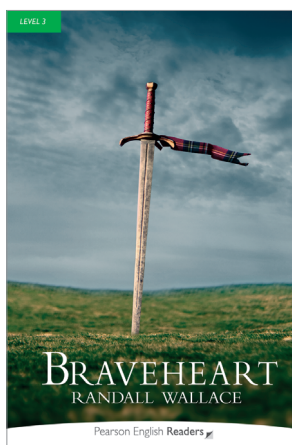


Braveheart

Randall Wallace



About the author

Randall Wallace was born and brought up in Tennessee, in the southern United States. His family had originally come from Scotland and Ireland, and were farmers, like the family of William Wallace, although he doesn't know for certain whether he comes from the same family as the Scottish hero or not.

He first came across the story of William Wallace when he visited Scotland and saw the statue of him that guards the entrance to Edinburgh Castle, along with that of Robert the Bruce. To research the story, he travelled through Scotland and England, visiting places associated with William's life. He also read as much as he could about him. Little is known for certain, but there are many legends, and the writer used these and his own imagination to tell the story, both in the novel and the screenplay which he also wrote.

Braveheart is Randall Wallace's fifth novel. He now lives in Southern California with his wife and two sons.

Summary

Braveheart is based on the life of William Wallace, one of Scotland's greatest national heroes, and is set in the thirteenth century. The English King Edward I invades Scotland and makes himself its ruler. Many Scots want to fight back but need leadership, and find it when William Wallace turns from peaceful farmer to rebel, after an English sheriff kills his wife. He gathers an army of a few thousand men and not only defeats the English but takes the war into their own country. But the murderous King Edward is not a man to be stopped so easily, and the Scottish nobles are too afraid of him, and too jealous of each other, to support William for long. Even though William wins the love and secret help of the King's

daughter-in-law, Princess Isabella, he cannot stand against England and his own countrymen as well. When the English return to Scotland, all William has left is his courage and integrity.

Chapter 1

In 1276, The English King, Edward I, called a truce. The Scottish nobles who came to this truce meeting without weapons were all killed. The seven-year-old William Wallace saw the bodies. His father and brother got killed when attacking the English. After the funeral, his uncle took William as a child into his care, promising to teach the boy how to use the sword after he learned how to use his head.

Chapter 2

William grew up and returned to his village, and he secretly got married to Murrion. After Murrion was killed by the English, William became a rebel. He gave the Scottish people courage to fight for their freedom, and his triumph at the Battle of Stirling made him into a legend.

Chapter 3

William Wallace took the fighting into England, but the Scottish nobles didn't help him because they put themselves first whereas Wallace put the Scottish people first. He was defeated at the Battle of Falkirk, which was devastating for Wallace.

Chapter 4

The Princess Isabella and Wallace shared a tryst, and she conceived Wallace's child. Wallace was betrayed by the Scottish nobles and handed over to the English. He was put to cruel torture in London and he was executed in front of a crowd.

Background and themes

Scottish history: The novel is based on the early part of the Scottish War of Independence.

In the 1260s Scotland was ruled by its own King, Alexander III, but English kings had wanted to rule their neighbouring country for many years. When Alexander III died in 1286, leaving no sons to follow him, there was disagreement in Scotland about who should be the next ruler. For a while, the crown went to Alexander's infant granddaughter, Margaret, while six Guardians ruled in her name. But in 1290, Margaret died, and there was no obvious heir to the throne. This plunged Scotland into a period of confusion in which there were thirteen competitors for the crown. These included the old Earl of Annandale, the chief of the powerful Bruce family.

Braveheart

With these events the King of England, Edward I, saw the chance of extending his rule into Scotland. After first trying to choose the Scots' king for them, he invaded in 1296. Although some Scottish nobles fought, many did nothing, as they were afraid of ending on the losing side. Some even fought for the English, for the sake of revenge on other Scottish families. These included the Bruces, who had another reason for helping the English: they wanted King Edward to place one of them on the throne.

However, the ordinary people of Scotland had nothing to lose. The behaviour of the English forces towards them was terrible, and they were ready to fight. All they needed was a leader, and when William Wallace killed the local English Sheriff, Hesselrig, for murdering his wife, he soon found he was at the head of a rebellion. The Scottish War of Independence had begun.

