

CHAPTER TEN:

1. The Encampment: (The rhythm of writing)

Returning from the King's rejection Stephen realizes his responsibility to his multitude of followers, 'Their lives rested in his hands.' Good writers choose almost rhythmic words or phrases that make their stories flow. Award winner, Sheree Fitch, believes stories should be not just literature for the eyes, but also 'utterature' for the ears.

* Try this: From the chapter or your own vocabulary, choose 3-6 sets of word pairs: a noun and a verb ('lives rested') to describe a character or setting. The title will be your topic, such as The Children; The Twins; Dominic; The Crusade; The Priest; St. Denys; The Basilica; your choice. Have the verbs in each set, end with *ed* or *ing*.

Example: The Encampment: Fields peopled; Crops trampled. Huts unneeded; Dogs scampered; Children playing.

* Play around with different combinations till they sound right to you.

2. Is This the End?: (Identifying with a character)

Although Stephen lived so long ago and far away readers can identify with him through his emotions. Harry Potter, Terry Fox, Stephen or yourself all have your quests/ journeys filled with joys and disappointments.

* Finish these sentences, a) Stephen was so stunned b) The young leader was so shocked ...

* Think of a time when you felt strongly: strongly angry, afraid, sad, worried, excited. Put two of these feelings into sentences.

Tip: Spark a story by deciding on a problem and then brainstorming how your character will feel.

3. An Oath: (Using different forms of writing)

What is an oath? Have you ever made one?

- * Write an oath, for Stephen's followers, based on commitment and loyalty.
- * Type it out in an ancient looking font. Roll it up like a scroll. Tie it with yarn or ribbon.
- * You could also make and present book-marked size red crosses.
- * Plan a step by step swearing-in ceremony similar to that in which the knights participated.
- * Rehearse and then offer to perform the ceremony for a primary class.

Teacher Tip: If your class is responsible for an assembly, the poetry, swearing in ceremony and minstrel activities would be a good start.

4. A Minstrel Show: (Planning an entertaining and informative presentation)

The minstrels tried to cheer Stephen and his followers up. As the troupes travelled from town to town, their epic tales and ballads often conveyed the news of the time.

* Have each student choose a minstrel group: ballad composers and singers, jugglers, story tellers, musicians, dancers. Whenever possible include characters or parts of the story.

* Group Planning: What will we do? Who will do what? What do we need? Etc.