Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A Journal of the Plague Year by Daniel Defoe (not written during The Middle Ages, but related thematically)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Underline words that you notice have spellings that are now different in Modern English. 2. In this context what does the “distemper” refer to? 3. List words that describe the plague directly: 4. Use context clues to determine the meaning of **dispose**. Define. 5. How might a third person perspective have changed this writing? How would that have impacted the tone of the work? 6. Do you think the writer will stay or go? Why? | I lived about midway between Aldgate Church and Whitechappel Bars, on the left hand or north side of the street; and as the distemper had not reached to that side of the city, our neighbourhood continued very easy. But at the other end of the town their consternation was very great: and the richer sort of people, especially the nobility and gentry from the west part of the city, **thronged** out of town with their families and servants in an unusual manner; and this was more particularly seen in Whitechappel; that is to say, the Broad Street where I lived; indeed, nothing was to be seen but waggons and carts, with goods, women, servants, children, &c.; coaches filled with people of the better sort and horsemen attending them, and all hurrying away; then empty waggons and carts appeared, and spare horses with servants, who, it was apparent, were returning or sent from the countries to fetch more people; besides innumerable numbers of men on horseback, some alone, others with servants, and,generally speaking, all loaded with baggage and fitted out for travelling, as anyone might perceive by their appearance.  This was a very terrible and melancholy thing to see, and as it was a sight which I could not but look on from morning to night (for indeed there was nothing else of moment to be seen), it filled me with very serious thoughts of the misery that was coming upon the city, and the unhappy condition of those that would be left in it.  This hurry of the people was such for some weeks that there was no getting at the Lord Mayor's door without exceeding difficulty; there were such pressing and crowding there to get passes and certificates of health for such as travelled abroad, for without these there was no being admitted to pass through the towns upon the road, or to lodge in any inn. Now, as there had none died in the city for all this time, my Lord Mayor gave certificates of health without any difficulty to all those who lived in the ninety-seven parishes, and to those within the liberties too for a while.  I now began to consider seriously with myself concerning my own case, and how I should **dispose** of myself; that is to say, whether I should resolve to stay in London or shut up my house and flee, as many of my neighbours did. I have set this particular down so fully because I know not but it may be of moment to those who come after me, if they come to be brought to the same distress, and to the same manner of making their choice; and therefore I desire this account may pass with them rather for a direction to themselves to act by than  a history of my actings, seeing it may not be of one farthing value to them to note what became of me.  I had two important things before me: the one was the carrying on my business and shop, which was considerable, and in which was embarked all my effects in the world; and the other was the preservation of my life in so dismal a calamity as I saw apparently was coming upon the whole city, and which, however great it was, my fears perhaps, as well as other people's, represented to be much greater than it could be. I had an elder brother at the same time in London, and not many years before come over from Portugal: and advising with him, his answer was in three words, the same that was given in another case quite different, 'Master, save thyself.’ | 1. Circle words that indicate someone is part of one of the THREE ESTATES of society. Mark A for aristocracy. Mark CL for clergy. Mark CO for commoner. 2. Given the wording of the writing, what do you feel is the mood of the writer? Why? 3. Why does the author specifically talk about his decision to go or stay? 4. What advise does the writer’s brother give him that he applies to this decision? |