

Source 1

There lived one, a truly penitent and righteous monk, who atoned for the excesses of his early life by the devotion of an enthusiast, and called the priesthood to their duty by the voice of literature, even during the affliction of the blind and deaf. He was no Lollard. A pious priest, denouncing the opinions of Wickliffe, teaching that dissent and heresy would assuredly lead to damnation, he was yet well aware that the return of the leaders of religion to their early discipline, was the only chance left for restoring orthodoxy. His name was John Audalay or Awdlay.

An extract from the introduction to 'The poems of John Audalay – A specimen of Shropshire dialect in the fifteenth century' edited by James Orchard Halliwell



Haughmond Abbey Source 2

What advice is John Audelay giving?

(Use the text to locate 10 phrases or words that explain what 'zou' must do)

Whom do you think John Audelay is giving this advice to? (Use evidence from the text in your answer)

Name _____

Date _____

My Title _____

*Love zour God over al thing,
 Zoure nezfore as zourseffe, as I zou saye;
 Let be zoure othis, zoure false sweryng;*

*In clannes kepe zoure haleday;
 Zoure fader, zoure moder wochip ay;*

See no non fore worlde thing,

Bakbyte no non nyzt ne day,

Ne say no word to hym sklauder yng

False wytness seke thou do non;

Of and lechery thou most foreswere;

I rede ze serve heven kyng,

Fore me loust or sykking,

Have mynd upon zoure ending

Of the payns of helle.

John Audelay

'Text Breaker'

Word Meaning

Zour

Nezbore

othis

clannes

haleday

wochip

ay

Bakbyte

nyzt

ne

sklauder yng

lechery

foreswere

ane

loust

payns

oaths, solemn promises

communities

holy days, festivals

worship

malicious talk

malicious talk

having strong sexual desires

give up

any

lust

pains

Haughmond Abbey Source 3



What has happened to John Audelay?

How do you think he was feeling when he wrote this verse?

What is John Audelay trying to tell his reader?

Name _____

Date _____

My Title _____

*As I lay seke in my langure,
In an abbey here be west,
This boke I made with gret dolour,
When I myzt not slep ne have no rest:
Offt with my prayers I me blest,
And sayd hile to heven kyng,
I knowlache, Lord, hit is the best*

John Audelay

'Text Breaker'

Word	Meaning
Seke	sick
langure	fatigue, faintness
boke	_____
gret	great
dolour	sorrow, distress
myzt	must
slep	_____
ne	nor
Offt	_____
sayd	_____
hile	hail
heven	_____
kyng	_____
knowlache	_____

Haughmond Abbey Source 4



Who is the 'Savyoure' John Audelay talks about?

Who do you think is the 'thi', 'thou', 'the' that he is talking to?

What is John Audelay trying to say to the reader?

Name _____

Date _____

My Title _____

'Text Breaker'

Word Meaning

Lok _____

thi your

merour mirror

Zif if

nezthoure neighbour

loyst _____

Savyoure _____

trew _____

beleve belief

fayth _____

hole cherche _____

Soule Solely

ordynd to make a priest

the thee, you

werkys deeds, undertakings

hye high

*Lok in thi merour,
Zif thou love thi nezthoure
Then thou loyyst thi Savyoure,
Thou art trew in thi beleve.
Thi beleve is the fayth of hole cherche,
Soule in hope God hath ordynd the,
Ever good werkys that thou schuld werche,
And be rewarded therefore in heven on hye.*

Johann Audelay

Haughmond Abbey Source 5



Who are the 'pore' John Audelay talks about?

Who do you think is the 'thy', 'thou', 'the' that he is talking to?

What is John Audelay trying to say to the reader?

Name _____

Date _____

My Title _____

*Ever have pete of the pore,
Of the goodus that God the sende;
Thou hast no other here treasure,
Azayns the day of judgment;
Or ellys thou schall br schamyd and chent
When thou art called to thy rekyngng,
Ther God and men schal be present,
And all the world on fuyre brennyng
the to a fray.*

Johann Audelay

'Text Breaker'

Word	Meaning
pore	pity
sende	_____
treasure	belongings
Azayns	against
Ellys	else
schall	_____
schamyd	_____
chent ?	_____
the, thou, thee	you, your
art	are
rekyngng	reckoning
mon	_____
fuyre	_____
brennyng	_____

Haughmond Abbey Source 6

Henry VIII ordered a commission to look into the life of monks and nuns.

This quote was taken from their findings and was one of the reasons Henry gave for closing down the 'little' abbeys.

Can you rewrite the reason in modern English – what is it that Henry's commissioners said was happening in these abbeys?

'Manifest sin, vicious, carnal and abominable living is daily used and committed amongst the little and small abbeys.'

And that the riches of the abbeys were to be 'used and converted to better uses'.

[from the Act of Suppression 1536]