

Reading - The Black Dinner

Welcome to the fifteenth century! There was a boy who was only six years old when he became King of Scotland: James II.

In the year 1440, an awful thing happened. At that time it was not unusual to kill people who were in somebody's way. Read this legend, which is more than 500 years old.



This is James II, King of Scotland. He's ten years old.



This is William Douglas, the 6th Earl of Douglas. His family is very rich and powerful*.



This is David Douglas, William's younger brother.

1 In 1440 ...

Look, William!
We've got a letter.

Wow, that's great!
Who sent us the letter?



2 A few minutes later ...

What a surprise! The letter is from the King of Scotland. We aren't friends. Our families don't like each other. They think we are too powerful. But now the King is inviting us to come to Edinburgh Castle.



* powerful = mächtig

3 A few days later ...

Will everything be all right, William? I'm a bit nervous.

Of course, David. We'll be fine. We're the King's guests. Nobody hurts their guests. That's the rule!



4 At Edinburgh Castle ...

I'm so happy you came. Talking and playing with you is so much fun. It's great to have some young people around me. You are my first friends.

Thank you for the invitation. We're having a great time too. And the food is delicious.



5 After the dinner somebody brings in a black bull's head. It's a sign that means a person will die soon.

Oh, no! What's this? That can't be true! Whose idea was this? Who wants to kill my new friends? I must help them!

I can't believe it. They want to kill us!



- 6 A moment later some soldiers come in. They take William and David with them. King James II can't do anything about it because one of the soldiers holds him.

Stop it right now! You can't do this! This isn't right! Why aren't you listening to me?

Help! Help!



- 7 The sad ending ...



I really liked William and David. I can't believe they're dead now. Why did they kill them? Who told them to do it? I'm so sad! I'm not proud to be the King of Scotland. I don't want to be king any more. I've never felt like this before!

Who was Sir William Crichton?

James II was very young when he became King of Scotland. That's why a man called Sir William Crichton decided everything for him.

Sir William Crichton thought that the Douglas family were enemies of the King because they owned lots of land and were very rich and important. He was afraid that the Douglas family would get more powerful than himself and the King.

It was his plan to invite the Douglas brothers to Edinburgh Castle and kill them. He wrote the invitation in the King's name.

King James II didn't know about the plan and couldn't do anything about it.

● 1 Read the comic strip. Right or wrong? Tick (✓) the correct box for each sentence.

Lies den Comic. Richtig oder falsch? Hake für jeden Satz das korrekte Kästchen ab.

	right	wrong
1. James II was eight years old when he became king.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The legend of the Black Dinner is more than 500 years old.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. William is David's older brother.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. James II and William have been friends for a long time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. David is nervous before their trip to Edinburgh Castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. William likes the food.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The boys don't know what the black bull's head means.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

○ 2 Answer the questions on the text. You don't have to write complete sentences.

Beantworte die Fragen zum Text. Du musst keine ganzen Sätze schreiben.

1. What does William think of the invitation? → Look at picture 2.

it's a

2. William tells his brother about the guest rule. What does the rule say? → Look at picture 3.

nobody

3. Where is the Black Dinner? → Look at picture 4.

at

4. Why does King James II like his guests? Give 2 examples. → Look at picture 4.

they are

5. Why can't the King help his new friends? → Look at picture 6.

a

● 3 Find the right word from the text for each sentence.

Finde für jeden Satz das richtige Wort aus dem Text.

- King James II and the Douglas brothers lived in the fifteenth _____.
- The Black Dinner is a legend in which an _____ thing happens.
- After the dinner James II wasn't _____ to be king any more.
- Sir William Crichton _____ everything for the King because James II was still a boy.
- Sir William Crichton thought the Douglas family were his _____.