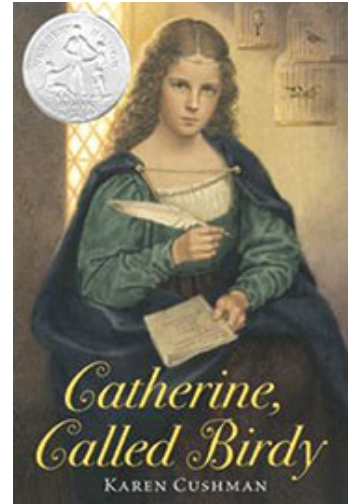


Catherine, Called Birdy. Karen Cushman. Clarion Books, 1994. (1170L)

Synopsis: "Corpus Bones! I utterly loathe my life."

Catherine feels trapped. Her father is determined to marry her off to a rich man--any rich man, no matter how awful. But by wit, trickery, and luck, Catherine manages to send several would-be husbands packing. Then a shaggy-bearded suitor from the north comes to call--by far the oldest, ugliest, most revolting suitor of them all. Unfortunately, he is also the richest. Can a sharp-tongued, high-spirited, clever young maiden with a mind of her own actually lose the battle against an ill-mannered, pig-like lord and an unimaginative, greedy toad of a father? Deus! Not if Catherine has anything to say about it!"



Place and Time: *Catherine, Called Birdy* takes place in England during the year 1290. Birdy celebrates her 14th birthday on September 19, 1290. Her father, Rollo, is a "country knight." They have 10 servants, 70 villagers, and 2 small manors. One of those manors is Stonebridge in Lincolnshire. It is a fictional manor, but Lincolnshire is a county in England, within the United Kingdom.

The King of England in 1290 was Edward I, also called Edward Longshanks. He was married to Eleanor of Castile from 1254 to 1290, when she died.

From the Author's Note:

"Medieval people lived in a place we can never go, made up of what they value, how they think, and what they believe is true and important and possible."

"Our ideas of individual identity, individual accomplishments and rights, individual effort and success did not exist. Family and community and guild and country were what mattered. No one was separate or independent, not even the King."

Awards: Newbery Honor Book, 1995 Notable Children's Book, 1995 Best Book for Young Adults, Quick Picks for Young Adults 1995

COMPLEMENTARY BOOKS and WEBSITES

ARRANGED MARRIAGES

Ramsay Scallop by Frances Temple. Orchard Books, 1994. **Format:** Paperback novel. **Keywords:** Coming of Age. Women's History. Arranged Marriage.

Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind by Suzanne Fisher Staples. Ember, 1989. **Format:** Paperback novel. **Keywords:** Coming of Age. Mothers and Daughters. Women's History. Pakistan. Arranged Marriage.

BIRDS

Aviary Wonders Inc. Spring Catalog and Instruction Manual, Kate Samworth. Clarion Books, 2014. **Format:** Hardcover. **Keywords:** Birds. Consumerism. Crafts. Environment. Conservation.

Backyard Birds by Karen Stray Nolting, Jonathan Latimer, and Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1999. **Format:** Paperback, nonfiction, ages 8 and up. **Keywords:** Birds. Birding. Field Guides.

CRUSADES

Blood Red Horse by K.M. Grant. Walker, 2006 (Book 1 of a trilogy). **Format:** novel, ages 10 and up. **Keywords:** Crusades. Richard Lionheart. Saladin. Medieval Life.

Book of the Lion by Michael Cadnum. Puffin, 2001. **Format:** Paperback. **Keywords:** Medieval Life. Crusades. Richard Lionheart.

Saladin: Noble Prince of Islam by Diane Stanley. HarperCollins, 2002. **Format:** Picture book. **Keywords:** Biography. Islam. Crusades. Muslim. Middle East.

EMBROIDERY

A-Z of Embroidery Stitches by Country Bumpkin. Search Press, 2015. **Format:** Paperback craft book. **Keywords:** Crafts. Embroidery. Needle Arts. Doodle Stitching.

Doodle Stitching: Fresh and Fun Embroidery for Beginners by Aimee Ray. Sterling Publishing, 2007. **Format:** Paperback craft book, ages 10 and up. **Keywords:** Crafts. Embroidery. Needle Arts. Doodle Stitching.