Brave heart: Wallace gives the Scots courage. While the Scottish nobles are busy looking after themselves, Wallace puts all his energy into fighting for Scotland and its people.

Freedom and independence: Wallace teaches the Scottish people to value their freedom and their independence above all else. Wallace makes Robert the Bruce, who in fact becomes the King of Scotland later on, ashamed of his homage to English.

After Wallace's death, Robert the Bruce was ready to make his contribution to reassert the independence of Scotland. In 1306, Robert the Bruce had himself crowned King of Scotland and led another revolt. Under his leadership, at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, the Scots defeated the largest army England had ever put into battle. Scotland won its freedom for the next 400 years.

The thistle: The thistle, a pale purple flower like an artichoke, is the national symbol of Scotland, and this flower is used effectively in the story, describing not only Wallace's love for his wife but his loyalty to Scotland.

Secret love: Even though it is not historically correct, the story shows that Princess Isabella secretly loves William Wallace and helps him. Being ignored by her effeminate husband, she wishes to conceive Wallace's child. Her wish is granted.

About the film

Braveheart was one of the most popular films of 1995. Nearly three hours long, it cost about \$53 million to make, and has been compared to the great historical epics

of the 1960s, such as *Spartacus*, *El Cid* and *Lawrence of Arabia*. It stars Mel Gibson as Wallace, French actress Sophie Marceau as Princess Isabella, and Patrick McGoohan as King Edward I. Gibson also directed and produced the film.

Braveheart was shot partly in Scotland and partly in Ireland, where 2,000 members of the Irish army were used as extras in the film's very impressive battle scenes.

Braveheart won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1995. Although this film is a fantastic epic adventure, it has some inaccuracies, such as Wallace's affair with Princess Isabella and the Battle of Stirling (there is no bridge in the battle scenes).

It is said that *Braveheart* has had an effect on today's Scottish movement for complete independence.

Discussion activities

Chapter 1 The Boy, pages 1–3

Before reading

- 1 **Guess:** Have students look at the picture on the cover.

Which of these words do you think describe the man? Look up any new words in your dictionary.

weak	old	carefully	dressed	strong	young
healthy	a fighter	sick	middle-aged		
frightening	brave	handsome	kind	cowardly	
ugly	adventurous	ordinary	clean		
	dangerous	good			

Ask students to keep the list of words they've chosen so that they can come back to it later on.

- 2 **Get ready:** Have students read the Introduction and ask the following questions.
- *Who is the man in the picture on the front cover?*
 - *What did he do?*
 - *What is this story about?*
- 3 **Discuss:** Put students into small groups. Ask them to discuss the following:
- The film Braveheart was very popular. Why was it so popular? Was it because of the exciting story? Was it because of Mel Gibson?*

After reading

- 4 **Discuss:** Have students work in pairs to discuss how they would feel if they were young William Wallace, using the following questions.
- *You saw many bodies, tied by the neck. How do you feel?*
 - *Your father and brother got killed. How do you feel?*
 - *A little girl gave you a flower of Scotland. How do you feel?*

Braveheart

Chapter 2 The Rebel, pages 3–23

Before reading

- 5 **Get ready:** Have students look at the map on page vi. Ask them to find the following places on the map: London, Edinburgh, Lanark, Stirling and France. Tell them that these places will come up in the story. Ask them if they know anything about these places.

After reading

- 6 **Discuss:** Check that students understand the rule of 'first night': the men who own a lot of land can sleep with a woman who lives on their land on the night of the woman's wedding. Put them into pairs. Ask them to look up 'effect' in their dictionaries. Have them discuss the following question.
What effect does the rule of 'first night' have on William and Murrin? How do they have to act?
- 7 **Check:** Ask students to find out the name of the national flower of Scotland. Have students work in pairs. Tell them to find the four times in Chapters 1 and 2 when the flower of Scotland is used to describe the relationship between William and Murrin.
- 8 **Retell:** Have students go back to the map on page vi. Have them work in small groups to retell what happened in each place. Find these places on the map opposite page vi: London, Edinburgh, Lanark, Stirling and France.

