Before beginning the novel, “The Door in the Wall”:

Make a cover for your notebook and illustrate it with something representative of the Middle Ages. Set up a Table of Contents page to record your entries.

Chapter One

1. What caused Robin to cover his ears and shut his eyes?
2. Why would Robin be sent away from his mother and father?
3. Where was Robin's father?
4. Why must Robin's mother leave?
5. Describe Dame Ellen.
6. Who is Brother Luke and why does he visit Robin?

Vocabulary: coverlet, vexation, liege, joust, fishmonger, grotesque, vespers, hospice, malady, curfew, sedately, habit (clothing), postern

Enrichment: Research the Cockney dialect or accent. How did it originate? Why might it be useful?

What is the plague and does it exist today? What caused it to spread so quickly in Robin's day? What would happen today if the plague came back?

Chapter Two

1. How does Marguerite de Angeli describe the month of May?
2. What was an almonry?
3. What did Robin want to create with the knife and piece of pine?
4. Explain how Robin was able to recognize the different brothers as they walked through the corridor.
5. How was Robin able to smooth out the rough spots on the cross.
6. What was a scriptorium?
7. When Robin saw Brother Luke writing and drawing, what request did he make?

Vocabulary: clamored, devotions, breviary, chanting, pilgrims, minstrels, whittle, barged, sopped, garlands, despised, gait, awry, pruning, impertinent

Enrichment: Research Franklin D. Roosevelt. Compare the struggles that Robin faced with the struggles President Roosevelt faces. Using the poem structure on our website, create a poem that describes Roosevelt. At the end of the novel, you will create one for Robin so save room on the page.

Illustrate an image of a monk and his surrounding. Make sure that you remember that we are in the medieval time period.
Chapter Three

1. Why were the cloisters once more free of strangers?
2. Why did Robin throw the wooden cross?
3. Why did Robin dictate a letter to the monk?

**Vocabulary:** abated, cloisters, pallets, refectory, fret, chisel, Orion, minced

**Enrichment:** Find images of one or more of the characters in the book and add these images to your notebook. You can sketch them or print and tape into it. Describe what they wore, how they styled their hair, how they maintained their appearance, etc…

Compare your meals to those eaten in the castle. What did the peasants eat? What did the Kings eat?

Chapter Four

1. Why were the monks forced to do extra duties?
2. What was Robin carving for the young girl?
3. Why was Robin initially disappointed when the monk took him fishing?
4. List a couple of Robin's duties at the church.
5. Why does Robin make the crutches from oak?

**Vocabulary:** hovel, crusaders, brook, droned, urchins, garment, jerkin, lectern, missal, staves, fervently, fennel

**Enrichment:** Research the history of the Romans in Britain. You may include towns such as Bath and as well as Hadrian's Wall. Record what you discover.

Research the Holy Land. Record in your notebook what you discovered.

Chapter Five

1. What news did John-go-in-the-Wynd bring to Robin?
2. Where is the group headed?
3. Why do they end up spending their first night outdoors?

**Vocabulary:** cassock, verger, haste, pasty, saffron, faggots, rein, plodded, scudded, tethered

**Enrichment:** One of the honors of being a Knight was getting to wear one’s Coat of Arms. Do some research about the history of the Coat of Arms. Describe what you find in your notebook.

Design your own Coat of Arms that represents things that symbolize you and your family. Draw and color your design in your notebook.
Chapter Six

1. In what village is the White Hart located?
2. Why did the friar think that the White Hart might not be a good place to stay the night?
3. Why was it fortunate that the travellers had food in their saddlebags?
4. What plan did Robin overhear the two ruffians discussing?
5. How was Robin able to foil their plans?
6. Where did the travellers end up spending the rest of the night?

Vocabulary: yonder, host, manor, peasants, ruffians, slatternly, noggins, hefty, befuddled, granary, oafs, farthing

Enrichment: Discuss what type of research that Marguerite de Angeli must have done before writing, "The Door in the Wall"? Write a brief biography about Marguerite de Angeli.

Write a letter to Marguerite de Angeli, the author of The Door in the Wall, suggesting that she add a new character or scene that you have created for her book.

Chapter Seven

1. What town had they reached by the fourth day?
2. Using an atlas online, find what river flows through both this town and London?
3. Describe what the travellers saw and experienced at the Wychwood Bec fair.
4. Where did the travellers spend their first night after leaving the fair?
5. Where according to John would they be able to spend the night while travelling through the forest?
6. Who received the travellers in the Great Hall at Castle Lindsay?
7. Why was Robin excused from his normal duties of serving at the high table?

Vocabulary: spires, punts, barge, cavalcade, caparisoned, linger, flitted, abbey, abbot, marauding, flagons, hearth, emissaries, ruefully, coveted, domain, armory, heath, newel, belfry

Enrichment: Feudalism was a special social system. How was it different from our way of living? Compare the life of a serf with the life of a tenant farmer. Compare our personal rights with those of feudal peasants, knights, and kings. You may use a table to chart the differences.

Chapter Eight

1. Who is D'Ath?
2. What was the measure of success according to Brother Luke?
3. What is Robin constructing in woodworking and why does he require a deer to finish his project?
4. Why was there so few people gathered to eat in the Great Hall that evening?
5. Where did Robin go swimming each day?
6. What games did the young people play?
7. Describe Alan-at-Gate.
8. What news did Adam the Yeoman relay when he burst into the Hall.
9. Why did the townspeople head toward the castle?
**Vocabulary**: lingering, billowing, tapestries, retrieve, flageolet, mimicking, fording, heath, bannock, commotion, slain, treacherous, breached, swarmed

**Enrichment**: Construct a small model castle with some of your classmates. Be able to identify the various parts of the castle including the keep, tower, turret, dungeon, bailey, moat, portcullis, drawbridge, gatehouse, inner ward, outer ward and courtyard.

**Chapter Nine**

1. Why were the inhabitants of the castle forced to send for outside help?
2. Who does Adam the Yeoman think may be willing to come to their aid?
4. How did John-go-in-the-Wynd and Robin intend to enter the town?
5. How were Robin and John able to get up to the shoemaker's house?

**Vocabulary**: yeoman, catapulting, lathe, bastion, larder, dwindled, refuge, mutton, drought, retainers, smock, fidget, forge, pikes, sentry, clod, meek, hedgerow, bracken, coaxed, famished, siege, priory, jig, windlass

**Enrichment**: Pretend you are writing for the local newspaper in town. Write a report about the battle and subsequent results. Think about the type of headline that would get the reader's attention.

**Chapter Ten**

1. How did John signal the others that it was time to attack the Welsh invaders?
2. Why was Brother Luke teaching Robin to sing a carol?
3. Describe Robin's feelings when he realized his parents were approaching the castle.
4. How does the king reward Robin for his brave deeds?
5. Explain the significance of Brother Luke's comment to Robin indicating that Robin had found the door in the wall.

**Vocabulary**: sanctuary, sacristan, pickaback, hail, routed, peal, portcullis, cavity, yule, timid, tumult, dais, tutor, boar

**Enrichment**: The Door in the Wall is about a period in history referred to as the Middle Ages. Write a few paragraphs highlighting what life would have been like during these times. Use lots of specific details, paint a picture in my mind. Use information from your research and from the novel.

**After reading the novel:**

Go back to entry Chp 2 and create a poem for Robin next to President Roosevelt’s poem.

Make a time line for the book. Remember to include the important characters and events. You must complete this on your own using a piece of construction paper.

Illuminated Manuscript – you will work in teams of 3 in order to illustrate a chapter from the book. You will recap your chapter by creating sketches and coloring them. We will make a class manuscript.