

Braveheart Summary

Alexander III of Scotland passes away in 1280 leaving no heir. Scotland is invaded and conquered by King Edward Longshanks, After the death of his father, he is taken in by his Uncle Argyle, who takes him overseas on a pilgrimage through Europe, where Wallace also begins to study.

In 1297 Wallace returns to Scotland and is reunited with his childhood friend Murron MacClannough, with whom he falls in love. MacClannough is the victim of an attempted rape by English soldiers. Wallace fights them off to save her but they try again, and this time in an attempt to defend herself, Murron is captured and executed in public, as a warning to others not to fight back. Wallace gathers his clan together to slaughter the English garrison in town.



Longshanks' son, Edward, is ordered to stop Wallace by any means necessary. However, he has not bargained on the growing popularity of his foe. News of Wallace's actions is spreading like wildfire, and Scots from surrounding clans rise up and join him. He leads his self-made army to victory at the Battle of Stirling and manages to kill Longshanks' nephew at the Battle of York.

Robert the Bruce, son of Robert the Elder, is a contender for the Scottish crown. Wallace seeks his help, knowing that Robert's father thinks the best way to secure the throne for his son is to do whatever the English tell him to do. However, despite seeming weak by doing this, he is actually very dominant over his son. Wallace believes that by banding together and rebelling they can rid Scotland of the English and secure the throne for the younger Robert at the same time.

Meanwhile, Longshanks plans an invasion but needs a diversion. He sends his daughter-in-law, Isabella of France, to negotiate with Wallace, The plan backfires, because Isabella rather likes Wallace when she meets him in person. He asks the Scottish nobility to join him in action to counter the threat of the English invasion. He also asks Robert the Bruce to lead the force.



In 1298, Longshanks leads his own army to Falkirk where he confronts the Scots. Nobleman Mornay and Nobleman Lochlan are easily bribed by the King and turn their backs on Wallace. After the battle is over, Robert sees what harm he has brought to his country and he swears that he will never again choose the wrong side.



To punish Lochlan and Mornay for their betrayal, Wallace kills them, then leads a guerrilla offensive against the English that lasts seven years. His biggest ally is Isabella, with whom he has an affair. Robert senior invites Wallace to a meeting in Edinburgh, ostensibly to talk strategy, but he has conspired with the English yet again, and actually plans to hand him over to them. Robert the Bruce learns of his father's plans and disowns him, whilst Isabella gets revenge of her own by telling Longshanks that she is pregnant with Wallace's child;

Wallace is brought before a magistrate in London on charges of high treason. Found guilty, he is sentenced to torture, and public execution. Whilst he is hanged, drawn and quartered he maintains his resolve and his independence, and refuses to submit to the king. The magistrate offers him one last chance. All he needs to do is say the word "mercy" and he will be given a quick death. Wallace shouts, "Freedom!" and his death is ordered. As he is decapitated, he sees Murron in the crowd; she is smiling at him.



Robert, now King of Scotland, leads a Scottish army to a ceremonial line of English soldiers at Bannockburn Fields, where he is supposed to formally accept English rule. He invokes Wallace's memory by throwing his sword to the ground in front of the English army. He leads the army against the English and finally wins the Scots their freedom.

The sun sets on a free Scotland, with Wallace's sword planted firmly point down in the middle of Bannockburn Field.

Some phrases or sentences have been removed from the text. Write the number in the corresponding square.

1. The crowd are impressed and moved by his strength of heart and they begin to call for mercy.
2. She tells him about the planned invasion and Wallace springs into action.
3. and his actions are witnessed by a young William Wallace.
4. his bloodline will be destroyed upon his death.
5. The betrayal is compounded by the discovery that Robert the Bruce was allied with Longshanks from the beginning.
6. They marry secretly.
7. and calls for his men to fight as valiantly with him as they did with Wallace.

8. He executes him and sends his head to the king.
9. However, betrayal is still in the air.
10. hoping to keep him occupied whilst the invasion takes place.

Match the words on the right to the definitions on the left.

1. Die: _____	backfire
2. Successor to the throne: _____	bargain
3. Abroad: _____	betrayal
4. Sexual assault: _____	bribe
5. The killing of many people cruelly: _____	contender
6. Groups of soldiers defending a town or building: _____	counter
7. Expect, be prepared for something: _____	decapitate
8. Enemy: _____	disown
9. Begin to fight a bad ruler: _____	foe
10. Someone who is qualified to achieve a position of leadership: _____	garrison
11. Try to get: _____	heir
12. Have the opposite result from the one you intended: _____	ostensibly
13. Defend yourself against something: _____	overseas
14. Suggestion that something violent will happen: _____	pass away
15. Try to make someone do something for you by giving them money, presents, etc.: _____	rape
16. Disloyalty: _____	rise
17. In a way that appears to be one thing when it is really something else: _____	seek
18. End a close relation: _____	slaughter
19. The crime of not showing loyalty to your country: _____	threat
20. Behead: _____	treason

Number the events in the order in which they happen.

- Longshanks plans an invasion of Scotland.
- The Scots win the Battle of Stirling.
- William Wallace returns to Scotland.
- William Wallace is tortured and beheaded.
- William marries Murron MacClannough.
- Isabella of France reveals Longshanks' plans to Wallace.
- Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, frees his country from the English.
- Robert the Bruce betrays Wallace.
- The Scottish king dies.
- William Wallace leaves Scotland.
- The English invade and conquer Scotland.
- William has an affair with Isabella.
- Murron is killed.
- William is charged with high treason.