

BOOK/STORY TITLE: *The Door in the Wall* **AUTHOR:** Marguerite de Angeli **POINT OF VIEW:** 3rd person

SETTING:

Historical Period

Medieval Period,
1348, reign of King
Edward III

Place:

London, moving to
surrounding
countryside, then
Welsh border

Weather: Initially,
cold

Mood: Initially,
gloomy

Other: The Black
Plague is in full
force, killing 1/3 of
England's
population and
contributing a sense
of foreboding to the
exposition.

CHARACTERS

Protagonist: Robin de Bureford, a
10 y.o. nobleman's son, who has
been crippled by some infectious
disease. He was to become a
knight, but now believes he will
never fulfill his calling.

Antagonist: Robin's worst enemy
is himself, because he is full of
self-pity and self-loathing. He
projects his own negative feelings
about himself on his parents, Sir
Peter, and society in general, sure
they will have no use for a lame
boy.

Other Important Characters

Brother Luke, a kind monk
who undertakes to develop Robin's
abilities and character

John Go-in-the-Wynd, a
minstrel and messenger

Sir Peter de Lindsay, Robin's
liege lord

Sir John de Bureford and Lady
Maude, Robin's parents

Plot Stage 3/Body Paragraph 3

Climax: The castle is besieged by the Welsh
and food and water are running out. Robin
volunteers to go for help to send word to Sir
Peter's relative, Sir Hugh Fitzhugh. He has to
use all his strength and wits to accomplish the
mission. Finally he reaches John Go-in-the-
Wynd, who immediately sets out to obtain
help.

Plot Stage 2/Body Paragraph 2

Conflict, Rising Action: Robin tells Brother Luke that he is
useless and helpless because of his legs, but Brother Luke solves
the problem and takes Robin to the monastery. He tells Robin
there is always "a door in the wall," and to remember to look for
it. Robin doesn't understand. Brother Luke nurtures Robin both
physically and mentally, teaching him skills he can use without his
legs, as well as patience and perseverance, through wittling,
reading, and writing. He helps Robin develop strength through
swimming and eventually walking with crutches. Robin stops
feeling sorry for himself, but when Brother Luke takes him to Sir
Peter's castle, he still doubts he can be of use as a page. However
he is welcomed warmly by Sir Peter, who has also suffered a
physical injury. Robin learns that the castle is in continual danger
from Welsh marauders. He continues his swimming and
education, making a harp and learning to sing, while carrying out
page duties that are within his abilities. He learns the value of
"do[ing] a hard thing."

Plot Stage 4/Body Paragraph 3

Dénouement: Thanks to Robin and
John's mission, the castle is liberated by
Sir Hugh. Robin is celebrated as a hero by
Sir Peter and his people. Robin longs to
see his father and mother, but is worried
about what they will think of him with his
physical deformities.

Plot Stage 1/Body Paragraph 1

Exposition: Robin de Bureford is a 10 year-old son of
a nobleman in Medieval England. Robin's father has
gone to fight the Scottish wars with Edward III and his
mother has been called to be a lady-in-waiting for the
Queen. Robin was to go train under Sir Peter de
Lindsay as a page as the first step in becoming a
knight, his expected vocation. His parents think he is
cared for while they are gone. However, Robin had
become ill and lost the use of his legs, and is unable to
travel such a distance. There are no servants to care
for him because they leave or die because of the
plague. A kind monk, Brother Luke, appears and
ministers to Robin. He plans to take Robin to the
monastery.

Plot Stage 5/Body Paragraph 3

Conclusion: On Christmas Eve, Robin's
parents and the King arrive at Sir Peter's
castle, back from the Scottish wars. He is
warmly embraced by his parents and
rewarded by the King, and given the title
of Sir Robin. His father is proud of him,
and Brother Luke assures him he has
found the door in his wall.

THEME
Overcoming Obstacles
Innate Human Worth
Perseverance
Self-Respect

CONFLICT (Stated as a category and a question)

man vs. self, man vs. society

Will Robin overcome the obstacle (wall) of physical disability so he can fulfill his life's purpose of becoming a knight?