

Although the setting of the novel is fictitious, it is adapted from a real life setting, Barnsley, Yorkshire, England.

1. Find out, from an encyclopaedia, the exact location of Barnsley.
2. Describe the geographical features of this region.
3. What is the climate like?
4. Where do most people work?
5. What effect does a mining occupation have on the organisation of a working day?
6. What leisure activities do the workers pursue?
7. Read the inscription on the flyleaf beginning "An Eagle for an Emperor". Explain the meaning of this inscription in your own words.
8. The conversation in the novel is written in local dialect. Find out the meaning of the following words and phrases. Where practical re-write in standard English:

"snap" (p. 22)

"set it thi sen" (p. 8)

"I shouldn't like to think it wa' my job trying to I earn you 'owt" (p. 17)

"allus" (p. 21)

"He's a right 'un" (p. 24)

"Gi o'er" (p. 107)

"A bob's worth o' chips an a fish" (p. 125)

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