

Joan Bracey: Comprehension questions

Try answering these questions to check you understood the story of Joan Bracey.

- 1.** Why is Joan bored at the start of the story, and what does this tell you about the lives of young women at this time in history?

- 2.** “Mr Bracey! You... you don’t want to rent Father’s land, then?” (page 5)

Why was Edward Bracey pretending to be a rich farmer?

- 3.** Look at the paragraph on page 6 beginning: *And what fun she had.*

Give one example of a crime Joan commits now she has run away from home.

- 4.** Give one piece of evidence that shows Joan’s career as a landlady does NOT go well (pages 7-8).

- 5.** Read the description of Joan and Edward’s life as highway robbers (pages 9-10).

List two reasons why Joan enjoys it.

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: _____

6. Look at the paragraph on page 10 beginning *During the day they laid low...*

Where are the best places for highwaymen to hide out?

7. When Joan decides she's had enough (page 11), Edward changes her mind with a big plan. What is it?

8. Re-read the scene in which Joan and Edward are attacked by night watchmen (pages 12-13).

List four powerful verbs which help to describe the chaos and panic of the scene.

9. Why is there a "wave of disappointed grumbling" as Joan is led out to be hanged? (page 13)

10. In your opinion, did Joan made the right choices in her life? If yes, why? If no, why not?
