The Bronze Bow

A Historical Fiction Novel
By
By: Elizabeth George Speare
Elizabeth George Speare was an American writer who won many awards for her historical novels.

- Born: November 21, 1908
- Died: November 15, 1994
- Awards:
  - 1959 Newbery Award for *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*
  - 1962 Newbery Award for *The Bronze Bow*
The Bronze Bow is a historical fiction book about a boy named Daniel who is consumed with anger for the Romans. When the Romans invaded his homeland of Galilee, they killed Daniel’s parents. Daniel joins a man named Rosh, thinking he is perhaps the leader, or Messiah, who will drive the Romans out of the Jewish land. Will Daniel ever learn the lesson of forgiveness?
Setting: The story takes place during the life of Christ in Palestine – what we now call Israel or the Holy Land.

Historical Fiction
- Setting - our world
- Characters – may or may not be people who really lived
- Action – could have happened but not a true story
Vocabulary & Terms
Judaic words

- Zealot – among ancient Jews, a member of a radical group who openly resisted Roman rule in Palestine (Israel)

- Mezuzah – container attached to the doorpost of the home that contained a paper with scripture written on it

- Phylacteries – leather case containing scripture that was fastened to the forehead or arm of Jewish men during morning prayer time

- Tallith – prayer shawl worn by men during morning prayer

- Bar – son of (Daniel bar Jamin means Daniel, son of Jamin)
### Character List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daniel</strong></td>
<td>Young boy who was a Galilean slave; he ran away and lived in the mountains</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with the outlaw zealots</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Joel</strong></td>
<td>Boy who Daniel went to the synagogue school with, studying to be a rabbi</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Malthace</strong></td>
<td>(Thacia) - Joel's sister</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leah</strong></td>
<td>Daniel's sister, never leaves her house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosh</strong></td>
<td>Leader of the outlaws living in the mountain who Daniel stays with, rebelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>against the Romans</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Amalek</strong></td>
<td>Blacksmith slave owner, was Daniel's master, very cruel to the boys who</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>worked under him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nathan</strong></td>
<td>First to join Daniel's group of boys, also the first to die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Samson</strong></td>
<td>Giant slave who Rosh and Daniel freed from the Roman guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simon</strong></td>
<td>Friend of Daniel's; was bound to Amalek as well. Followed Jesus closely</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ASSIGNMENT
- see examples on the next slide and add to the lists -

0 Purchase a **paper copy** of the book, or you may check one out with Mrs. Smith. (If it is returned with no damage there is no charge. If it is damaged or not returned, there is a $15.00 charge.)

1. Using a **T - Chart**, compare Joel and Daniel.
2. You will read how Leah is very fearful. Make a **list** of her accomplishments and the ways Thacia and Daniel help her work through these fears.
Assignment Examples

Joel
- Scribe’s son
- Well-dressed
- Jewish
- Continue the list as you read

Daniel
- Run-away blacksmith apprentice
- Barefoot & dressed poorly
- Jewish
- Continue the list as you read

Leah’s Accomplishments
1. Leah is able to communicate with Daniel by placing her hand on his.
2. Leah eventually goes outside.
3. Daniel builds a litter to transport Leah to a new home.
4. Continue the list as you read.

LITTER
Final Notes
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- Purchase a paper copy of *The Bronze Bow*.
- Bring two separate sheets of paper to class
  - A chart like the example comparing Daniel and Joel (Add to the list I started for you.)
  - A list of Leah’s accomplishments (Add to the list I started for you.)
- You can keep your assignments saved on your home computer, so they will be easy to find. Typed assignments are encouraged.
- A test on the novel will be given on the 8th full day of school.