

Alwin's Sacrifice – Comprehension

Section A

1. Where does the writer live?
2. 'Uhtred sent a messenger this morning to inform the village that it's only a matter of days, possibly hours, until they descend on us.' Which word most closely matches the meaning of the word descend?
3. Do you think Northumbria will fight or surrender?

Section B

4. 'Whilst I was out on the land today, ridding the soil of unwanted foliage, Alodia walked by with her sister.' Which word most closely matches the meaning of the word foliage?
5. How can you tell that a ceorl is below an aethling?
6. Which word suggests that it was cold?
7. Who is Alwin?

Section C

8. Why is the writer's mother afraid that her sons have turned 13?
9. 'We had been waiting for them to land all morning, all afternoon and all evening.' How does the writer suggest that the wait felt like a long time?
10. "'We'll take this one then," Canute sneered as he grabbed the arm of Alodia.' Do you think Canute knew that Alodia was the aethling's daughter? Give reasons for your answer.

Section D

11. Predict a scenario that would be most distressing for the writer.
12. What effect does two entries on the 1st October in the diary have on the reader?