have to stand before the clan?
10	Did Beric feel different about being not actually of his family but 'adopted'?
11	Why was there so much argument about Beric being included with the other children for training?
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?
13	What was Rhiada's reason for supporting Beric?
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?
15	Why did he dodge away from his mother when he saw her? What might he have done if she'd comforted him?
16	Why was it such a shock for him? Why did he have to remind himself that they were his people?
17	What did his brother think of him?
18	As he walked past the huts how could he know which hut was a house and which wasn't?
19	Why did Pridforth tell the boys they weren't as good as their fathers?
20	They could all throw a javelin so why did they have to learn again? What were they learning?
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?
22	Why did Beric know he had to fight so hard against Cathlan?
23	What words are used by the author, through these paragraphs, to keep up the comparison we talked about in Q 21?
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?
25	Why did he very rarely go as far along the cliffs as he did today?
26	Why did he not feel elated? He had won the fight after all?
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?
28	As he sat there what did he realise about his mother and father?
29	What excuse did Cathlan come up with as to why he had followed Beric?
30	Why did Cathlan come to make friends with Beric?

Outcast - Chapters Three and Four

Chapter Three - The Outcast	
1	'He learned to follow a three-day-old spoor as though it were a beaten trail.' Can you work out what a spoor is from this sentence and the paragraph it's in?
2	Why when he trained <i>Gelert</i> , did 'he learn as much as <i>Gelert</i> did...?'
3	Was it obvious as he grew up that he was different from the rest of the tribe?
4	Why did his clansmen start to look at him and whisper and draw aside as he walked by?
5	'...the knowledge turned him cold', why? p32
6	Why was it strange for <i>Beric</i> 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.'
7	'She took a smoking bowl from the hot ash as she spoke, thrusting aside <i>Gelert's</i> enquiring muzzle.' What was <i>Gelert</i> up to?
8	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?
9	What was the same and what was different about him coming into the firelit circle this time?
10	Why did <i>Istoreth</i> say that <i>Beric</i> had to be driven out?
11	Did <i>Beric</i> try to fight, to stand up for himself as he had done six years ago? How do you know?
12	What was <i>Rhiada's</i> argument supporting <i>Beric</i> ?
13	Why did <i>Beric</i> not respond when his other tried to hug him and tend to him?
14	Why did <i>Beric</i> take <i>Cathlan's</i> spear, after all he had just been given one by his mother?
15	'Bid the moon tarry but for a single heartbeat.' What did he want the moon to do, and why?
16	What hope did his father, <i>Cunori</i> hold out for the future?
17	Why did the stone-throwing upset him so much?
18	Why did he break down when <i>Gelert</i> arrived and what was the hardest thing he had to do?
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 <i>Isca</i> ?
20	What was his first impression of the town, why was it so different to what he knew?
21	Why does the author use the simile 'straight as a spearshaft'?
22	Why did he not go up to the fort straightaway, but decide to wait for morning?
23	Why were there blackened ruins in the town?
24	What did he find odd as he looked around the shops?
25	What was so special about the soldier that he couldn't stop staring at?
26	When did you, as reader, realise that all was not well for <i>Beric</i> , that the <i>Greek</i> had something on his mind when he helped him?
27	Why was he more at home beyond the <i>River Gate</i> ?
28	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!''
29	What does 'vittles' mean, and how, from the text, do you know this? (top of p 55)
30	What happened to <i>Beric</i> at the end of the chapter? What does the author write that helps us to understand?

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?
2	Why were the slaves so quiet?
3	Why would Aaron Ben Malachi, the trader be ruined soon?
4	Why does Beric count time in moons, rather than months as we would?
5	Why had the slavers not beaten Beric more when he protested?
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?
7	What had Beric stopped thinking about, but what one thing could still make him miserable when he thought about back home?
8	Why did Beric not react when told to get up and kicked?
9	Why did the Lady Julia not buy Beric? Why was she so fussy? Did she think of them as human?
10	Why did Beric have hope when the young man spoke to the dealer? P64
11	How did the small stout man look at Beric? P65
12	How did the household of Piso treat him when he arrived and was standing in the courtyard?
13	Why did the slave girl say he was soft in the head?
14	What did he wash himself with? Why?
15	Why do you think his rags were 'stinking' and 'filthy'?
16	What did Beric find out at the end of the chapter that surprised him?
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?
18	Why did none of the slaves ever seem to have specific jobs to do?
19	Why did the slaves not escape, they had plenty of opportunities?
20	Why was Beric less lonely with the horses?
21	Why was the coming of spring so hard on him?
22	Why did the Lady Lucilla not look up as Beric approached with her breakfast?
23	Why was Lady Lucilla sorry about talking about the swallows?
24	Why did Beric care that the Lady Lucilla should be happy about marrying? He was her slave after all?
25	Why could Hippias not be sold with a broken leg?
26	Why did Venetia, the mare, nuzzle his shoulder?
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?
28	Why had Beric not started saving to buy his freedom?
29	How did Glaucus react when Beric said that he would not cheat for him, but that Glaucus should, if that was what he wanted?

