

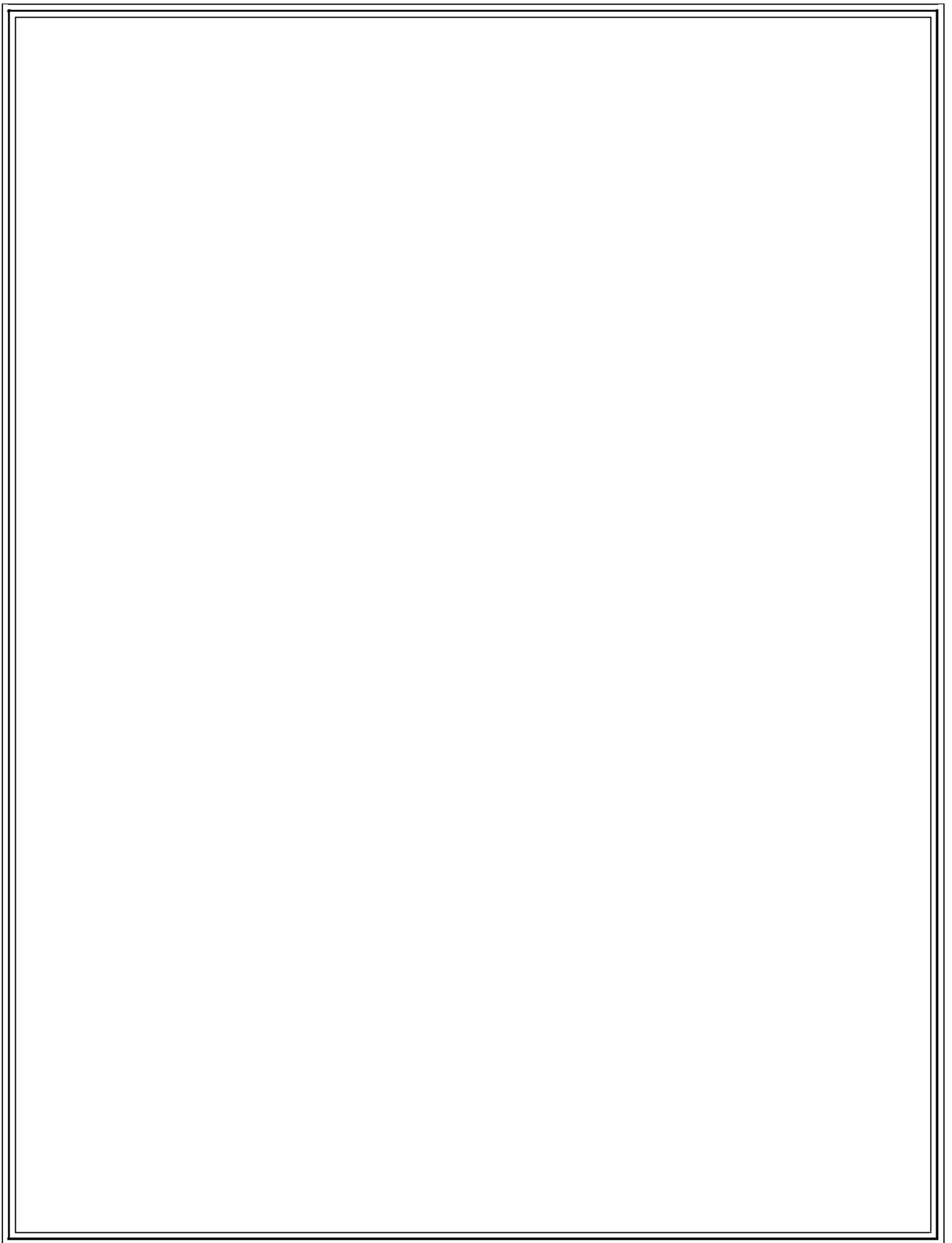
The Children of the New Forest

Written by Frederick Marryat



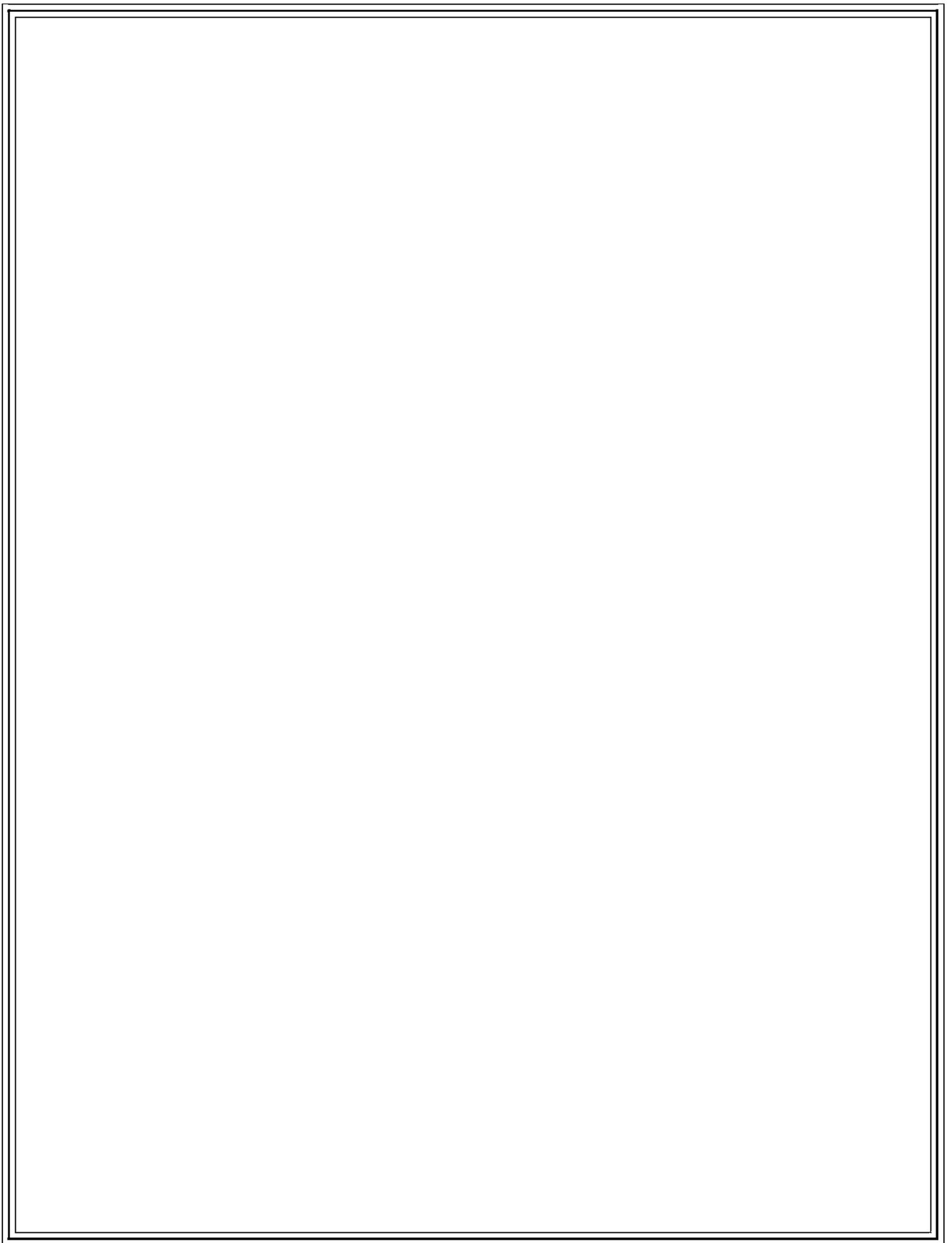
The Cattle Ford, Liney Hill Wood.

A Reading Guide by Lisa Kelly



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Historical Background Notes

Historical Background

The story takes place in 1647.

Charles I suffered defeat after nearly five years of civil war. He is a prisoner at Hampton Court. In November, Charles escapes and heads towards the New Forest (Hampshire). After realizing his hopes of escaping to France were not to be, he turned to Colonel Hammond. Charles I finds himself again prisoner in Carisbrooke Castle.

English Civil War (1642-1651): The English Civil War was between Charles I and his supporters who were called the Royalists or Cavaliers and his Parliamentary opponents called the Roundheads.