Embroidery by Judy Ann Sadler (Kids Can Do It series). Kids Can Press, 2004. **Format:** Paperback craft book, ages 8 and up. **Keywords:** Crafts. Embroidery. Needle Arts.

FLEAS

Creepy Creatures: Fleas by Valerie Bodden. Creative Paperbacks, 2014. **Format:** Paperback, nonfiction picture book. **Keywords:** Journal. Medieval Life. Religion. Latin. Castles.

Justinian's Flea: The First Great Plague and the End of the Roman Empire by William Rosen. Penguin Books, 2008. **Format:** Adult nonfiction. **Keywords:** Microbes. Plagues. Fleas.

ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS

Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts, British Library.

<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/TourIntro4.asp>

Illuminated Manuscripts, Fitzwilliam Museum.

<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/gallery/cockerell/directorcollector/manuscripts.html>

Illuminated Page. <http://www.illuminatedpage.com/>

Illuminations by Jonathan Hunt. Simon & Schuster, 1989. **Format:** Alphabet book, picture book. **Keywords:** Medieval Life. Monks. Illuminated Manuscripts. Religious Orders.

JOURNALS/DIARIES

Castle Diary: the Journal of Tobias Burgess by Richard Platt, illustrated by Chris Ridell. Candlewick Press, 2003. **Format:** Paperback journal. **Keywords:** Journal. Medieval Life. Religion. Latin. Castles.

Constance: a Story of Early Plymouth by Patricia Clapp. HarperTeen, 1991. **Format:** Paperback journal. **Keywords:** Journal. Colonial New England. Massachusetts. Pilgrims.

Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32, by Joan W. Blos. Atheneum, 1990. **Format:** Paperback novel. **Keywords:** Pioneers. New Hampshire. Journals. Diaries.

Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13-3/4 by Sue Townsend. HarperTeen, 2003. **Format:** Paperback novel. **Keywords:** Humor. Journals. Diaries.

JUDAISM

Edict of Expulsion, 1290, Expelling the Jews from England

On July 18, 1290, Edward I ordered all Jews to leave England forever. The author includes in Catherine, Called Birdy a group of exiles who are departing from England. Here are some articles that will help inform you for a discussion or provide research options for your students.

“The Edict of Expulsion” by David Ross, *Britain Express*.

<http://www.britainexpress.com/History/medieval/expulsion-jews.htm>

“England’s Jewish Solution: Experiment and Expulsion, 1262-1290,” review of the book by Robin R. Mundill, published September 1998. <http://bit.ly/1IhuxNa>

“Expulsion of Jews from England 1290,” *British Library, Learning Timelines: Sources from History*.
<http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item103483.html>

MEDIEVAL LIFE

Adam of the Road, by Elizabeth Janet Gray, illustrated by Robert Lawson. Viking Press, 1943. **Format:** Paperback novel. **Keywords:** 13th Century. Medieval Life. Daily Life. Newbery Medal.

Anno's Medieval World by Mitsumasa Anno. Putnam, 1980. **Format:** Wordless picture book. **Keywords:** 13th Century. Medieval Life. Daily Life.

Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer, adapted by Barbara Cohen, illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. HarperCollins, 1988. **Format:** Paperback, illustrated. **Keywords:** Medieval Life. Fiction. Classics.

Castle, written and illustrated by David Macaulay. Candlewick Press, 1977. **Format:** Picture Book. **Keywords:** Architecture. Engineering. Building. Daily Life. Medieval Life. (1180L)

Crispin: Cross of Lead by Avi. Penguin, 2002. **Format:** novel, ages 8 and up. **Keywords:** England. 13th Century. Medieval Life. Daily Life. Newbery Medal.

Fleas, Flies, and Friars: Children's Poetry from the Middle Ages by Nicholas Orme. Cornell University Press, 2012. **Format:** Poetry paperback. **Keywords:** Poetry. Medieval Life. Children. Daily Life.

Gildaen: the Heroic Adventures of a Most Unusual Rabbit by Emilie Buchwald. The Gryphon Press, 1993. **Format:** e-book, novel. **Keywords:** Medieval Life. Rabbits. Herbolgy. Fantasy.

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz, illustrated by Robert Byrd. Candlewick Press, 2007. **Format:** Illustrated, dramatic vignettes. **Keywords:** Readers Theater. Medieval Life. 13th Century. Newbery Medal.

