



The Dog Who Loved a Queen

(The Animal Stars Book 2)

By Jackie French

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Teaching Notes written by Christine Sarandis

Book Description

To the world outside her luxurious prison, Mary Queen of Scots is either a shameless beauty who killed her husband, or the rightful queen of England and Scotland, tragically held captive by Elizabeth the First. But to the dog who loved her, Mary is simply his mistress, and the centre of his life.

While Mary desperately plots to seize both her freedom and the throne, her dog Folly's world is one of chasing mice behind the tapestries and enjoying turkey legs with quinces for supper. Until the day comes when they try to take his Queen away...

Based on the true story of the dog who was with Mary when she died, *The Dog Who Loved a Queen* is a fascinating tale of religious bigotry, plots and passion – and the unquestioning loyalty of a small Scottish terrier.

Author Biography

Jackie French is a full-time writer who lives in rural New South Wales. Jackie writes fiction and non-fiction for children and adults, and has columns in the print media. Jackie is regarded as one of Australia's most popular children's authors. Her books for children include: *Rain Stones*, shortlisted for the Children's Book Council Children's Book of the Year Award for Younger Readers, 1991; *Walking the Boundaries*, a Notable Book in the CBC Awards, 1994; and *Somewhere Around the*

Corner, an Honour Book in the CBC Awards, 1995. *Hitler's Daughter* won the CBC Younger Readers Award in 2000 and a UK National Literacy Association WOW! Award in 2001. *How to Guzzle Your Garden* was also shortlisted for the 2000 CBC Eve Pownall Award for Information Books and in 2002 Jackie won the ACT Book of the Year Award for *In the Blood*. In 2003, *Diary of a Wombat* was named an Honour Book in the CBC Awards and winner of the 2002 NielsenBookData/ Australian Booksellers Association Book of the Year - the only children's book ever to have won such an award. More recently, in 2005 *To the Moon and Back*, which Jackie co-wrote with her husband, Bryan Sullivan, won the CBC Eve Pownall Award for Information Books and *Tom Appleby, Convict Boy, My Dad the Dragon* and *Pete the Sheep* were also named Notable Books. Jackie writes for all ages - from picture books to adult fiction - and across all genres - from humour and history to science fiction.

Characters

Mary, Queen of Scotts	Master Beaton
Marie de Guise (Mary's mother)	Mistress Kennedy
James Hepburn, Lord Bothwell	Countess of Shrewbury
Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley	Master Bourgoine
Dogs – Lally, Bo, Folly, Fleance, Douceur	Sir Amyas Paulet
Megan	Master Melville
Davy Stop Ye Gawping	Andrew Babington
Nanny Breeks	Master Cecil
Mistress Lacy	Master Walsingham
Jane Kennedy	Lord Brockhurst
Young Rosie	Willie Douglas
Mistress Seton	Robert Beale
Monsewer	

- What do we know about some of the characters in this story? Discuss and describe one of the following in poster-style format with an illustration to accompany the description: Queen Mary, Folly, Nanny Breeks, Davy Stop Ye Gawping and Jane Kennedy. You could list or describe both physical and personality characteristics. Also refer to the author's notes at the back of the book describing some of Mary's real-life attendants.

Setting

Scotland

England

The Manor, Sheffield Hunting Park

The Manor, Tutbury Castle

Chartley Hall

Fotheringhay Castle

Tixall

Themes

The life of Mary Queen of Scots

Dogs – loyalty and companionship

Life in captivity

Religious conflict

Monarchy

Before Reading

Historical Notes on the text pp 178-207

A little historical knowledge prior to reading will enhance the children's understanding of the novel. Refer to this excellent website for a brief history of Mary's life, especially the section heading The Story: www.marie-stuart.co.uk/

The author's notes at the back of the book are also an invaluable resource for gaining a deeper understanding of the story and also for putting the historical facts into perspective.

Read the sections at the back of the novel together and discuss. Some sample questions to initiate discussion could include:

A History of Mary's Life

- Why had Mary been sent to live in France at the age of five?
- When and under what circumstances did Mary become Queen of France as well as Scotland?
- Who were Mary's three husbands and what was each of them like?
- Who was the father of her son James and were there any other pregnancies? If so, to whom and what was the outcome?

- What were the rumours surrounding Lord Darnley's death?
- How did Mary's baby son James first become King?
- Under what circumstances did Mary become a prisoner and what beliefs lead to her eventual death?
- During her captivity, how did Mary fill her time?

What Happened after Mary's Death

- A year after Mary's death, what was the result of Philip's invasion of England?
- When did Mary's son James become king of England?
- How did James attempt to rewrite history once he was King?

