

Chapter 1

1. Who is the first character introduced in this chapter? How old is he? What is he doing?
2. What is the setting of this novel? When and where?
3. What are some responsibilities Edmund accomplishes so far in this book?
4. According to Edmund, what is the distinction between the Danes and the Saxons?
5. What is the main concern of Edmund's father if the Danes rule over Great Britain?
6. Which language did King Alfred desire to be fluent in reading and writing?

Chapter 2

1. Why is Egbert's company important to Edmund?
2. What did the messenger sent by Algar announce to those in the abbey?
3. What did Eldred see in these men which gathered in the hour of battle?
4. What are the contrasts between the armies of the Saxons versus the Dutch armies?
5. In whom did the Saxons place their confidence?
6. What does Eldred tell Edmund before going off to battle against the Dutch reinforcements? How are Eldred's courage and love towards Edmund portrayed here? How does Edmund respond to this?
7. What happened to Eldred?

Chapter 3

1. Where did Egbert and Edmund go after the battle of Kesteven?
2. Why did some people at Croyand stay in the church? What happened to those who stayed behind?
3. Why did Egbert and Edmund choose not to enter and stay at houses around the area? What kind of messengers are they according to Edmund?
4. So far in this book, what do you think about the character of these men who are defending their homeland from heathens? Are they being good defenders of the home?

5. What are some wise words which Prince Alfred declares regarding Christian warfare?

Chapter 4

1. What happened to King Ethelred on April 23rd, 871? Why were the Saxons defeated by the enemy?
2. What is the difference between the previous King, Ethelred, and the new King, Alfred? List and compare the characteristics of both kings.
3. What did the Saxons attempt to gain peace with the Danish? Did it work?
4. What was Edmund's plan against the Danish?
5. What kind of ship did the shipwright recommend?

Chapter 5

1. What did King Alfred tell Edmund when building a ship in this situation?
2. What was Egbert's strategy to battle the Dutch this time?
3. What were the duties of these young men going to battle according to Edmund? How many young men assembled for service?
4. Where did their first battle take place? Were they victorious? How?
5. How many casualties did the Danes suffer in the second battle? How many did the Saxons lose?

Chapter 6

1. How does Edmund respond in faith when confronted by King Uffa at the Saxon Fort?
2. What did the Saxons do after the first siege at their fort?
3. According to the Saxons, who gave them victory over the enemy?
4. In what year did King Alfred again issue an urgent summon to Edmund, this time at sea?
5. What happened in the battle at sea? Who was victorious?
6. How many fleets did the Danes lose?

Chapter 7

1. Who was appointed King of Mercia?
2. What happened in the spring of AD 878?
3. What is the name of the ship Edmund and Egbert built?
4. What advantage did this ship have over the six big Danish galleys coming their way?
5. Where did the Saxons stay at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 8

1. How does Edmund compare his army with the seawolves?
2. Who was the man Edmund mercifully spared for his daughter? What did Edmund tell him?
3. Where was King Alfred in the midst of these conflicts?
4. Which quote from Egbert depicts his loyalty to his country?
5. Near which country did they get blown away during the storm?
6. What do you think happened to Edmund after the Danish ambush on the shores they landed?

Chapter 9

1. At what age did the Northmen youths become regarded as a man and receive arms?
2. What was Edmund required to do at the temple of Odin?
3. How did Edmund serve Bjorn and his family?
4. Who did Edmund see at the great banquet of the Northmen's?
5. What does Siegbert do with Edmund?
6. What is it that made Sweyn, son of Bijorn to be angry and ill-pleased?
7. How do Christians face death according to Siegbert?

Chapter 10

1. How does Edmund draw the line when it comes to wars and battles for Christians when they are to be of “peaceful one”?
2. Who has the character of a hero according to Edmund?
3. What was the outcome of the council Seigbert attended?
4. What was Edmund’s response to Freda’s offer of prayer to Odin for victory at the combat?
5. For the Saxons, what is a champion according to Edmund?
6. Who won the combat?

