



THE LAST SAXON KING

by Andrew Varga

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Chapters 1 – 12

1. If you suddenly ended up in a mysterious forest, with no civilization in sight, what would be your first course of actions if your phone did not work?
2. If you did find out that you had traveled back in time, what would you miss most from the modern world?
3. A lot of the food that we eat today did not exist in Anglo-Saxon times. Identify at least one food from modern times that didn't exist in England in 1066. Where did it come from and how?
4. Sam tells Dan that he had been transported to Anglo-Saxon times, but he doesn't believe Sam. What would it take to convince you that you had traveled back in time?

Chapters 13 – 24

1. Sigebert, the boy with the bucket, tells Dan a story that leads him into a trap. Should Dan have believed Sigebert's story? Why or why not?
2. In Eoforwic, the city has no sanitation. Animal dung and garbage litter the streets. What sort of problems do you think that could cause for the people? What is this comparable to in our modern world?
3. During the feast in Eoforwic, Ceolwulf angrily says to Dan "Do not tell me what is there. Tell me what you see." What did Ceolwulf mean by this? Are there any examples from your own life where you wish someone had "seen"?
4. At the feast, Dan gains a small fortune in Anglo-Saxon coins and other valuable objects. What problems might happen in modern times if he brought the treasure back with him and tried to spend it?

Chapters 25 – Epilogue

1. In Chapter 26, Dan undergoes an ordeal by water to prove his innocence. Research one other way that someone could prove their innocence in Anglo-Saxon England.

2. There are multiple times where Eadward is hostile to Dan, resulting in Dan being threatened with execution. Is Eadward good or bad or both? Why?
3. During the battle against the Normans, Dan realizes that the only way he can change history is to push aside his fear and go into battle. Can you think of any time where you had to push back your fear to do something?
4. In order to save history Dan ends up leading his friends to their deaths. Is there any other way he could have changed history?

Additional Questions

1. [The Hero's Journey](#) always has a figure who acts as mentor to guide and teach the hero. Who is Dan's most influential mentor on his journey, and why?
2. Dan finds himself in many dangerous situations where, despite being trained since birth in weapons, he tries to avoid conflict. What is the difference between cautious and being cowardly? Give examples from the story to support your ideas.
3. Dan is fortunate in that he has a universal translator which allows him to understand everything that is said by the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. Do you think that knowing other languages is beneficial when traveling? Have you had any instances where knowing another language has helped you?
4. Using examples from the text, show how Dan has changed from the original teenager that we saw hanging out in the mall.
5. Duty is the moral obligation to do something, no matter what the personal cost. In your opinion, which character most demonstrates the meaning of duty? Support your opinion with examples from the story.
6. If you went on a trip through time, which of the characters from the story would you want to have with you, and why?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ever since his mother told him he was descended from Vikings, Andrew Varga has had a fascination for history. He's read hundreds of history books, watched countless historical movies, and earned a BA from the University of Toronto with a specialist in history and a major in English. He's also traveled extensively across Europe, where he toured some of the most famous castles, museums, and historical sites that Europe has to offer.

Andrew currently lives in the greater Toronto area with his wife Pam, their three children, and their mini-zoo of two dogs, two cats, a turtle, and some fish.