The story now goes back to the beginning of the English Civil War and tells the background of the Beverley family and introduces characters such as Jacob Armitage.

Additional Reading

Review the historical background of this story by reading again the following chapters from *Our Island Story*:

- “William the Conqueror-The Death of the King” (Chapter 26)
- “The Story of William the Red” (Chapter 27)
- “Charles I- The Story of How the King and the Parliament Quarreled and at Last Fought” (Chapter 77)

Reading Suggestion for Older Students

Great Tales from English History (Volume 2) by Robert Lacey has several chapters on this topic.

Frederick Marryat

Frederick Marryat was born in (Westminster) London, England in 1792. Captain Marryat was an officer in the Royal Navy with many adventurous but dangerous missions, including some time spend in capturing American ships during the War of 1812. He later turned to writing, editing *The Metropolitan Magazine* and publishing novels. He knew other authors, including Charles Dickens. He is known for *Mr. Midshipman Easy* and *The Children of the New Forest*.

Picture Study

There are portraits for Charles I, Oliver Cromwell and Charles II linked at the website. There is also a painting which illustrates a scene from the Battle at Naseby. [Resources: Literature](#)

Lesson Notes

1. Have students define the words listed under “Words to Know” either independently or together orally with the teacher.
2. Teachers and students should read and discuss any defined words and phrases or background notes included at the beginning of each lesson and discuss the pronunciation of any words as needed.
3. “Connecting the Conversation” questions and prompts were written to bridge the gap between chapter readings. They were designed to bring forth what students already know about a topic so that the new information can be connected to it.
4. Students should read each chapter independently or read it together with the teacher.
5. After reading, students should narrate. There are multiple narration suggestions for each chapter.
6. Any additional writing extensions, lessons in literary terms and active reading assignments can be added or omitted as it best fits the needs of your students.

Note: While many literary terms and opportunities to write are included in this reading guide, it is not expected that students should complete all of the additional assignments. Many lessons are offered, but this merely offers variety and flexibility. As always, quality should override quantity.

