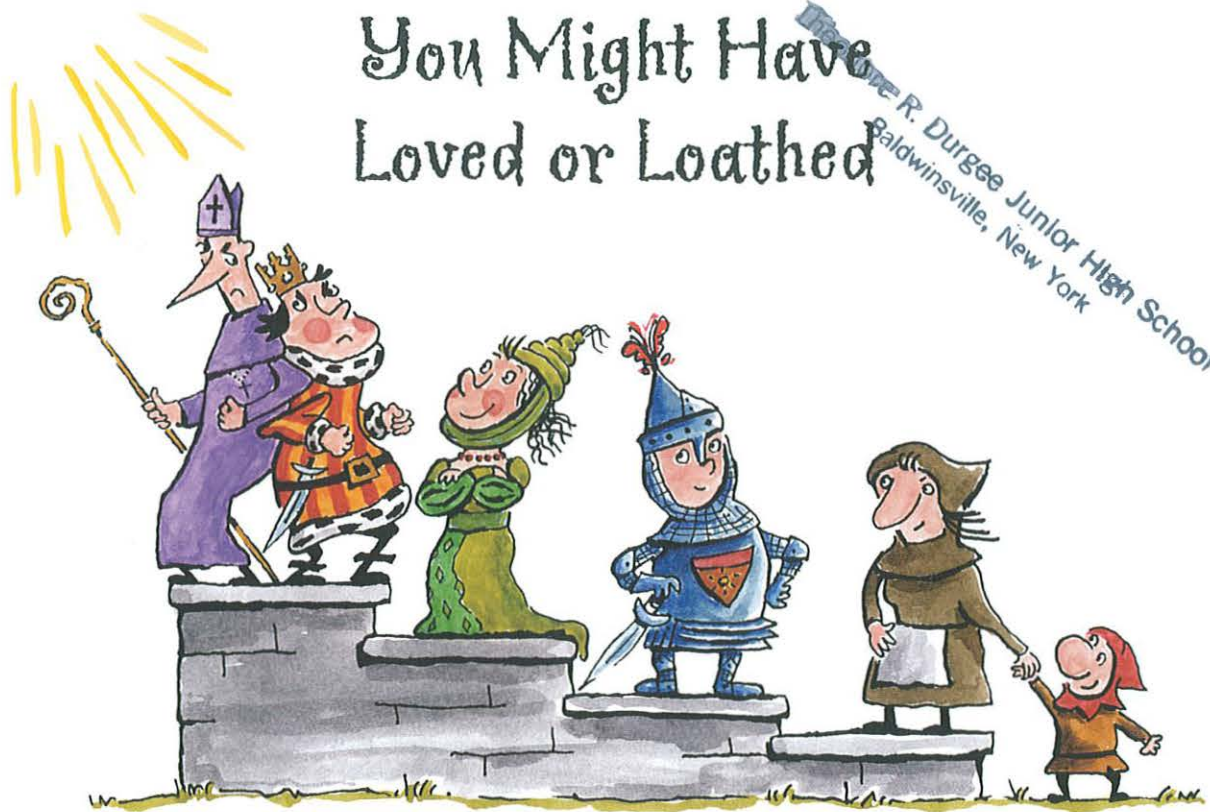


Archers, Alchemists, and 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved or Loathed

Priscilla R. Durgee Junior High School
Baldwinsville, New York



by Priscilla Galloway
art by Martha Newbigging

2003

Annick Press Ltd.
Toronto • New York • Vancouver

ENGINEER

You design and build “engines” of war. In earlier times, the only way to capture a well-built castle was to starve out the defenders, but your work has changed all that. You build a tower higher than the castle walls, shielding it with wet animal skins so that flaming arrows can't set it on fire when you move in close. From it, your archers shoot down on the defenders, or you throw a bridge across the parapet. With the mighty trebuchet, you catapult huge stones to breach the castle walls, or send enormous boulders crashing into the midst of troops, animals, and peasant families inside. You direct miners who tunnel under the castle walls. As an engineer, you don't have noble rank or status, but it's your expertise and your siege engines that compel the garrison to surrender.

Of course, the defenders may shoot flaming arrows to fire your tower or trebuchet, though you shield the tower and mount the trebuchet on wheels, only moving it into range when ready to attack. Enemy engineers may discover your tunnel and build one to meet it; then there's a deadly struggle underground.



GOLDSMITH



In some towns all the metalworkers (goldsmiths, silversmiths, blacksmiths, and others) belong to the same guild: the Hammermen. However, the goldsmiths in your town have their own guild. Some goldsmiths buy all their gold, but you'd rather buy ore from miners; you make more money by extracting the gold yourself, and you don't have to test it for purity.

You beat the precious metal into sheets and create golden plates and goblets for Milord, or a necklace for Milady, or a golden screen for the cathedral. Count Robert has ordered a new drinking cup, but he hasn't paid for the last one, and he's had it for three years. If you could collect all the money your noble customers owe you, you would be rich. Merchants don't order such expensive items, but they pay on time.