Accuracy

- Read the section on historical accuracy relevant to this series and discuss the author's intention to present history by documenting the lives of real people and their animals.

Studying the novel

Folly and the Queen

Explore the developing relationship between Folly and the Queen and discuss the way in which Folly purposefully sets out to make the Queen love him and to become her favoured companion.

Consider the following incidents for discussion:

- Folly's feelings ... upon leaving his Mam, at the death of Lally, about the need to belong (p 20), and his feelings upon seeing his Queen for the first time. (p 40)
- Folly kills a rat and presents it to the Queen
- He forfeits a walk in order to stay with his Queen
- He eats with her at the table
- He shares the Queen's bed
- He comforts her in her sadness
- The death first of the spaniels Fleance and then Doucier
- How Folly came to get his name (p 41)
- The quality and quantity of the food given to the dogs p 46)

- Folly learning to follow the lead of the Queen's other dogs in relation to how to do things
- Folly's ingenious way of getting to see his Queen for the second time (p 59)
- Mary embroidered a cushion for Folly to sit on, depicting her cousin's face

Questions:

- What was Folly attempting to do when he ripped the Queen's tapestry? Did it have the desired effect and what further action did he take when he next visited her?
- How did Folly decide to "make the Queen love him"?
- How did Folly know that he was having an impact on the Queen? (See pp 69-73)
- What did Folly feel the day the Queen left him behind, apparently to picnic with Sir Amyas? How did he rectify the situation and how was he prevented a second time from staying with her?
- How did Folly react to his separation from the Queen when she was arrested at Chartley Hall?
- Why did Folly blame himself when Mary was ordered to go to Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire for her trial?
- How did Folly lift the Queen's spirits one day during their miserable time at Fotheringhay?
- How did Folly ensure that he was with his Queen when she went to her execution? When else had he travelled in this way to see his Queen?
- How did the Queen indicate that she knew of Folly's presence under her skirts?
- How did Jane protect Folly after the Queen's death? What would his fate have been without Jane's deception?

Political history

- How did Mary become a prisoner at the Manor?
- Who was responsible for her imprisonment?
- What was the evidence against her?
- What was her stance on religion and how did this clash with her cousin?
- What happened to her three husbands?
- How might her life have been different if her first husband had survived?

- Where was her son James and what impact could he have had on her release?
Consider that she had not seen him since he was a baby and that at the time of the novel he was eighteen years old.
- What prevented him from sharing the throne with her?
- Discuss Mary's plans to hasten her release?
- During her imprisonment at Tutbury, Mary received a letter sent by her son to Queen Elizabeth. James had betrayed his mother in the form of a deal, accepting an allowance from Queen Elizabeth and by so doing, chose to rule alone, and leave his mother a prisoner. How did Mary respond to this setback?
- Letters delivered to Mary at Chartley Hall deliver the news that a fleet is gathering to overthrow Queen Elizabeth and replace her with Mary as Queen of England. In giving her permission to go ahead with the plan, what fate is Mary bringing upon her cousin Elizabeth?
- Mary decided that if the plan failed, Queen Elizabeth must be killed. Why?
- How did Mary's life and attitude change after news of support from Andrew Babington?
- How was Mary tricked into leaving Tutbury and of what was she accused? What was the outcome?
- What happened to Andrew Babington and his companions after their plot to kill Queen Elizabeth was discovered?
- When she was returned to Chartley Hall, again as a prisoner, what were the two things Mary said Sir Amyas could not take from her? Discuss.
- Under what circumstances did Mary agree to a trial?
- What did she learn at the trial and how did this information affect her future?
- How did the Queen feel immediately following her trial?
- What news did Lord Brockhurst bring Queen Mary and what was her response?
- When news finally came of her imminent execution, describe Mary's feelings?
- How did Mary spend the night before her execution and what were her regrets?
- How was Mary prepared for her execution and what frame of mind was she in when she was taken away?
- What happened to all of Mary's possessions following her execution?

Quotes for further discussion

Children could choose one of the following quotes and discuss its meaning and context within the story. They could work alone or in small groups. Later, discuss children's differing interpretations of the quotes.

Folly's thoughts (p 20):

"But I wasn't Megan's dog and she was not my mistress. It's a thing that dogs know from the moment they are born, and some humans, too, I think, how a certain dog and a certain person belong together."

Folly's thoughts (p 38):

"Maybe that was what a queen was, I thought suddenly. A very top dog indeed."

Mary to her dogs upon the introduction of Folly (p 39):

"You dogs must be friends. For you Spaniels are French, as I am, and he is Scots, as I am too. You must make a good alliance just as our countries have."

