

## *Otto of the Silver Hand* Literature Projects

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT'S IN A NAME?</b></p> <p>The chapter names in <i>Otto</i> can sound a little complex. As you read, give each chapter a simpler, yet equally descriptive name. Then create a Table of Contents to show your updated chapter titles.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOME SWEET HOME</b></p> <p>Create a family name plaque for Castle Drachenhausen. On a piece of foam board, write the name in a medieval script and then decorate it with images that represent the Dragon House. Or, try your hand at woodburning!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A MOTHER'S LOVE</b></p> <p>The Baroness Matilda kept herself alive long enough to see the young Otto brought safely into this world. Her great love for her child is apparent in this act. Write a poem from the Baroness to Otto, telling of your love for him and your hopes for his future.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HOW FAR IS A LEAGUE?</b></p> <p>In Chapter 3 the distance between Drachenhausen and St. Michaelsburg is measured in leagues. Research units of medieval measurement, and then create a flapbook to explain at least 10 different units. See the video below for instructions on how to create a flapbook.</p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZuINm08Hy4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZuINm08Hy4</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANGELS AMONG US</b></p> <p>Rewrite Brother John's encounter with the Angel Gabriel from the perspective of an outsider. Think creatively about who this "outsider" might be...is it another monk in the monastery? Or perhaps an inanimate object like a tree? Does Gabriel appear in physical form? Or only in spiritual form? Include dialogue as well as physical descriptions of this encounter.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOURNAL A CASTLE</b></p> <p>In Chapter 5 Otto explores Drachenhausen for the first time. Write a journal entry as if you were this 12-year-old boy experiencing his birthplace, the only castle he has ever seen. Tell about your what you see, hear, smell, and taste, and describe your thoughts and feelings about your experience.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IMPERIAL CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The Emperor calls Baron Conrad to the Imperial Court to pledge his allegiance. Re-read the beginning of Chapter 6, and then use the following links to create a parchment and wax seal that are similar to the ones that might have been sent to the Baron. Before you seal your letter, write a formal demand for the Baron's presence on your parchment.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dltk-kids.com/fantasy/parchment.html">http://www.dltk-kids.com/fantasy/parchment.html</a> <a href="http://www.ehow.com/how_4796376_own-envelope-wax-seal.html">http://www.ehow.com/how_4796376_own-envelope-wax-seal.html</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANCIENT MONASTERIES</b></p> <p>The White Cross on the Hill was probably very similar to many monasteries of medieval days, with libraries, kitchens, dormitories, gardens, etc. Research medieval monasteries, and then create a map that shows all of the rooms and areas that might have been in the monastery in which Otto spent his early years. Label the rooms, and make your map neat and attractive.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FACT OR FICTION?</b></p> <p>While this book is a piece of historical fiction, there was a real Otto who became Holy Roman Emperor. Research this real Otto, and create a poster on a half-sheet of poster board sharing facts about his life and reign. You should have at least 10 facts, and your poster should be neat and attractive.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DOCTOR LEECH</b></p> <p>Use books and/or the Internet to research how leeches were used in medicine during medieval times. On a half-sheet of poster board, create an advertisement to tell the people of Otto's day about the "benefits" of using leeches to improve their health, heal their wounds, etc. Have fun and be creative!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERVIEW WITH A HERO</b></p> <p>The end of the book suggests that Otto has become a local hero, known for his gentleness and compassion. Write a series of interview questions that you would like to ask Otto if you were given the chance. Include questions about his life experiences as well as his philosophies about life in general.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LATIN MOTTO</b></p> <p>The Emperor Rudolph has a new motto inscribed upon the gate of the rebuilt Drachenhausen: "Manus argentea quam manus ferrea melior est." What does this mean? Put your Internet-searching skills to work. Copy this phrase on the top half of a sheet of card stock, and add the English translation at the bottom. Decorate it with a medieval border. Then turn your card stock over, and write a short paragraph about what you think this motto means, and why you think the Emperor chose it.</p>