Outcast - Chapter Seven and Eight

Chapter Seven - The Dark Days	
1	Why did Beric have an uneasy feeling?
2	What are Lucilla's friends compared to? Why do you think this is?
3	Why did the 'shadowed court' seem very quiet in the 'cool of the evening'?
4	Why was Lucilla so taken by Beric hoping that she would be happy in her marriage?
5	What must a young man do in Beric's tribe before he can go looking for a girl?
6	'For three days Beric carried his little newly-lit hope with him.' What does that mean?
7	Why did he no longer hope for freedom?
8	When was the best time for Lucilla to approach her father about Beric?
9	Did Glaucus really want Beric?
10	Why was Beric so homesick, that night, knowing that he now belonged to Glaucus?
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?
12	Why did Beric want Lucilla to have Hippias?
Chapter Eight - Breaking-Point	
13	Why did Glaucus change Beric's name?
14	Why did Beric not react to Glaucus's smack across his face?
15	'A black time of injustice and casual-seeming cruelties and humiliations that made him writhe.' What was Beric's life like?
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.
17	Why did Beric yearn to be Justinus's slave? What did he think as he looked at him?
18	Why did the quietly spoken words of the centurion seem like a shout to Beric?
19	Why was the centurion not bothered with being promoted and becoming a commander, or being one of the special guards in Rome?
20	Why would Justinus stay in Britain when he retired?
21	Why did Beric nearly cry out when Justinus talked about the skies and the geese?
22	Why did Beric react to Glaucus's smack? He had had others before from him?
23	Why was Justinus the only one to try and intervene?
24	Why did Glaucus not order the thirty strokes to take place immediately?

Outcast - Chapters Nine and Ten

Chapter Nine - Escape!	
1	Why was the staple sticking out of the wall?
2	Why did he make no resistance as he was shackled?
3	What were the reasons that had kept him from escaping before?
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?
5	Why did he walk boldly across the outer court rather than creeping round the edge?
6	Why did the court 'stretch out like a vast plain in a nightmare'?
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?
8	Why did he choose Lucilla's temple place to work his file in?
9	Why did he sit and persist? He was so close to the house, yet he stayed to work the file?
10	Why did he stay in Rome to dump the shackle? Why didn't he just head for the gates?
11	Why were the roads just busier and noisier than during the day?
12	Why did he leave Rome by the great coast road, the Aurelian Way?
13	Why did he turn 'homeward blindly'?
14	What does it mean - 'he realised his empty stomach'?
Chapter Ten - The Farm in the Hills	
15	Why did the woman look at him 'shrewdly, uncomfortably shrewdly'?
16	What puzzled him about the house?
17	Why did the group of men 'roar in appreciation' when Rhodope said, '...I thought you might be robbers.'
18	How did she know that he was an escaped slave?
19	What did the woman say would happen to him if the robbers found him?
20	Why does the soldier say 'would you now? - Oh, no you don't...'?
21	Why did Beric not tell them that he was no part of the robbers' band? What is meant by the cross?
22	What is a mistral? Can you make inferences from the rest of the sentence?
23	Why did Beric have dry lips while he waited for the sentence?
24	What is a galley then? How do you know?
25	Why did he know he would never forget everything about the cabbage leaf?

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?
2	How was it clear that the other three were officials?
3	Why did the Legate prefer the Upper Province new soldiers?
4	Why had the Legate not enjoyed his stay in Germany? Would he like Britannia better do you think?
5	What do we know about the galley that Beric is in?
6	How did Beric know that he'd been at the oars for nearly two years?
7	Why did the rowing benches filled with men reek?
8	Why was he not above stealing food from the others?
9	Why were there always fresh slaves coming?
10	Beric and Jason had become friends, but how, in 'the silence of the well-disciplined gallery'?
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?
12	Why did 'the bitterness of despair' rise in his throat?
13	Why did he know everything about the Alcestis?
14	What was the Hortator's job?
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?
16	Why did they stand off half the rowers? What would be the danger if they had separate crews?
17	Why did Beric now not notice the changing weather?
18	'A bat-winged sky', what sort of sky?
19	Why did they furl the sail on the Alcestis?
20	What is the difference between the way Porcus and the Master sees the oarsmen?
21	How did the Master persuade the oarsmen to continue rowing?
22	Why did the slaves, have no chance if they were wrecked?
23	Why did Jason's cough worry Beric so?

