... he said to himself, “Today he’s coming! I know it!”

**Reading Notes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June, 1294</td>
<td>date the story begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Abbey of St. Alban</td>
<td>monastery built on the site of St. Alban’s martyrdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Quartermayne</td>
<td>Adam’s father; a skilled minstrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Quartermayne</td>
<td>the main character; Roger’s son; wants to be a minstrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perkin</td>
<td>Adam’s friend at St. Alban’s school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick</td>
<td>Adam’s cocker spaniel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vocabulary**

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. disappointed but not **daunted** .................................................................
2. sons of **franklins** and burgesses .............................................................
3. a length of cloth for a **surcoat** ..............................................................

**Comprehension Questions**

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Why is Adam at the Abbey School, and where is his father?  
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. What do the boys of St. Alban’s do while they are eating dinner?  
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. What language is spoken by all the boys at the Abbey?  
   __________________________________________________________

4. Name the three things that comfort Adam as he waits for his father to return:
   1) ___________________ 2) ___________________ 3) ___________________

5. There are three languages spoken in England at this time. Name them and tell who spoke them.
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
Discussion Questions

1. Who says the quotation? ___________________ Who is coming? ___________________
2. Contrast Roger Quartermayne with “ordinary minstrels.”
3. Why is Adam well-liked at school?
4. Why is Perkin so serious about his education? What are his career plans?

Enrichment

1. Look at the picture preceding Chapter 1. Identify the characters, place, and what is happening.
2. Memorize the Norman kings from England’s Sovereigns in Verse in the Appendix.
3. Chapter 1 describes Adam’s life at the Abbey. Imagine that you could tell Adam about your day. Write a letter to Adam and tell him about your daily routine. To help him understand, explain what you are doing during each of the seven hours of the Divine Office. The Divine Office refers to special hours of each day at which the monks would say prayers, read the Bible, and sing the Psalms.

The Divine Office

- **Matins** - 4:00 a.m. (This service was named many years after it was first practiced.)
- **Lauds** (Praises) & **Prime** - 6:00 a.m. (The first hour after sunrise)
- **Terce** - 9:00 a.m. (The third hour after sunrise)
- **Sext** - 12:00 noon (The sixth hour after sunrise)
- **None** - 3:00 p.m. (The ninth hour after sunrise)
- **Vespers** - 5:00 p.m. (Also called “evensong,” this service involves singing the Psalms.)
- **Compline** - 7:00 p.m. (The final service of the day is quiet and contemplative.)