Chapter 3 First Lord of Scotland, pages 23–33

While reading (Stop reading at page 26, line 13)

- 9 **Pair work:** Put students into pairs. Have them imagine that they are Edward. Have them describe what happens on the day Longshanks kills Peter and nearly kills Edward. Have them discuss how Edward feels for Peter and for his father. Ask some pairs to share their descriptions with the rest of the class.
- 10 **Discuss:** Have students work in small groups to discuss the following questions.
- *What will Longshanks do now? Will he make a truce with the Scots?*
 - *Who will he send?*
 - *Why does he send this person?*

After reading

- 11 **Discuss:** Have a whole-class discussion using the following question.
Why does Robert the Bruce fight with the English at the Battle of Falkirk?
- 12 **Role play:** Put students into pairs. Have them act out the conversation between Longshanks and Isabella: Isabella tells Longshanks about her meeting with Wallace. Longshanks tells her what he plans to do.
- 13 **Discuss:** Put students into small groups. Ask them to discuss how battles at the time of Wallace are different from battles now.

Chapters 4 Brave Heart, pages 33–38

After reading

- 14 **Discuss:** Put students into small groups. Have them discuss the following questions. Later, ask them to share their opinions with the class.
- *Why does William throw a jacket over his horse's head before it jumps out of Mornay's castle?*
 - *William sees Murrin in the crowd in London before he dies. Why do you think this happens?*
- 15 **Check:** Have students go back to the list of words from Activity 1. Ask them if they have changed their mind about the words that describe William Wallace.

Extra activities

- 16 **Discuss:** Put students into small groups. Ask them to look up 'independent' in their dictionaries. Have them discuss the following question.
Is it always better for a country to be independent?
- 17 **Describe:** Have students work in small groups and look at the map on page vi. Ask them to describe what happened at Stirling and Falkirk in the story.
- 18 **Research:** The map shows the Battle of Bannockburn, 1314, but the book doesn't tell us about it. In small groups, or for homework, students find out what happened there, and write two or three sentences about it.
- 19 **Discuss:** According to the Introduction, Mel Gibson said, 'This story could happen anywhere.' Ask students to answer the following questions:
- *What do you think Mel Gibson means by this?*
 - *How are wars for independence different or similar today?*
- 20 **Project:** Have students work in groups to find out the history of Scotland around the time of William Wallace. Have each group make a presentation on the result of their research.

Braveheart

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapter 1, pages 1–3

1 Choose the right answer to finish these sentences.

- 1 The Scots have no king because ...
 - a the English have killed him.
 - b the old king died without a son or daughter.
 - c the French king is their king.
- 2 There has been war between England and Scotland because ...
 - a the King of England wants to choose the Scottish king.
 - b there is no food in Scotland.
 - c the Scots want to choose the English king.
- 3 King Edward I is called 'Longshanks' ...
 - a because he has long face.
 - b because he has long arms.
 - c because he has long legs.

2 Answer these questions.

- a How many sons did Malcolm Wallace have?
.....
- b When did William Wallace's mother die?
.....
- c What did William see at MacAndrews' farm building?
.....
- d Who brought the bodies of William's father and brother?
.....
- e What did a little girl give William at the graves?
.....
- f Who looked after William after his father and brother died?
.....

Chapter 2, pages 3–23

3 Complete each sentence with a word from the box.

people village castle land evening
farmer wedding throat rebel ground

- a A beautiful young French princess walked through the great rooms of a London
.....
- b 'We must give in the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland to our own nobles.'

- c 'The want us to fight now. They are very angry about this new English rule of "first night".'
- d They watched a young man ride into the
.....
- e 'Murrion, would you like to go for a ride on this fine?'
- f 'I came home to be a and to have a family.'
- g The party began.
- h She was walking past when one of them suddenly caught her wrist and threw her to the
.....
- i He calmly walked up to Murrion, took out his knife and cut her
.....
- j He knew he would fight as a
..... from this day until he died.

4 Use the words in (A) and (B) to make two sentences about each of the people below. Take one from (A) and the other from (B) for each sentence.

