

Reader Discussion Notes

Which character in the book do you relate to most? Why do you think this is?

As a reader, you may have previous knowledge about Mary Queen of Scots. Was she what you expected in the book?

The art of falconry is rare now. Have you seen it in action?

Have you visited any of the locations in the book? If so, tell others about your experience.

It's hard for us to comprehend just how polarised Scotland was during the Reformation. Are there any issues which divide communities in a similar way today?

Alexander and Lizzie's lives are challenging in many ways. Can we learn any lessons from the children of the past?

What scene or chapter in the book was most memorable to you?

Which character do you feel most sympathy towards and why?

In the book, a king or a queen is seen to be appointed by God. How do you feel about the British monarchy today? Is it still relevant?

Books for young people often contain a villain. What do you think of the villain(s) in *The Boy, the Witch and the Queen of Scots*?

THE BOY, THE WITCH AND THE QUEEN OF SCOTS

Think about the male and female roles in 16th century Scotland which you have encountered in the book. Did anything surprise you?

Did you learn anything new about Scotland's history from this book? Is there anything you would like to explore further?

The Earl of Huntly wanted to protect his family and his lands – but he made some decisions which backfired spectacularly. What was his mistake and how could he have approached the situation differently?

Nothing is as helpful to a writer as a review encouraging others to read the book. What would you say if you were asked to post a one-sentence review online?