Folly (p 45):

"A dog needs other dogs as well as humans."

Folly (pp 67-68):

"I had the best life a dog could ask for. The best food in the world, all the scraps from the Queen's table that I could eat and more, the softest cushions by the warmest fire, a time to walk and a time to play ... But I wanted more. I wanted what my Mam had with her Master. I wanted the Queen to love me best. Better than Fleance and Douceur."

Folly (p 101)

"I always like to be on my Queen's lap when the Spaniels arrived, so I could look down on them."

During her miserable stay in Tutbury, Mary reflects upon those responsible for her imprisonment (p 105):

"My Queen clenched her swollen fingers. '... It is the fault of this place, this horrible place. It is the fault of Sir Aymas whose hatred would freeze a pond in summer, of Eliabeth who wants

me dead as my birds, of Philip and Henri, who have more important things to do than remember a Catholic queen? How long must I wait. How long til my son sends me word?"

Folly at Fotheringhay (p 146):

"We were together again. We had our good food and our bed. How could she be sad? She was anxious as well. Even Jane stiffened when anyone knocked at the doors as though she might have to help protect our Queen. Gone were our peaceful days of embroidery, with me seated on my Queen's knee, with Jane reading or Mater Curle writing letters for her. Day after day my Queen sat for hours staring at the wall, silent, thinking. She seemed to be waiting. But for what?"

Mary, before her death (p 167):

"So many tears. There is not time to weep them all. Tears for my son, who will not see me, will not help me. Tears for what I had, what I have lost. Tears for what might have been. That is the hardest loss of all, what might have been. A husband who loved me truly. To have watched my little son grow up. To have been the Queen I should have been, ruler of Scotland and England and all the isles. Oh, Folly, how can I bear it?"

Activities

Create:

- a family tree for your own family going back a few generations on both sides if possible
- a timeline of significant events in Mary's life. Investigate these events and the people involved in them.
- a painted portrait of Mary, recreating a dress like the ones worn in one her portraits
- a collage of Folly alone or seated on his Queen's lap
- a menu for Mary and her attendants
- an embroidered cushion cover
- a diorama of the interior rooms where Mary lived at Sheffield or Tutbury
- an illustrated diary of costumes from the period
- a dramatic interpretation of a chosen incidents in the story

Research :

Research one of the following topics and create a project to present to the class.

- Invisible alum ink
- Mary's family history
- the story of Mary's life
- what happened after Mary's death
- pets of other famous people throughout history
- dogs as loyal companions in life
- dogs and royalty
- the food of Mary's time, especially for royalty
- the dress or costumes of Mary's time
- music and instruments of the time such as the spinet and lute
- Scottish or Skye terriers

Write:

Imagine ... and then write about one of the following:

- life as a child queen
- Mary's life as a prisoner in either of the Manors at Sheffield or Tutbury or at Chartley Hall (remember it was unusual that she had such luxury in her imprisonment)
- an incident from Folly's perspective such as he one in which he is left behind at Chartley Hall
- Folly's feelings for Mary

Further Reading**Mary, Queen of Scots**

There is some excellent information on all of these sites providing valuable information on Mary's life and times.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_I_of_Scotland

www.marie-stuart.co.uk/

www.royal.gov.uk/OutPut/Page134.asp

www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/stuart_mary.shtml

Scottish or Skye terriers

www.dogbreedinfo.com/s/scottishskyyeterrier.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Terrier

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skye_Terrier

Monarchy and their pets

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/page1964.asp>

<http://www.etoile.co.uk/Columns/Margaret/051204.html>

Fiction

Books about Mary, Queen of Scots

Queen's Own Fool: A Novel of Mary Queen of Scots by Jane Yolen *The Lady of Fire and Tears*

by Terry Deary

Masque for a Queen by Moira Miller

Royal Diaries: Mary, Queen of Scots: Queen Without a Country, France, 1553 by Kathryn

Lasky (For teaching notes on this text, please refer to the following web link.)

www.scholastic.com/dearamerica/parentteacher/guides/royaldiaries/maryscot.htm#about

Books about loyal dogs

Hachiko: the true story of a loyal dog by Pamela S. Turner

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Lassie by Sheila Black

Historical fiction by Jackie French

Hitler's Daughter

Valley of Gold

Tom Appleby, Convict Boy

Macbeth and Son

They Came on Viking Ships

Pharaoh

The White Ship

Somewhere Around the Corner

How the Finnegans Saved the Ship

Soldier on the Hill

Daughter of the Regiment

Walking the Boundaries

Beyond the Boundaries

The Goat Who Sailed the World (Animal Stars Book 1)