Chapter 11

1. Where did King Alfred go into hiding?
2. What was King Alfred’s strategy to fight the Danes?
3. On what date did King Alfred move the force from Athelney to Egbertesstan?
4. How did the Saxons show their loyalty to the king after many months of him hiding from the Danes?
5. What happened to Guthorn the Danish captain after the defeat of his position in Chippenham?

Chapter 12

1. What change came about to Guthorn?
2. How did Alfred rebuild his kingdom during the years of peace?
3. What problem did king Alfred encounter after 4 years of peace in his kingdom which called Edmund to take up arms?
4. What wish did the governor tell Edmund?

Chapter 13

1. What did Edmund see on the following morning after the conversation with the governor? Where did he go afterward?

2. What was the response of those at Rouen after Edmund told the news?
3. How many fleets did the Danish attack Paris with?
4. How did God intervene by His sovereignty in the heat of battle when almost all hope was lost?
5. What was Edmund's strategy in stopping the advance of the Danish?

Chapter 14

1. How many vessels did Edmund and his kinsman destroy?
2. What happened to the soldiers who broke into the monastery of St. Germain?
3. What miracles did the Franks experience after the battle in Paris?

Chapter 15

1. Who sent the messenger to Edmund and what did he request from him?
2. What did the messenger say happened to Freda?
3. Was Edmund concerned about this? Why?
4. What is one thing about Freda in which Edmund is sure she will change?
5. Why did Seigbert call Edmund?

Chapter 16

1. What grave offense did Sweyn commit against Seigbert?
2. What was the good news and the bad news which Edmund received from the Northman who was an informant for him at Sweyn's camp?
3. What did Freda swear to Sweyn?

Chapter 17

1. How far did Edmund's fame reach all around?
2. What was one of the great assets provided by the pope to Edmund?
3. So far in this novel, what have you learned about Edmund's character and his faith?

Chapter 18

1. What was it about the Danish that Edmund was so frustrated about?
2. What was the phrase which halted the attack of the peasants upon Edmund and others?

Chapter 19

1. What happened to Sweyn at the end?
2. To whom did Edmund give thanks after meeting with Freda?
3. What did Edmund require Freda to do before they were wedded?
4. In what year did King Alfred die and how long was his reign?
5. What did King Alfred accomplish during his reign?

The Dragon and the Raven

Answer Key

Chapter 1

1. The first character introduced is Edmund. He is 14 years old. He is patiently waiting for his father to come home.
2. The setting for this novel is Great Britain, around 870.
3. Provide, cook, and prepare a meal for the family.
4. The Saxons are Christians, followers of Christ who have the help of God, while the Danes are pagans and idolaters.
5. He is concerned that the whole country will be under tyrannical rule as it is in Northumbria, having “wasted the whole country, and have plundered and destroyed churches and monasteries...”
6. King Alfred desired to be fluent in reading and writing Latin.

Chapter 2

1. He was a special guardian for Edmund. He always accompanied Edmund and was always there by his side whenever he was in danger.
2. The messenger informed all those present that the Danish host landed at Lindsey, and Algar the ealdorman was asking for reinforcements.
3. They were all of “rough and somewhat ragged throng”, but they were of a hard and sturdy set of men, accustomed to fatigue and likely to stand firm in the hour of battle.
4. The Dutch were well-armed, compared to the Saxons who were armed with “shields made of platted osiers covered with skin.”
5. They had confidence in God that He would assuredly fight on their side against the heathen.
6. To flee without him. He did not protest Eldred’s decision, but rather respected it and did what he was told.
7. He was killed in the battle.

Chapter 3

1. Croyland
2. They stayed behind because they were old and did not have the strength to flee and live a life of hunted fugitives. Also, they thought the Danes would show pity and mercy to them. They were all massacred except one.
3. Because they brought devastating news wherever they went. Edmund called themselves a messenger of evil.
4. Answers will vary. They are being good defenders by standing firm on God’s Word and protecting religious liberty and freedom of worship.
5. It is heathen rather than Christian warfare to recklessly throw away their own lives rather than to retreat and wait for God’s time to come again.