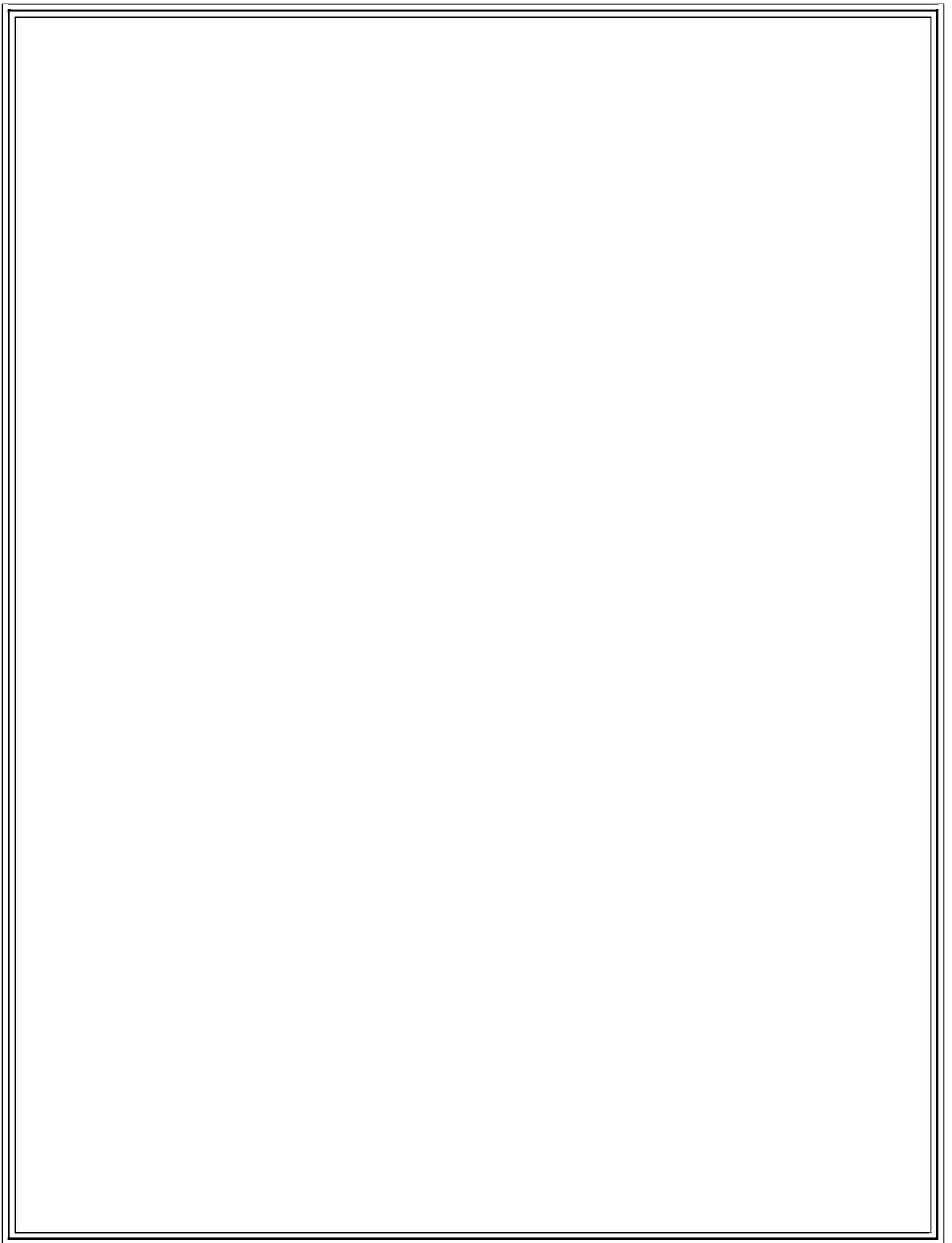
Edition

This guide can be used with any edition of *The Children of the New Forest* by Frederick Marryat, since it is based on chapter.

Reading Strategies & Literary Terms

The following are reading strategies and literary terms lightly discussed in this guide.

- Prediction
- Foreshadowing
- Characters
- Setting



* Read Chapter 1

Before the Reading

Connection: Based on the cover illustration and the title, tell what you think this book will be about.

Words to Know: indemnified and habiliments

Locate: Arnwood and Lyminster; for further maps of the New Forest area, go to the website. [Resources: Literature](#)



1611 Map of Hampshire

Literary Elements

Setting is the time and place in which a story occurs. For example, in *Little House in the Big Woods*, Laura and her family live in a cabin in the woods. More specifically, they live in Wisconsin in 1871. The setting is significant because the historical events to which the story is tied revolve around them.

Most settings include both time and place, although some may include only one or the other. While most books have one main setting, there are often multiple settings within any one book. Any time a new scene takes place, there may be a change in setting.

Give the setting of this story. In what time period does this story take place? In what location does this story take place? What other background information help the readers better understand the story we are about to be told?

After the Reading

Narration Suggestions –Choose One

- Tell of the Cavaliers and the Roundheads. Who is Colonel Beverley?
- Tell about the conversation Jacob overheard while hiding and then describe his thoughts and actions which followed this conversation.
- Draw or paint a picture of any scene from this chapter. Give your picture a title or caption and share it with someone, telling about the scene you've depicted.

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- * Read Chapter 2

Before the Reading

Connection: Briefly describe Jacob.

Words to Know: sequestered, obeisance, perturbation, remonstrance and egress

After the Reading

Narration Suggestions –Choose One

- Describe Arnwood with as much detail as you can.
- Why do you think that Miss Judith would not leave Arnwood?
- Consider why Jacob's arrangements for evacuating the people at Arnwood proved to be a safer plan than Edward's idea?
- Do you get a sense of the author's bias in the story towards one side of the English Civil War vs. the other? What are your thoughts about this?
- How would you have handled the evacuation of the people at Arnwood?

Literary Elements

Characters are people or animals in literary works.

Create a list of the characters from this chapter and write 2-3 short phrases to describe each one.

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* Read Chapter 3

Before the Reading

Connection: Tell of the evacuation of the Beverley children.

Words to Know: injunctions and commenced

After the Reading

Narration Suggestions –Choose One

- Tell about the children and their new life in the cottage.
- How did they handle the arrival of the troopers?
- Read again the description of the cottage at the end of chapter three. Draw a map which represents this description.
- Write a descriptive paragraph about Jacob.