

Cruel Kings & Mean Queens

Post-session Reading and Vocab (higher)

Read the following extract from a BBC article, then discuss the questions below:

An 11-year-old schoolboy has been crowned "King of England" at a **mock** coronation at Gloucester Cathedral.

Crowds gathered to watch Fraser Martin, in the role of King Henry III, being carried through the city and **crowned** by a local bishop.

The ceremony marked 800 years since the actual coronation of the nine-year-old Plantagenet **monarch** at the cathedral. Henry III went on to rule for 56 years.

Fraser, who won a competition to play the boy king, said: "We had to walk about and be as **snotty** as we could, looking down at all the normal people."

King Henry III was crowned as a nine-year old boy at St Peter's Abbey, the old name for Gloucester Cathedral, following the death of the **infamous** "Bad" King John.

The event in 1216 was the last time an English or British monarch was crowned outside London and Westminster Abbey.

Fraser said playing the part of Henry was "really scary" but "kind of fun".

"I was just so excited," he said.

Questions

1. How do you think the real Henry III felt when he was made king?
2. What are three things you would do if you were king or queen for a day?

Vocabulary

Find these words in the text. What do you think they mean? Write your guesses in the table.

mock	
crowds gathered	
crowned	
monarch	
snotty	
infamous	

Tips: Look at the spelling of the word and the words next to it. What type of word do you think it is?

e.g. noun, verb, adjective? Does it have a good, bad or neutral meaning? Is it connected to something else? Does your guess make sense in the context of the whole text?

When you have finished, check your answers in a dictionary. How close were your guesses?