- (A)
- a rebel from Ireland
 - a young, handsome Scottish nobleman
 - Hamish's father
 - Old MacClannough's daughter
 - ~~the wife of King Edward's son~~
 - a fat English nobleman
 - King Edward's son
 - the head of the English army
 - a friend of Robert the Bruce
- (B)
- prefers his friend to his wife
 - asks William to be a rebel, like him
 - wants to be King of Scotland
 - is a beautiful French princess
 - marries William secretly
 - comes with soldiers to Helen's wedding
 - is the head of the Scots army at Stirling
 - fights with William at the Battle of Stirling
 - runs from the Scots at the Battle of Stirling

Example:

Isabella: *Isabella is the wife of King Edward's son. She is a beautiful French princess.*

- a Robert the Bruce:
.....
.....

Braveheart

Photocopiable

- b Lord Mornay:
.....
.....
- c Old Campbell:
.....
.....
- d Murrion MacClannough:
.....
.....
- e Lord Bottoms:
.....
.....
- f Prince Edward:
.....
.....
- g Stephen:
.....
.....
- h Lord Talmadge:
.....
.....

Chapter 3, pages 23–33

- 5 Choose the right answer to finish the sentences.**
- 1 The Scottish people are very proud of William Wallace because ...
 - 2 William cannot be King of Scotland because ...
 - 3 William is very angry because ...
 - 4 The nobles are surprised because ...
 - 5 Edward thinks the Scots will be weak because ...
 - 6 Edward wants to kill his father because ...
 - a the nobles are fighting among themselves about choosing a king.
 - b They won't be able to find enough food in winter.
 - c William says he will beat the English on their own land.
 - d he won the Battle of Stirling.
 - e he has killed his only friend.
 - f he is not a nobleman.

- 6 Choose the right answer to finish the sentences.**
- 1 William attacks York because ...
 - a the Governor of York has been taking all the food from the Scottish people.
 - b the English attacks always start from there.
 - c Longshanks is there.
 - 2 Isabella sends Nicolette to tell William about Edward's plans because ...
 - a she's having William's baby.
 - b she likes William and realises that she told him things that were not true.
 - c she hates Edward and wants to use William against him.

Chapter 4, pages 33–38

- 7 Put these sentences in the right order, 1–8.**
- a Isabella tells King Edward that she has a plan to catch William.
 - b The English kill William in London.
 - c William goes to France and Italy to get help.
 - d At the MacAndrew's farm, William and his men burn the killers who have been sent by Edward.
 - e Isabella tells King Edward that she's going to have William's child.
 - f William kills Lord Mornay.
 - g William meets Isabella at her castle in Scotland.
 - h William goes to meet the Scottish nobles.

- 8 Answer these questions.**
- a Did William get help from France and Italy?
.....
 - b Why did William kill Lord Mornay?
.....
 - c Why did Isabella choose MacAndrews' farm building?
.....
 - d Why did the Scottish nobles want a meeting with William Wallace?
.....
 - e Did Robert the Bruce know what was going to happen at this meeting?
.....

Braveheart

Photocopiable

Chapter 1

- 1 Put these sentences in the correct order, 1–7.
- a William went to Uncle Argyle's house.
 - b The English king, Edward I, called a truce.
 - c Hamish's father brought the bodies of William's father and brother.
 - d William saw the bodies of thirty Scottish nobles, thirty boys and one farmer.
 - e Malcolm and John Wallace went to attack the English.
 - f The Scottish nobles came to MacAndrews' farm without their weapons.
 - g A little girl handed William a purple flower.

Chapter 2

- 2 Choose the correct answer.
- 1 wants to rule Scotland.
 - a William Wallace
 - b Princess Isabella
 - c Longshanks
 - 2 Murrin MacClannough is
 - a William's cousin.
 - b having William's baby.
 - c married to William secretly.
 - 3 William knew he would fight as a rebel from the day
 - a he married Murrin.
 - b he killed Murrin's murderer.
 - c he came back to Lanark.
 - 4 At the battle of Stirling, William Wallace said, 'I serve'.
 - a Robert the Bruce.
 - b Lochlan.
 - c Scotland.
 - 5 At the battle of Stirling, the English and the Scots fought
 - a on the bridge
 - b at the castle
 - c in the village
 - 6 Longshanks heard about the battle of Stirling
 - a in England.
 - b in Scotland.
 - c in France.