Growing Up in the 13th Century, Alfred Duggan, Faber & Faber, 1962 (request from library). **Format:** Nonfiction. **Keywords:** Daily Life. Medieval Life.

Merry Ever After by Joe Lasker. Viking Books, 1976. **Format:** Picture book, fiction. **Keywords:** Marriage contracts. Medieval Life. 15th Century. Daily Life.

Middle Ages: Everyday Life in Medieval Europe by Jeffrey L. Singman. Sterling, 2013. **Format:** Adult nonfiction. **Keywords:** Daily Life. Medieval Life.

Middle Ages: an Illustrated History by Barbara A. Hanawalt. Oxford University Press, 1999. **Format:** Hardcover nonfiction. **Keywords:** Medieval Life. Daily Life. 5th Century. 13th Century. 15th Century.

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1996.

Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver, by E.L. Konigsburg. Atheneum, 1973. **Format:** novel, ages 10 and up. **Keywords:** Eleanor of Aquitaine, 12th Century, Richard Lionheart.

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park. Clarion Books, 2001. **Format:** Middle grade fiction. Korea. **Keywords:** Pottery. 12th Century. Medieval Life. Craftsmanship. Newbery Medal.

Sir Cedric by Jean Gerrard and Roy Gerrard. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1984. **Format:** Picture book, fiction. **Keywords:** Knights. Medieval Life. Chivalry.

Stephen Biesty's Cross-Sections Castle, written by Richard Platt, illustrated by Stephen Biesty. Dorling Kindersley, 1994, rev. 2013. **Format:** Nonfiction picture book. **Keywords:** Castles. Medieval Life. Daily Life. 13th century.

Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: a Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century by Ian Mortimer. Touchstone, 2011. **Format:** Adult nonfiction. **Keywords:** Daily Life. Medieval Life.

Turn of the Century: Eleven Centuries of Children and Change by Ellen Jackson and Jan Davey Ellis. Charlesbridge, 1998. **Format:** Picture book, ages 5 and up. **Keywords:** Millennium.

PEERAGE and NOBILITY

Please note that the title of Duke did not exist before 1337. Many of the other titles were created later than that. At the time of *Catherine, Called Birdy*, this peerage system did not yet exist as it was later known.

Ranking of nobility in Edwardian times:

<http://www.edwardianpromenade.com/resources/titles-and-orders-of-precedence/>

Ranking of nobility in Victorian times:

<http://www.avictorian.com/nobility.html>

An interesting description of medieval people and their ranks, crossing many professions:

<http://bit.ly/1ApqNau>

SAINTS DAYS

Each chapter in the book begins with a reflection on a saint. For example: November 25th is the feast day of Saint Catherine. September 28th is the feast day of the archangel Michael, Michaelmas.

Can You Find Saints? Introducing Your Child to Holy Men and Women by Philip D. Gallery, illustrated by Janet L. Harlow. St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2003. **Format:** Picture Book. **Keywords:** Saints. Feast Days. Religion.

Illustrated World Encyclopedia of Saints by Tessa Paul and Ronald Creighton-Jobe. Lorenz Books, 2009. **Format:** Nonfiction reference book. **Keywords:** Saints. Feast Days. Religion. Encyclopedia.

Oxford Dictionary of Saints by David Farmer. Oxford University Press, 5th edition, 2011. **Format:** Reference Book for Adults. **Keywords:** Saints. Feast Days. Religion.

WOMEN'S HISTORY / COMING OF AGE

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan. Scholastic, 2002. **Format:** Paperback novel. **Keywords:** Migrant Workers. Hispanics. Latinos. California. 20th Century.

Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff (Book 1 in a trilogy). Square Fish, 2006. **Format:** Paperback novel-in-verse. **Keywords:** Coming of Age. Mothers and Daughters. Poverty. Education. Abuse. Women's History.

Outrageous Women of the Middle Ages by Vicki Léon. Wiley, 1998. **Format:** Illustrated nonfiction. **Keywords:** Medieval Life. Women's History.

Shizuko's Daughter by Kyoko Mori. Henry Holt, 2014. **Format:** Paperback novel. 1994. **Keywords:** Japan. Coming of Age. Suicide. Mothers and Daughters.

Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1958. **Format:** Paperback novel. **Keywords:** Witches. Connecticut. Colonial New England. Hysteria. Coming of Age.