

PRIMARY SOURCE: Henry Knighton

“In this year, 1348, two ships docked in Dorset. A French sailor brought with him from France the seeds of the terrible plague, and through him the men of Melcombe were the first in England to be Infected. Then the dreadful plague made its way along the coast by Southampton and reached Bristol where almost the whole town perished”

PRIMARY SOURCE – Henry Knighton

“The Scots, hearing of the plague in England, said it was a punishment from God upon them. And so they planned to invade the country. But when they got to the border, they too caught the disease. Within a few days, 5000 of them had died, and the rest retreated back to their own country, taking the disease with them.”

PRIMARY SOURCE – Brother Clynn, a Friar of Kilkenny

“Plague stripped villages, cities, castles and towns of their inhabitants so thoroughly that there was scarcely anyone left alive in them. The pestilence was so contagious that those who touched the dead or the sick were immediately affected themselves and died”

PRIMARY SOURCE – The Neuberg Chronicle

“In many German cities foreign Jews were believed to have caused the deaths by poisoning the wells. Many of these Jews, including women and children, were burnt alive. Many jews were moneylenders, so they were unpopular anyway.”

PRIMARY SOURCE – Jean De Venette

“The disease was spread because of contagion. If a healthy man visited the plague victim, he usually died himself.”

PRIMARY SOURCE – Chronicle of Este

“Fire from the heavens fell down like rain. It destroyed all the land and killed the people. Then there were huge amounts of smoke – anyone looking at this died in less than twelve hours. Also, anyone who looked at someone who had seen this smoke quickly died.”

PRIMARY SOURCE – Guy De Chauliac

“The main cause of the Plague was the position of the planets. Saturn, Jupiter and Mars were very close together at that time. This is always a sign of terrible or wonderful things to come.”