Chapter 3

- 3 Complete each sentences with a word from the box. You can use the same words more than once.

among battle castle Lord nobles serve

After the **a** of Stirling, William Wallace was famous all over Scotland. He rode into Edinburgh and up to the **b**, his friends at his side. The people looked at him with wide eyes like children. The **c** in their fine clothes did not understand how an ordinary man could win a great **d** like that, when the Bruces and Balliols could not. Robert the Bruce was now out of prison and he stood **e** the other **f** as William walked into the **g** He could see at once that this Wallace would never **h** any other man. A man began to read: 'In the name of God, Sir William Wallace, we make you First i of Scotland!'

Chapter 4

- 4 Who says these? Choose the correct person from the box. You can use the same name more than once.

Longshanks	Prince Edward	Princess Isabella
Robert the Bruce	William Wallace	Hamish

- a 'I smile because I have a plan to catch your Wallace.'
.....
 - b 'You see, my stupid son, I have found you a real queen.'
.....
 - c 'But perhaps one day your blood will run through the King of England.'
.....
 - d 'I don't want to die. I want to live!'
.....
 - e 'And if He wants me to die for my country, then I will.'
.....
 - f 'My God, he has a brave heart.'
.....
 - g 'WE WILL BE FREE!'
.....
- 5 Choose the correct answer.
- 1 At which battle did the Scots win? ...
 - a The Battle of Stirling.
 - b The Battle of Falkirk.
 - 2 Where did William Wallace die? ...
 - a In Edinburgh.
 - b In London.

Braveheart

Book key

- 1 a a truce b swords, spears c nobles d throat
e grave f handkerchief g battle
- 2 a actor b rebel c king d writer
- 3 Open answers
- 4 a Edward I / Longshanks
b Malcolm and John Wallace
c Hamish
d Uncle Argyle
e Prince Edward, son of the King of England
f English nobles
g the English noble of the land
h the Bruces and the Balliols
- 5 Possible answers:
a ... there is no king of Scotland.
b ... he calls the Scottish nobles to a truce meeting and then kills them.
c ... he is a poor farmer.
d ... he doesn't want him to see the dead bodies.
e ... he prefers Peter to her.
f ... they look after themselves first.
- 6 Open answers
- 7 a Not true – everyone notices him.
b Not true – he starts to speak to her.
c Not true – he shakes hands with him.
d ✓
e Not true – they don't say anything.
f ✓
g ✓
h Not true – he says he wants to be a farmer and have a family.
- 8 a The local lord b In an old church
c She doesn't escape. d He kills her.
- 9–10 Open answers
- 11 a T b NT c T d T e T f T g NT
- 12 a Prince Edward > William Wallace
b is > is not
c will not > will
d thinks > doesn't think
e doesn't have > has
f Lanark > all over Scotland
- 13 a perfect
b on three sides
c in the middle
d show they are frightened
e get excited
f into the wet ground
g kill

- 14 Open answers
- 15 a make a truce with b watch c fight d refuses
e long spears f badly g men
- 16 The correct order is: d, c, e, f, b, g, a.
- 17 Open answers
- 18 a ✗ – he can never be King because he is not a nobleman.
b ✓
c ✓
d ✓
e ✗ – he sends it to London.
f ✓
- 19 a is just like Murrin.
b falls in love.
c murdered every Scot in York.
d speaks Latin and French.
e will not send more soldiers.
f lied to Isabella.
- 20 a surprise b long spears c new d Mornay
e king f lands g many h fighting i believe
j for
- 21 Open answers
- 22 a can > can't
b dining room > bedroom
c English > Scottish
d day > night
e hide William from > give William to
f is behind > doesn't know about
g Prince > King
- 23–33 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1 Possible answers:
strong, young, healthy, a fighter, handsome
- 2 Suggested answers:
• *William Wallace*
• *He fought for Scotland against England.*
• *It is about the battle between Scotland and England.*
- 3–5 Open answers
- 6 Suggested answers:
William and Murrin have to marry secretly. They can't be open.
- 7 Suggested answers:
• *The national flower of Scotland is the thistle.*
1. *Murrin gives William a thistle at his father's funeral.*
2. *William gives the same (now dried) flower to Murrin after they meet many years later and ride together on his horse.*