Chapter 4

1. The King died because of the severe wounds from the battle. They let off their guard thinking that they had already won.
2. King Ethelred: regretted by the people, wise, brave, like a monarch, kind, strong authority over his nobles. King Alfred: gentle, but firm and resolute, gave a feeling of hope and joy to people.
3. They planned on buying off the Danes with a treaty. It worked

for 3 years.

4. His plan was to build a ship for the Saxons to fend off the Danish reinforcements.
5. The shipwright recommended a war galley used by the Genoese against the African Pirates: fast, roomy, and plenty of space.

Chapter 5

1. He told Edmund that it is not in size or shape, but in its purpose, of the ark which Noah built before the deluge which covered the whole earth.
2. They would raise a band consisting of all the youths and unmarried men in the earldom. Such a band they would train and practice until they could rely upon them to defeat a far larger force of the enemy.
3. Aid the King as long as he continues the struggle. They were not to escape, but instead face the dangers and perils of the invasion.
4. Their first battle took place in Bristowe, in which they were victorious through an ambush in the middle of the night.
5. The Danes lost half of their army, but the Saxons lost not one of them.

Chapter 6

1. He responds by reminding them that they have God and good swords to protect them and they should not fear the enemies even if they were three times as strong.
2. A prayer of thanks was given to God for the repulse of the pagans.
3. God gave them victory.
4. 877
5. The Danes were destroyed on the sea because of poor weather and the size of their fleet. Here again, the Saxons were victorious over the Danes.
6. 120

Chapter 7

1. Ceowulf
2. The Danes, despite their sworn oaths, marched into Wiltshire and captured the royal castle of Chippenham on the Avon. From this point they spread over the country and destroyed everything with fire and sword.
3. The Dragon
4. The Dragon is much more strongly built than these galleys of the Danes
5. Bamborough Castle

Chapter 8

1. They slay only those who resist. They are not seawolves who slay for the pleasure of slaying. Instead, they are Saxons who fight for their country. And their religion enjoins them to have pity even upon their enemies.
2. Jarl Siegbert. Edmund told him that they are Christian Saxons who take no vengeance on a defenseless foe.

The Dragon and the Raven

Answer Key

3. No one knew where Alfred was because he was hiding.
4. He wished to die of a worthy cause for England rather than to die in a storm.
5. They were blown towards the country of their enemies, Norway.
6. Answers will vary.

Chapter 9

1. At the age of fifteen years
2. Draw the first three sticks and determine the outcome of his fate
3. He gathered firewood for the household, handed dishes, and took his station behind the jarl's chair, refilling his goblet with mead as often as it was empty.
4. Siegbert, whose ship Edmund stopped and spared his life.
5. He buys him off from Bijorn's hand and makes him a free man.
6. The change that turned his father's slave into a fellow guest and as equals. His annoyance was also greatly heightened by the fact that it was Freda who had expressed pleasure when her father proposed to purchase him from Bjorn.
7. Christians meet their death calmly and with confidence through the hope of embracing their Savior in heaven.

Chapter 10

1. They are fighting for their home, their country, and their religion. Christianity does not forbid men to defend themselves. If it did so, a band of pagans might ravage all the Christian countries in the world.
2. The higher virtues of a hero are kindness, charity, unselfishness, and a desire to benefit others.
3. They concluded that the matter should be consulted and determined by a duel between a Dane and a captive.
4. He replied that he shall pray to the One greater and better than Odin.
5. For the Saxons, they have no champions. They do not fight for personal honour or glory, but for their homes, their countries, and their religion, each doing his best according to the strength of God has given him, and without thought of pride on the one hand or envy on the other.
6. Edmund

Chapter 11

1. The Isle of Athelney
2. They would establish the headquarters on the island and construct weapons until they were ready and prepared for battle.
3. At the end of April, messengers were sent out bidding the Saxons hold themselves in readiness, and on the 6th of May, Alfred moved his force from Athelney to Egbertesstan.
4. As they saw the king approaching, they crowded around the monarch with shouts of welcome at his reappearance among them, and with vows to die rather than again to yield to the tyranny of the Northmen.
5. Guthorn and his army promised that if they were spared, they would leave the kingdom with all speed, and to observe this

contract more faithfully. The same night, a messenger of rank came in from Guthorn saying that he intended to embrace Christianity.

