

# MEDIEVAL TEENS & THE BLACK DEATH



## Town 1 – Your situation

You are the eldest daughter of parents who are wealthy mercers (cloth dealers) in the town. As a girl you will not inherit the business, but it will pass to your future husband.



# Town 1 – Your choices

You must remain at home and learn the family trade so you can assist your future husband.

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## Town 2 – My situation

I am one of four children of parents who run a successful goldsmith business in the town.

As I have brothers, I will not inherit the business. My family have been able to secure me a formal apprenticeship as a silk worker with a neighbour.





## Town 2 – Your choices

- 1- Take up the apprenticeship as a silk worker.
- 2- Remain in your home and help with the running of the household.

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## Town 3 – My situation

I am the eldest of two children of parents who run an ironmongery business in the town. My younger brother will inherit the business, but he is only six years old and my parents need extra help now.





## Town 3 – Your choices

- 1- Take up your father's trade as an ironmonger for now.
- 2- Look for a job as a servant in the town. Your wages will help your parents take on a strong male servant or apprentice to help with the business.

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## Town 4 – My situation

I am the youngest of three children. My elder brother is training to take over my father's business as a dyer, and my elder sister is working as a silk worker, my mother's trade. My parents have found me a job as a servant with a local haberdasher (hat maker).





## Town 4 – Your choices

- 1- Remain in your home and help your mother in her silk work.
- 2- Remain in your home and help your father's business as a dyer.
- 3- Leave home to take up the job as a servant with the haberdasher.



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## Town 5 – My situation

I am one of four children. My father and stepmother work as fishmongers. I will not inherit the business as I have three brothers. My parents do not need any further help with the business, but have found me a job as a servant with a distant cousin who is a carpenter.



## Town 5 – Your choices

- 1- Leave home to take up the job as a servant with the carpenter.
- 2- Look for a job as a servant or casual worker in the town.

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## Town 6 – My situation

I am the only child of a single mother, my father having died when I was young. My mother is a huckster (sells items door-to-door) and brewer, but is struggling to support me on her income alone.





## Town 6 – Your choices

- 1- Remain in your home and take up your mother's trade as a brewer or huckster.
- 2- Look for a job as a servant or casual worker in the town.

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## Town 7 – My situation

I am one of two children. My parents are bakers, but do not need my help with the business as they have my elder sister working with them. Instead, they have found me a job as a servant with my uncle, a butcher.





## Town 7 – Your choices

- 1- Leave home to take up the job as a servant with the butcher.
- 2- Look for a job as a servant or casual worker in the town.



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## Town 8 – My situation

I am one of six children of parents who are tanners (leather workers). My parents are unable to support so many children and cannot give me work as three of my brothers already work in the family business. They cannot help me find a job.



## Town 8 – Your choices

You must look for a job as a servant or casual worker in the town.

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## Town 9 – My situation

I am the eldest of two daughters. My father is an untrained labourer, working on casual contracts, and my mother brings in some extra money as a huckster (sells items door-to-door). They are unable to support me any further, and cannot help me find a job.





## Town 9 – Your choices

You must look for a job as a servant or casual worker in the town.