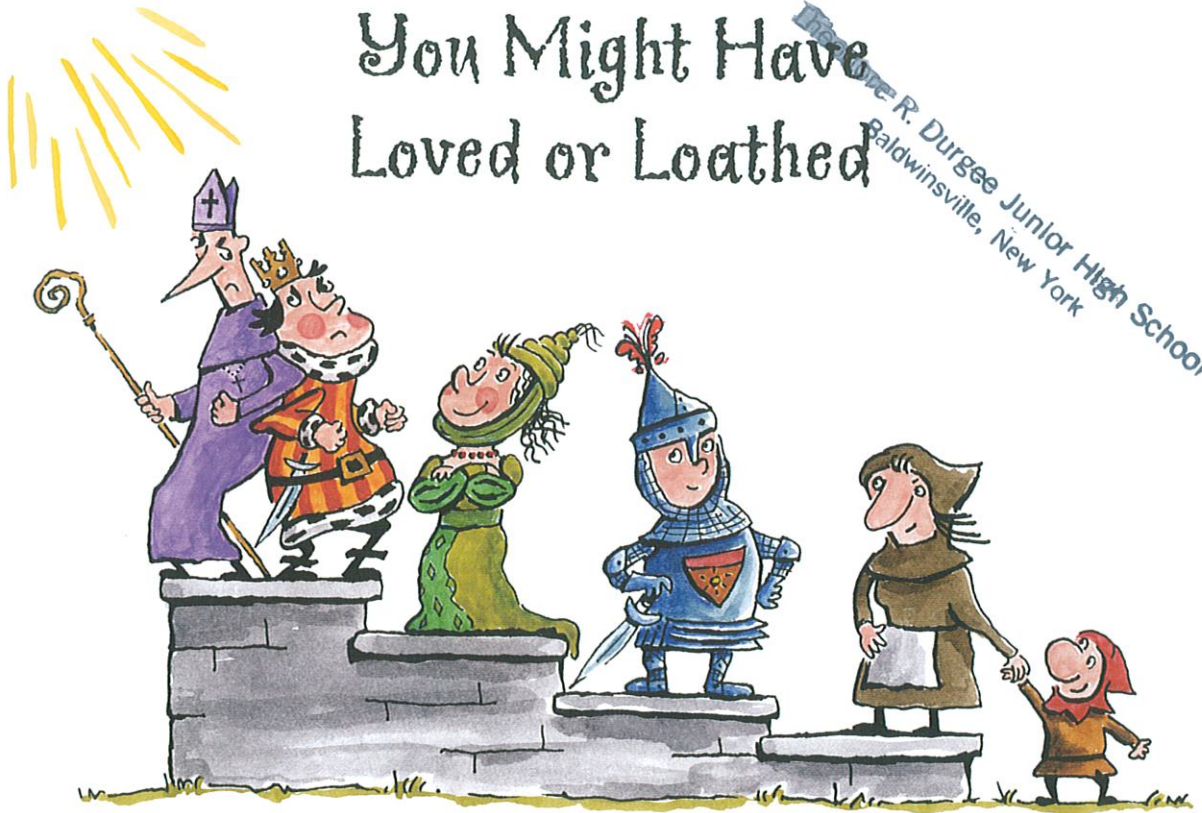


Archers, Alchemists, and 98 Other Medieval Jobs You Might Have Loved or Loathed

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2003

Annick Press Ltd.
Toronto • New York • Vancouver

TRAVELING MERCHANT

TRAVELING MERCHANT; SPECIALTY MERCHANT

Your grandparents were peddlers who went from village to village selling their pots and ribbons and rough cloth. Sometimes they set up their booth at a fair and stayed for a week or two. In winter, they moved back to town to make and buy new stock. Your father expanded, selling salt and spices. He traveled to Europe for broadcloth and lace, and once to Italy for silk and glass.

From early spring until snowfall, your family moved from one fair to the next. You grew up with the business. This is lucky, because your business isn't as simple as it used to be. Most towns now have their own market square, and the town merchants often sell the same stock as you, at much the same price. How can you compete? You decide to limit what you buy and sell, and go for quantity. If you buy a shipload of broadcloth and lace, you'll get a better price; then you can sell to merchants in town for sale to their customers. Everybody can make a living.