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?
2	What about the slaves? Why did they not fight over the food?
3	What are the shackle-galls and the stripes that hurt Beric in the mornings? Read on and make inferences.
4	Why was Jason not afraid of death?
5	Why were the little boats on the water?
6	Why, when the order came to be ready for sea, were the rowers ready before all others?
7	Why when Porcus speaks to Beric after he asks for help for Jason are the 'yous' in italics?
8	What was it he saw in Jason's face that made him stop his demands?
9	Why did they not put the sail up and lessen the load for the rowers?
10	How did the Overseer know that Jason was dead? What told him?
11	Why did Beric attack Porcus, the Overseer? After all he must have known he would be punished severely?
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.
13	How did the Legate regard the incident?
14	How did he suffer after the whipping?
15	What was so shocking about the end of this chapter?
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.
17	Why did he not shout to the galleys now he was awake?
18	How did he feel the sea as a friend then?
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?
20	Why did Beric scarcely believe it when he saw land?
21	Why could he not tell what time of day it was when he awoke? What was the mist masking?
22	Why did he run?
23	What would have happened if he'd been seen by the soldiers? Justify your answers.
24	Why did he lap like a dog at the water?
25	Why did he draw closer to the farm?
26	How did the man know that 'he has been on the run overlong...'?
27	What was so important for his recovery?

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?
2	Why did Beric react so to Cordaella?
3	Why did Beric sound so defiant?
4	What was it about her that made him take the food?
5	Why do you think she refused to give any more to eat just then?
6	Why did he stare so at the bandage on his wrist?
7	'Beric found that he did not want to appeal against her.' Why?
8	Why does the author describe him crawling 'out like an old man'?
9	Why had Servius and Cordaella just accepted the arrival of Beric without complaint and comment?
10	Why did Beric flinch when Servius talked to him? Think back to the galley.
11	'For a moment he thought Servius was going to ask questions, and he added quickly...' Why did he interrupt?
12	What made him feel so desolate all of a sudden?
13	What was it about 'a hearth fire and a woman singing to herself' that made him aware of his loneliness?
14	Why was Beric not fluent with words when he told Justinus about everything that had happened since they'd last met?
15	Looking back after the conversation that Beric overheard between Servius and Cordaella, earlier, why did Justinus get up abruptly and go to stand, looking out of the open doorway, after Beric had explained where he had come from?
16	Why was Beric so upset?

Chapter Sixteen - Another Stray

17	Why did Beric hardly hear the man berating him for coming out on the track so suddenly?
18	Why was he so fierce about the mongrel?
19	Why was Cordaella so ruffled, upset that she spoke roughly?
20	What did Beric realise as he watched Justinus check the mongrel over?
21	How did Justinus try to persuade Beric that he was not a runaway galley slave?
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?
23	Why had Justinus kept the papyrus roll for so long?
24	What did Beric point out to Justinus though about the manumission?
25	Why did Justinus ask Beric to give him a chance and stay?

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...'
2	Why was he no closer to the people he worked with by the end of the summer?
3	Why was he so sure that it was Lucilla that told Hippias what to say and not Hippias who had made it up?
4	What did he miss about Canog; why did he give her that name?
5	Why was it better for him to follow the Rhee Wall, after dark?
6	What did Beric think as he hugged Gelert?
7	Why did Beric tell Rhiada to feel that it was him?
8	Why do you think that Rhiada left the village too after Beric left?
9	How did Beric know that Gelert had chosen Rhiada?
10	Why do you think the silence fell between them after Rhiada had told him about life back in the village?
11	How did Rhiada know that the places Beric had been were not good?
12	Why were the soldiers draining the marshes?
13	How did Beric know that a storm was on the way?
14	Why did Beric not feel quite so desolate as he strode off alone?
15	How did Justinus know that this storm was going to be 'something that only happens once in a hundred years'?
Chapter Eighteen - The Great Storm	
16	What seemed to be the only thing preventing Beric's pony from blowing away?
17	Why will there 'be women wailing along the coast tomorrow'? Think about the reasons why.
18	Why was Beric's pony weary?
19	Why could he now think of the Alcestis, without 'any of the old horror'?
20	Why did Beric move so fast to join Justinus in the breach?
21	Why did it seem a losing fight?
22	Why did he not notice that the waves were beginning to grow smaller after nearly drowning?
23	Why was he suddenly 'so tired he could barely crawl'?
24	Why was the man in the village not upset about the river having changed course?
25	Why was the bank not as high as Justinus wanted it?
26	Why did the Legate not recognise Beric? Think carefully.
27	Why was Rhiada moving on?
28	Why did Justinus raise the idea of joining the legion?