**Note to teacher – cut these up and place them around the room.**

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| “The price of everything was cheap, because of the fear of death; there were very few who took any care for their wealth, or for anything else. For a man could buy a horse for half a mark, which before was worth forty shillings, a large fat ox for four shillings, a cow for twelve pence, … a lamb for two pence, a fat pig for five pence, a stone of wool for nine pence.” | “The sheep and cattle wandered about through the fields and among the crops, and there was no one to go after them or to collect them. They perished in countless numbers everywhere, in secluded ditches and hedges, for lack of watering, since there was such a lack of servants, that no one knew what he should do.” |
| “In the following autumn, one could not hire a reaper at a lower wage that eight pence with food, or a mower at less than twelve pence with food. Because of this, much grain rotted in the fields for lack of harvesting, but in the year of the plague, there was so great an abundance of all kinds of grain that no one seemed to have concerned himself about it.” | “One could hardly hire a chaplain to minister to any church for less than … ten marks, and whereas, before the pestilence, when there were plenty of priests, one could hire a chaplain for five or four marks or for two marks, with board.” |
| “The king ordered that in every county of the kingdom, reapers and other laborers should not receive more than they were accustomed to receive…The laborers, however, were so arrogant and hostile that they did not heed the king’s command, but if anyone wished to hire them, he had to pay them what they wanted, and either lose his fruits and crops or satisfy the arrogant and greedy desire of the laborers as they wished.” | “When it was made known to the king that the nobles had not obeyed his law, and had paid higher wages to the laborers, he imposed heavy fines … Then the king had many laborers arrested, and put them in prison. Many such hid themselves and ran away to the forests and woods for a while and those who were captured were heavily fined.” |
| “After the pestilence, many buildings, both large and small, in all cities, towns, and villages had collapsed, and had completely fallen to the ground in the absence of inhabitants. Likewise, many small villages and hamlets were completely deserted; there was not one house left in them, but all those who had lived in them were dead. It is likely that many such hamlets will never again be inhabited.” | “Both the magnates of the kingdom and the other lesser lords who had tenants, cut their rents, fearing that the tenants should leave. Some cancelled half the rent, some more and others less, some cancelled it for two years, some for three, and others for one year, according as they were able to come to an agreement with their tenants.” |
| “Similarly, those who received day-work from their tenants throughout the year, as is usual from serfs, had to release them and to cancel such services in case the land everywhere remain completely uncultivated. And all foodstuffs and all necessities became exceedingly expensive.” | “Within a short time a very great multitude whose wives had died of the plague rushed to become monks. Of these many were illiterate and, it seemed, simply laymen who knew nothing except how to read to some extent.” |