

Prologue

1. Vocabulary - Unfamiliar Words

In books set in other times and places there may be unfamiliar words. Looking them up in a dictionary will make reading and comprehending the story much easier.

Define these words:

vision crusades pilgrims

2. Prologue Purpose

Writers include a prologue when they feel that, in order to understand the story, their readers need to know something about the time, setting or characters.

Assess the information. Record what you think are the three most important facts.

3. Historical Fiction: The Genre

Meeting different people from different places helps you learn and grow. So does reading different genres (kinds) of books. This novel is historical fiction. The author created her story around a nugget of truth that happened in 1212. This requires a lot of research.

In partners: Each choose one of the following websites. Research to discover facts or opinions not in the book's prologue. Share your information with your partner.

<http://www.sbceo.k12.ca.us/~vms/carlton/childrenscrusade.html> an excellent source - includes useful maps and realistic illustrations.

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/children's_crusade.htm basic information about the French and German children's crusades.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/children's_crusade part of a Crusade series; interesting links.

http://www.historyhouse.com/in_history/childrens_crusade excellent & irreverent, teen appeal, master-quality pictures. (Teacher Note: This entertaining and informative site will definitely initiate interest and debate *but* words like damn and fat chance are used)

The following are a few of the books that Karleen Bradford used in her research:

A HISTORY OF THE CRUSADES, FIFTH CRUSADE, by Steven Runciman

THE DREAM AND THE TOMB, by Robert Payne

THE OXFORD ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE CRUSADES

THE ARABS IN THE GOLDEN AGE, by Mokhtar Moktefi and Veronique Ageorges
(An illustrated book for young people.)

THE CRUSADES THROUGH ARAB EYES, by Amin Maalouf