

Son of Charlemagne

Literature Project Selections

<p style="text-align: center;">MAP IT</p> <p>Barbara Willard provides a map after the introduction. On a large piece of poster board, recreate this map. Make it colorful, using blue for areas of water, and other colors for Charlemagne's empire and States of the church. As you're reading, plot the locations to which Carl travels.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JOURNAL IT</p> <p>At the end of Chapter 1, Gobbo is full of sorrow, yet silent. Write a journal entry as if you are Gobbo, and share your thoughts and feelings about your family and your burdens.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">READ ABOUT IT</p> <p>Many times throughout our story, King Charles reflects upon the Battle of Ronesvalles in which he lost his faithful leader, Roland. This event became a legend, and was fictionalized in the oldest surviving French manuscript, <i>Song of Roland</i>. Read more about this important literary work using the following links.</p> <p>http://medieval europe.mrdonn.org/literature.html http://www.timelessmyths.com/arthurian/roland.html</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RESEARCH IT</p> <p>Throughout the book, various pieces of medieval clothing are mentioned. For example, in Chapter 2, Mrs. Willard describes Anghilbert by telling of the mantle and tunic that he is wearing. Research clothing of medieval days, and draw examples of clothing that might have been worn by both men and women. Make your drawings colorful and label the articles of clothing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CREATE IT</p> <p>At the end of Chapter 2, Alcuin tells the story of the great abbot, Bede, as he translates the Gospel of St. John to his scribe. Use the instructions provided on the link below to make your own parchment. Once it is finished, copy your favorite gospel text in your neatest handwriting onto the parchment. Now would be a great time to learn about and practice calligraphy, too!</p> <p>http://www.dltk-kids.com/fantasy/parchment.html</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THINK ABOUT IT</p> <p>On page 48, King Charles passes the following message on to an escaped commander: "Count Odilo, You are a Christian warrior not a pagan Roman general." What does this mean? What was the difference between a Christian warrior and a pagan warrior? Write a paragraph to explain what you think King Charles meant.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DEBATE IT</p> <p>As King Charles heads off to battle the Saxons, he takes from the villages through which travels, forcing peasants to give up their money and stripping barns of their stores of grains. How do you feel about this common military practice? Should it be the responsibility of the people to give all they</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REFLECT UPON IT</p> <p>After the Saxon massacre, Carl reflects upon the events that have comprised his life thus far and the childhood that he is leaving behind. Reflect upon your own life and the events that have been most important. Then, create a timeline of these events in your childhood. You might want to make these out</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CONSIDER IT</p> <p>"Absence makes the heart grow fonder" is a well-known saying. However, as Roriko and Carl return from their new conquests, Carl teases Roriko about missing Rhotrud saying, "Absence is dangerous to affection." What do you think these statements mean? Which do you think is more accurate? Write a</p>

<p>have to support their leaders' conquests? Or is it tyrannical to take without reimbursing the people that it affects? Fold a piece of paper in half, and brainstorm arguments in support of this practice on one side and arguments against it on the other. Then hold a debate with another family member and support your side of the argument. At the end, have your other family members cast votes for the side with which they agree.</p>	<p>of a double sheet of poster board, a length of butcher paper, or even a piece of wood. Add pictures, either drawn or in photograph form, and add them to your timeline.</p>	<p>paragraph answering these questions. Make sure to give examples from your own life.</p>
<p>EXAGGERATE IT</p> <p>In Chapter 7, the warrior Eishere of Thurgau tells tall tales about his conquests. Research what a tall tale is and read some famous tall tales at the link below. Then write your own tall tale about a game that you've won, an adventure you've had, or an injury you've experienced. Be sure to use lots of "colorful" exaggerations. Read your tall tale aloud to your family or friends, and watch their reactions!</p> <p>http://americanfolklore.net/folklore/tall-tales/</p>	<p>PRAY ABOUT IT</p> <p>Charlemagne prayed without ceasing over the state of his kingdom. If you were the President of the United States, what kinds of things would bring you to your knees? Write a prayer for your country, and include both items of thanks as well as requests. Copy this prayer into the center of a plain piece of paper, and add illustrations around the edges.</p>	<p>PICTURE IT</p> <p>When the envoys from King Offa arrive, they bring gifts to entice King Charles to accept the English princess as a bride for Carl. One of these gifts is an illuminated drawing that bears the likeness of the princess. When the envoy asks to return with a similar drawing of Carl, he refuses, and instead they create a "likeness of words" to describe him (pages 124-125). Examine illuminated drawings on the internet, and then lightly draw an outline of a portrait of yourself on a piece of plain paper. Then, along the the outline that you have drawn, describe yourself with a likeness of words. Think carefully about both your physical features and character traits that describe you. Then complete your picture by painting it to look like a medieval illumination.</p>
<p>RETELL IT</p> <p>When Liutgarda begins to fail, the family makes a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Martin. While there, Alcuin tells them stories of many of the great saints. Choose one of</p>	<p>WRITE IT</p> <p>At the end of <i>Son of Charlemagne</i>, King Charles gives a very simple and humble coronation speech. Pretend that you are being crowned king of an empire, and write your</p>	

these saints (pages 167-168) to research. Then retell the story of your saint, in either a comic strip form or a mini-book form.

own speech with your ideals and promises to the country that has chosen you. Think carefully about the kind of leader you would want to have to help you decide the kind of leader that you would want to be. Then deliver your speech to the kingdom of your home.