Murder In The Cathedral

When Henry II is crowned in 1154, England is in complete chaos. People are robbed and killed and nobody protects them. Henry's first action is to bring back law and order to his kingdom. He is busy all the time, and they say that he never sits down. He eats while on horseback and even takes his secretary to church where he dictates letters to him during the service.

One of the questions of the time was whether bishops were to be nominated by the King or the Pope.

Henry thought that Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, would obey him. But Thomas, a man of great character and willpower, proved as strong as the king. **He refused to serve the King in church matters.**

One evening, while Henry was gazing into the camp-fire somewhere in France, the news was brought to him that the Archbishop had excommunicated some of his men. **Henry was furious and cried, "Will no one rid me of this low-born priest?"**

These words were fatal, because **four knights secretly hurried to the coast**, crossed the Channel in a small boat and rode on to Canterbury. They found Thomas Becket in his Cathedral, where he was praying. When the other priests saw the knights with their drawn swords, they wanted to shut the doors. But the Archbishop did not allow it. "This is the House of God", he said. "Everyone is free to enter it." When the knights ran towards him, he stood without fear. **The cross in his hands, Thomas Becket fell under the knight's blows, just in front of the altar.**

Now people remembered what the Archbishop, in an hour of vision, had said during a sermon, "God will soon increase the number of martyrs in his Church."

Henry himself was a broken man when he was told what had happened. **The King said he had never wanted this.** He often went to Canterbury and prayed at the grave of Thomas Becket, who had been his best friend while they were both young.

to crown: to make somebody king
to rob: to steal from
to protect: to guard, to shield
law: rules, regulations
to nominate. to appoint to a duty
archbishop: bishop of high rank
pope: head of the Catholic Church
to obey: to follow the commands

willpower: self-control
to prove: to establish the truth
matter: stuff, problem
gaze: look, stare
to excommunicate: expulse from church
to rid: to eliminate
low-born: insignificant, not noble

fatal: deadly
knight: noble person, warrior
to pray: to ask
to fear: to worry
sermon: preaching
to increase: to expand
grave: burial place
both: the two

Find in each line a word that does not fit in the text or context:

king	archbishop	~~**helicopter**~~	knights	cross
altar	church	cathedral	airport	priest
Canterbury	Moscow	England	France	Channel
law	tobacco	order	protection	kingdom
horseback	prayer	sermon	hit parade	martyr
cinema	friendship	character	vision	service
horse	boat	sword	grave	sandwich
serve	obey	refuse	rid of	printed
Middle Ages	Henry	Becket	Churchill	Pope