Chapter 12

1. Guthorn and his companions were all baptized, and Guthorn's name was changed to
2. Athelstan
3. Many wise laws were passed, churches were rebuilt, and order restored; great numbers of the monks and wealthier people who had fled to France in the days of the Danish supremacy returned to England.
4. Although the Danes attempted no fresh invasion, some of their ships hung around the English coast capturing vessels interfering with trade and committing other acts of piracy.
5. He told Edmund that if every country in Christendom would unite against their common foe and send a quota of ships and men, they would drive the Black Raven from the seas, and might even land on the Danish shores and give them a taste of the suffering they have inflicted elsewhere.

Chapter 13

1. He saw a vast fleet of ships approaching the mouth of the river. A glance at them assured him that they were the dreaded ships of the Northmen, for the Black Raven floated at many of the mast-heads. They fled to Rouen.
2. They said, "Better to give up all our worldly goods to the Northmen than to be slaughtered pitilessly with our wives and families."
3. So numerous were the ships that they completely covered the river. The fleet consisted of seven hundred sailing ships, and a vastly greater number of rowing galleys and boats.
4. The Danes brought up faggots, and in several places lit great fires against the fortifications. The defenders began to lose all hope, when a tremendous storm of rain suddenly burst over Paris quenching the fire.
5. Rush aboard the ships, cut down any Danes found there, and set fire to all the vessels.

Chapter 14

1. Three hundred vessels
2. One was at once struck dead, one fell off and was killed, one lost his sight forever, another fell dead, and another was killed by a stone which fell upon him.
3. A Dane of great stature was found in the morning to have shrunk to the size of a newborn infant, at which stature he remained for the rest of his life. A valiant warrior had from the effects of fever fallen into an extreme weakness, one of the bearers of the holy relics, named Gozbert, was struck by a stone from a catapult. The man who had fired it fell dead, while Gozvert continued

his promenade in no way injured by the blow.

Chapter 15

1. He was sent by Jarl Siegbert to tell Edmund to come immediately, as he was in a difficult strait and needed his assistance.
2. Freda had been carried off.
3. This news filled Edmund with anxiety. She had won his heart.
4. Edmund did not doubt that she would, under his guidance and teaching, soon cast away the blood-stained gods of the Northmen and accept Christianity.
5. He thought of Edmund because if any could follow and recapture Freda, it was him.

Chapter 16

1. The carrying off of the jarl's daughter from the side of her wounded father.
2. The news of Freda's resolution giving way for a long time, and the news that Sweyn intended to carry her upon such a distant expedition.
3. She swore to kill herself if Sweyn attempted to make her his wife by violence.

Chapter 17

1. Even the pope in Italy knew of Edmund's victories and battles he fought.
2. A number of prisoners accustomed to row in the state galleys were placed on board to work the oars, thus leaving the whole of the crew available for fighting purposes, and a state officer was put in command of these galley-slaves.
3. Answers will vary.

Chapter 18

1. The Danes would not change. It was bad enough that they plundered and killed those who opposed them. But in addition to this, they destroyed from the pure love of destroying and killed for the pleasure of killing.
2. That they were Christians. This also portrays the contrast between the pagan Danish and the Christian Saxons.

Chapter 19

1. The combat was decided by Siegbert, who hurled his javelin at Sweyn, the weapon passing completely through his body. He was killed by Siegbert.
2. He gave thanks to God who has given him success.
3. He required her to be in a convent for a short while in Rome, and one of the Saxon monks would teach her the tenets of the faith.
4. In 901, King Alfred died, having reigned twenty-nine years and six months.
5. During his reign, England had made immense advances in civilization. The wealth and prosperity of the country vastly increased. Abbeys and monasteries multiplied. Public buildings were erected. Towns were rebuilt and beautified. There was more education. The laws of the country were codified and regulated. The administration of justice was placed on a firm basis.