Braveheart

3. *When they marry, Murron gives William a handkerchief with the flower of Scotland on it.*
4. *A flower of Scotland is cut into the stone by Murron's grave.*
- 8** Possible answers:
- *London: The English King Edward I, Longshanks, was talking about the rule of 'first night'. Princess Isabella was unhappy about her new husband.*
 - *Edinburgh: Robert the Bruce was gathering with other Scottish nobles at Edinburgh Castle.*
 - *Lanark: William Wallace came back to the village. He married Murron secretly, but she was killed by the English. Wallace became a rebel.*
 - *Stirling: William Wallace and the Scots defeated the English army.*
 - *France: Longshanks heard the news of the Battle of Stirling.*
- 9** Open answers
- 10** Suggested answers:
- *He will send a messenger to make a truce, but he doesn't really mean to make a truce.*
 - *He will send Princess Isabella.*
 - *Because Longshanks thinks Prince Edward is too weak. He thinks Princess Isabella will be the best person to get him more time to get ready to attack the Scots.*
- 11** Possible answers:
- *Because he wants to be King of England, and he thinks Longshanks will help him.*
 - *Because he thinks William will lose, and he wants to be on the winning side.*
 - *Perhaps Longshanks offered him land.*
- 12–13** Open answers
- 14** Possible answers:
- *Because the horse won't be so frightened if he does this.*
 - *Perhaps he just sees her in his head.*
 - *Because he's dying, he's going to be with her soon. People say that memories flash through your mind just before you die.*
- 15–16** Open answers
- 17** Possible answers:
- *Stirling: William uses a hundred very long spears to fight. William orders Lord Mornay to ride away from the battle so that the English think they will win, but in fact he orders Lord Mornay to cross the river so that they can attack the English from the side. The Scots win the Battle of Stirling.*
 - *Falkirk: Most of the Scottish nobles don't come to the Battle of Falkirk to support William. Only Lord Mornay was there, but he leaves the battle because he has been paid by the English. William finds out that Robert the Bruce is on the side of the English. The English defeat the Scots.*
- 18–20** Open answers
- ### Activity worksheets key
- 1** 1 b 2 a 3 c
- 2** a He had two sons.
b When William was born.
c He saw 61 bodies, tied by the neck.
d Old Campbell, Hamish's father did.
e She gave him a purple flower (the national flower of Scotland).
f His uncle did.
- 3** a castle b land c people d village e evening
f farmer g wedding h ground i throat j rebel
- 4** a Robert the Bruce is a young, handsome Scottish nobleman. He wants to be King of Scotland.
b Lord Mornay is a friend of Robert the Bruce. He is the head of the Scots army at Stirling.
c Old Campbell is Hamish's father. He asks William to be a rebel like him.
d Murron MacClannough is Old MacClannough's daughter. She marries William secretly.
e Lord Bottoms is a fat English nobleman. He comes with soldiers to Helen's wedding.
f Prince Edward is King Edward's son. He prefers his friend to his wife.
g Stephen is a rebel from Ireland. He fights with William at the Battle of Stirling.
h Lord Talmadge is the head of the English army. He runs from the Scots at the Battle of Stirling.
- 5** 1 d 2 f 3 a 4 c 5 b 6 e
- 6** 1 b 2 b
- 7** a 3 b 8 c 1 d 4 e 7 f 2 g 5 h 6
- 8** a No, he didn't.
b Because Lord Mornay got paid by the English and rode away from the battle.
c Because she remembered the story William Wallace had told her.
d Because they wanted to hand over William Wallace to Longshanks.
e No, he didn't.

Braveheart

Progress test key

1 a 7 b 1 c 5 d 3 e 4 f 2 g 6

2 1 c 2 c 3 b 4 c 5 a 6 c

3 a battle b castle c nobles d battle e among
f nobles g castle h serve i Lord

4 a Princess Isabella b Longshanks
c Princess Isabella d Hamish
e William Wallace f Robert the Bruce
g William Wallace

5 1 a 2 b