

# READER'S RESPONSE JOURNAL

## *Otto of the Silver Hand*

### **"The Dragon's House"**

1. "Drachenhäuser" means "Dragon House." Why do you think the castle has been given this name?

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2. What do you think of the Baron's practice of stealing from the villagers to support the castle and its inhabitants?

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### **"How the Baron Went Forth to Shear"**

3. Why do you think the Baroness is so insistent that Conrad cease his attacks on the townspeople?

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**"How the Baron Came Home Shorn"**

4. If someone asked you how the Baroness died, what would you say?

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**"The White Cross on the Hill"**

5. When Baron Conrad takes Otto to the monastery, the Abbot asks him if he is ill, and he began "twitching with the pain of his thoughts." What do you think this means? What do you think is his deepest pain?

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**"How Otto Dwelt at St. Michaelsburg"**

6. Describe Otto's relationship with Brother John. Why do you think Otto has such a deep bond with him?

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**How Otto Lived in the Dragon's House**

7. Describe Otto's first days back at Drachenhausen. How would you describe this young boy's character?

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8. After Ursula tells Otto about the story of his birth and his father's expeditions, Baron Conrad "reached out his hand as though to stroke the boy's hair, but drew it back again." Why do you think he stops himself from comforting his son?

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**"The Red Cock Crows on Drachenhausen"**

9. What can we learn about medieval life from this chapter? Think carefully about things that might be less obvious, such as the values of people of this time, in addition to the obvious.

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**"House of Dragon Scorer"**

10. Describe Otto's friendship with Pauline. Do you think his promise to her is sincere?

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**"How One-Eyed Hans Came to Trutz-Drachen"**

11. The young girl who let Hans into the castle is risking great harm from her master. Why do you think she is willing to take this risk? Would you have been willing to take that risk if you were in her shoes?

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**"How Hans Brought Terror to the Kitchen"**

12. "The evil one" is mentioned several times in the last two chapters. What have you learned so far in this book about what people of the medieval times believe about evil?

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**"How Otto Was Saved"**

13. Why do you think Baron Henry chooses to injure Otto in the way that he did instead of killing him?

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14. What do you think Otto believes about the world around him, based upon his experiences in life thus far? Make sure you support your answer with examples.

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**"A Ride for Life"**

15. Baron Conrad's plan to save his son and allow Hans to carry him to safety is a risky one. We know that he is a great warrior, but we also know that he has the courage of a father protecting his only son. Which do you think serves him best in his battle against Baron Henry. Why?

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**"How Otto Saw the Great Emperor"**

16. Given the little that we are told about the Emperor Rudolph, what kind of a ruler do you think he is? Why?

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17. The end of our book declares our "simple-witted" Otto to have great wisdom. From where do you think this wisdom comes? Be detailed in your answer.

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