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NAME

DATE



Word Study

reprimanding (p. 21) expressing disapproval in a firm way

nuance (p. 33) a small difference

lanky (p. 33) awkwardly tall and thin

meandered (p. 35) to have moved slowly without a purpose

hooligans (p. 38) a group of young persons who do disruptive or violent things

foliage (p. 48) leaves from a plant

din (p. 48) a loud, distracting, continuous noise

pungent (p. 55) a strong smell or taste

desolation (p. 57) a feeling of extreme sadness and isolation

convulsed (p. 64) sudden whole-body shaking

benefactor (p. 72) someone who gives money or other support to a person or cause

revel (p. 75) to enjoy greatly

grimace (p. 82) a twisted facial expression that indicates a strong dislike or pain

revulsion (p. 82) a strong feeling of dislike

discern (p. 85) to take great care to notice or consider something

tedious (p. 119) lengthy and dull

quizzical (p. 172) demonstrating uncertainty, confusion, or disbelief

To explore more terms used in *Shadow in the Dark* and their meanings, read pages 223–225 in the book.

Deepen your understanding of one of the words from the list above by completing the graphic organizer.

Word

Definition

Used in a sentence from the novel,
including page number

Used in a new sentence

What It Looks Like

Comprehension

1. What is the name given to Xan by his parents?

2. How is Xan treated by the monks?

3. How is Xan treated by the other boys?

4. Who is Xan's closest friend at the abbey? Explain your answer.

5. Why is Brother Andrew such a good horseback rider?

6. A mentor is someone who gives a younger person support and advice. Who is Xan's mentor? Explain why you think so.

7. Who rescued Xan from the woods? Did Xan's impression of that person change when he learned who it was?

8. Why did the bandits destroy the village?

9. How did Xan feel about his new name? Explain.

Figurative Language

AUTHORS USE figurative language to make their writing more vivid and to help explain complex topics.

**How is figurative language used in the examples below from *Shadow of the Dark*?
How does the language make the scene more vivid or explain something complex?**

EXAMPLE:

His heart was sprinting now—faster than that charging boar. (page 54)
Xan's heart is compared to a boar, which helps convey that Xan was nervous and anxious.

1. They walked in silence until they arrived at a winding root that stuck up across the trail, high and round like a serpent's back. (page 51)

2. Only a handful of cottages with thatched roofs had survived the blaze, scattered throughout the charred blackness of Hardonbury like the last leaves of autumn on a dying tree. (page 55)

3. Like a smoking ember in a suffocated fire, there was still hope in them. (page 57)

4. They stopped after an hour for a break before continuing into a part of the woodland where the light grew dim because so many trees clamored for the sun. (page 70)

5. For a long moment, a cloud lingered over their conversation. (page 75)

The Main Character

A New Name

The main character in *Shadow in the Dark* took on a new name, as did others in the novel. Describe the effect that name change had on him.

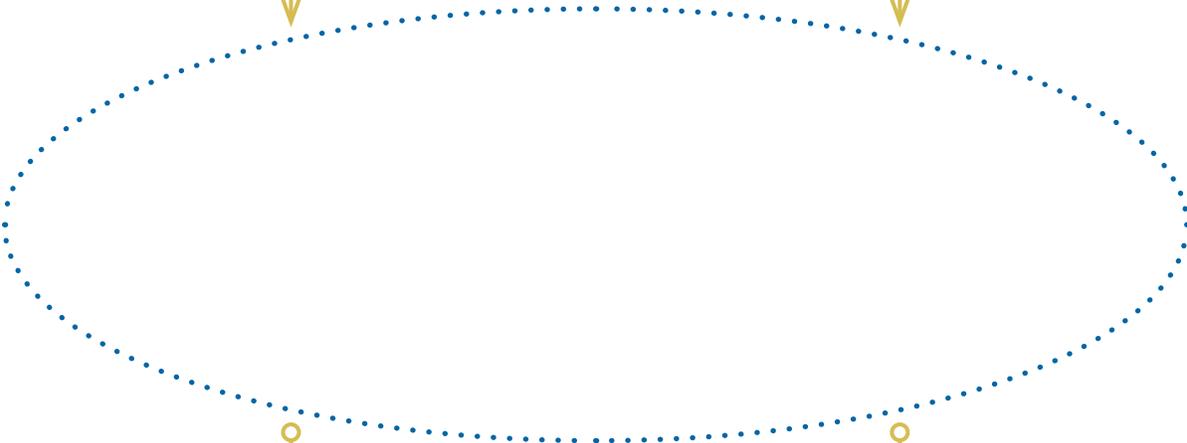
Evaluate

On pages 90 and 91, Xan compares his life at the abbey to that of the fish in the fountain in the ring of bushes. Do you think life in the abbey is like that of a fish in a fountain? Explain why or why not using evidence from the text to support your opinion. What is the biggest difference between the life that Xan will likely lead and that of the fish in the fountain?



Character Comparison

Use the chart to compare and contrast Brother Leo and Brother Andrew.

BROTHER LEO	BROTHER ANDREW
<p style="text-align: center;">COMPARE</p> 	
<p style="text-align: center;">CONTRAST</p>	

Text-to-Self Connection

A Life with Purpose

Lucy asked Sister Cecilia to teach her to play the harp so that she could find joy and purpose. (page 92) What have you learned to do or what would you like to learn to do that would bring you joy? How has something you learned helped you enjoy your life more fully?

That Reminds Me

What character in *Shadow in the Dark* reminds you of yourself or someone you know? Explain why.

My Life in the Abbey

The author writes about a number of jobs at Harwood Abbey though out the book. What job at the abbey would you most like to do? Explain why. What job at the abbey would you least like to do? Explain this too.

Continue Thinking and Learning

KNIGHTS As a young man, Brother Andrew trained to be a knight, an expert fighter and horseback rider who often fought while on horseback. Explore the role knights played in the history of England and elsewhere in the Europe.

RULES TO LIVE BY The people who live at Harwood Abbey follow strict rules and routines. What rules guide your daily life? Imagine that a day lived where no one followed any rules. Write a short story or play about it.

UNSETTLED SETTING Time and place play an important role in storytelling and are central to the type of storytelling found in the genre of historical fiction. Think about the setting of *Shadow in the Dark*, both the time and place in which the story is told. Then rewrite a scene of your choosing from *Shadow in the Dark* that takes place in a location other than an abbey in England during the reign of King Henry II.

ABBEY MODEL Use the floorplan of an abbey on page viii at the front of the book to make a three-dimensional model of the Harwood Abbey.

SEAL OF APPROVAL Seals, like the one, Lord Godfrey was using on page 79, were widely used in England during the time the story takes place on official documents and even letters between friends. What do the symbols on the Godfrey family seal stand for? What symbols would you have on your seal? Draw a picture of what your seal would look like and label the symbols and what each stands for.

