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Public School Essays

Alfred the Great

When Alfred was a little boy his mother offered a book to one of her boys who could read it first. Alfred studied hard and won the book.

When he was yet a young man his father was killed. Alfred then was made king of England. The Danes were attacking England, and were successful at first. Alfred then had to flee to the woods for his life.

One day as he was walking through the woods he came to a cow-herder's house. He went in and found the woman baking cakes. She left him to watch them so they would not burn while she went outside. He forgot all about them. He was planning how to attack the Danes. When she came in and found them all burnt she was very angry. When he told her who he was she begged his pardon.

He saw the camp of the Danes. Their leader was Guthrum. Alfred dressed as a minstrel boy and went to the camp and played a harp. Then he found out their plans. Their camp was on the top of a hill, so he gathered his army together and besieged them for fourteen days, then Guthrum surrendered, promised to settle as christians in the Danelaw.

The people loved Alfred so much that they called him England's darling and the truth teller.

Ida Carson, St. III class.

Sir Walter Raleigh

Walter Raleigh was the most clever clever and handsome man in England. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. She gave him permission to settle in America. He tried to found a colony in Virginia, but it was a failure. He brought tobacco and potatoes to England.

He was the first man to smoke in England. When his cook saw him she thought he was on fire so she poured a pail of water over him. He heard about the city El Dorado. It was supposed to be a city of gold in South America, and he wanted to find it.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth James was made king. Some people wanted to put James off the throne and they said Walter Raleigh was the leader. So he was put in prison for twelve years. While in prison he wrote a history of the world.

After a while he wrote to the king and asked if he could go and find the city of gold, and if he found it he would bring him a large amount of gold. All he wanted was a half a ton of gold and a free pardon. The king said he could, only he must promise one thing, not to burn any Spanish ships or towns. One of his men burned a spanish town, so Raleigh had to return to England again. In 1618 he was beheaded.

Gladys Feilde, Jr. III class.

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