

Medieval Europe SHORT Assignment Topics

Date due: Monday 6 June



Dewey Decimal
Shy, bookish, but very approachable

Time will be provided to do research and to work on this assignment in class. We shall also be going to the library to reacquaint ourselves with a man called Dewey Decimal. Nice guy. A bit bookish, maybe, but kind, gentle and highly educated. Educational too.

Before you begin, read the appropriate parts of two books and two websites and look at information on the blog. List your four sources in a bibliography. Then get cracking!

1. Create an imaginative timeline showing the early history of the English language. This timeline could be designed in a clever, unusual way, like your wonderful Stone Age timelines in first term. You could concentrate on the influence of the Anglo-

Saxons, the Vikings and the Normans.

Your timeline should show some examples of the words used by each group that have been retained in our language to the present day. You might describe the nature of each group's contribution, writing technique (e.g. runes) and literature. You might also focus on features of the language used by each group; for instance, the riddles of the Anglo-Saxons or the kennings of the Vikings. One option could be to use your own startling writing skills to present some modern examples.



OR

2. Choose an original visual way of displaying information about a group or event from medieval times: for instance, an overlay (using tracing paper), showing the outside and the inside of a peasant's house, with details of his or her life; a pamphlet about the Black Death as if written by a medieval doctor; a detailed map of a medieval manor or village like the one you did in groups but with more time for planning and research provided.

OR

3. Write a story of **no more than 1200 words** (and it need not be even this long) in which you display your knowledge of one medieval group or event:

e.g. the life of the Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings, the Normans, peasants, people in a particular village during an outbreak of bubonic plague, etc. You may choose to write this story with pictures or without. You are welcome to present it like a little book or comic strip or in any format that inspires you.



*A plague doctor in the
supposedly protective garb*