

... he said to himself, "Today he's coming! I know it!"

Reading Notes

June, 1294	date the story begins
The Abbey of St. Alban	monastery built on the site of St. Alban's martyrdom
Roger Quartermayne	Adam's father; a skilled minstrel
Adam Quartermayne	the main character; Roger's son; wants to be a minstrel
Perkin	Adam's friend at St. Alban's school
Nick	Adam's cocker spaniel

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each **bold** word or phrase.

1. disappointed but not **daunted** _____ discouraged _____
2. sons of **franklins** and burgesses _____ landowners who were free but not of noble birth _____
3. a length of cloth for a **surcoat** _____ loose outer coat made of rich material _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Why is Adam at the Abbey School, and where is his father? His father had left him at the Abbey to study while he went to minstrelsy school in Cambrai, France.

2. What do the boys of St. Alban's do while they are eating dinner? They listen to the Master reading from the lives of the saints in Latin.

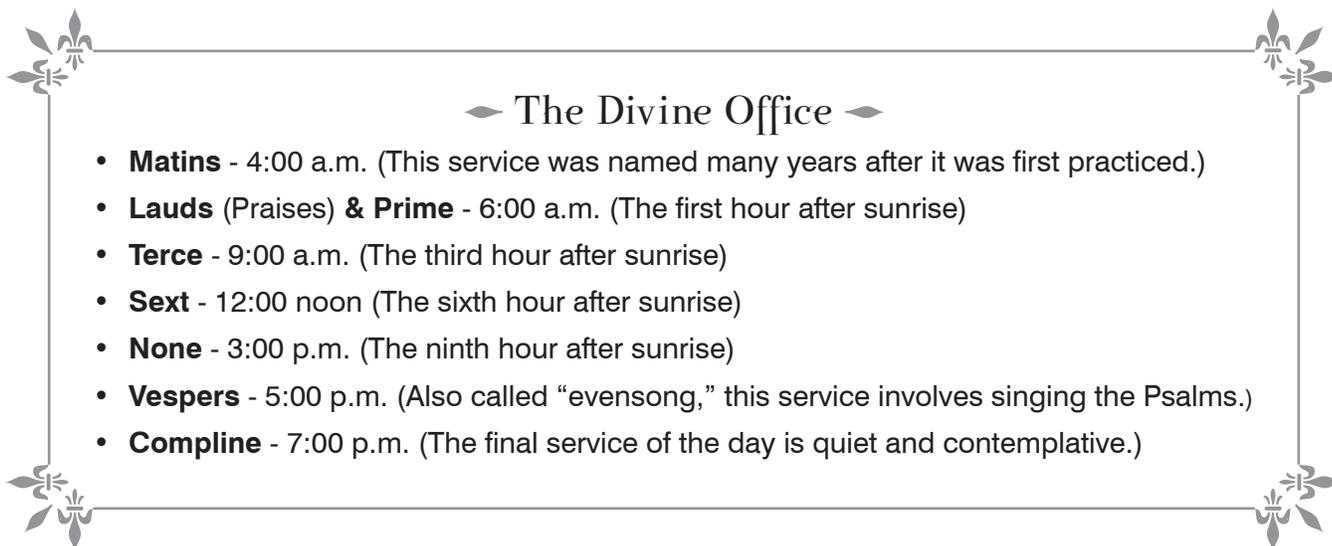
3. What language is spoken by all the boys at the Abbey? They all speak Latin.
4. Name the three things that comfort Adam as he waits for his father to return:
1) his harp 2) Perkin 3) Nick
5. There are three languages spoken in England at this time. Name them and tell who spoke them.
Latin was spoken by everyone at the Abbey; people in the courts spoke French; most everyone spoke (Middle) English.

Discussion Questions

1. Who says the quotation? Adam Who is coming? His father (Roger)
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. Answers will vary.



— 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.)