CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Golden Legend: Popular Saints

Jacobus de Voragine; William Caxton · *c. 1260 (Caxton 1483; Ellis 1900) · William Caxton; Temple Classics, ed. F. S. Ellis (1900)*

Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop. Nicholas is said of Nichos, which is to say victory, and of laos, people. So this selection opens, in Caxton's English as printed by F. S. Ellis, 1900. The file holds complete chapters for eight saints only: Nicholas, Valentine, George, Christopher, Lucy, Barbara, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas of Canterbury. Not the full seven-volume Golden Legend. For grades 9–12. Gravity; no gore spectacle. The Becket chapter is also a separate file; name the file you are in.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this Golden Legend file as the eight Caxton/Ellis chapters it actually holds—opened by S. Nicholas—rather than as the complete Golden Legend, and without turning later martyrdoms into a spectacle?

"Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop."
The Life of S. Nicholas

The hosted file is a selection from The Golden Legend in Caxton's translation (1483), Temple Classics edition by F. S. Ellis (1900): complete chapters for eight named saints only—Nicholas, Valentine, George, Christopher, Lucy, Barbara, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas of Canterbury. The rest of the seven-volume Golden Legend is not included. It opens with Nicholas: Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop. Nicholas is said of Nichos, which is to say victory, and of laos, people. Later, S. George: Here followeth the Life of S. George Martyr. S. George was a knight and born in Cappadocia. Teach that honesty, for grades 9–12. Later chapters include graphic martyrdom; teach with gravity, and do not make a gore spectacle. The chapter on Thomas of Canterbury is also the separate hosted Becket file; name the file you are in. Quote this Caxton/Ellis English. One map cannot teach all eight lives at equal length.

KEY CHARACTERS

S. Nicholas the Bishop
Whose life opens this eight-chapter selection, and whose name is explained as victory of people

S. George, knight of Cappadocia
Whose life, later in the same file, begins as a knight born in Cappadocia

William Caxton, and F. S. Ellis
The translator, and the 1900 editor, of this English

HOW TO BEGIN THIS SELECTION

> *"Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop."*
> S. Nicholas

> *"Nicholas is said of Nichos, which is to say victory, and of laos, people, so"*
> S. Nicholas

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
Here Beginneth S. Nicholas
THE LIFE OF S. NICHOLAS

Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop. The selection opens with this life, not with the whole Legend.

- Keep "Here beginneth" and "S. Nicholas the Bishop."
- 9–12.
- Eight chapters only.
- Quote Caxton, as Ellis prints him.

> *"Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop."*
> The Life of S. Nicholas

02
Victory of People
THE LIFE OF S. NICHOLAS

Nicholas is said of Nichos, which is to say victory, and of laos, people. The name is opened as a meaning, in this English, before the later deeds.

- Keep "Nichos," "victory," and "laos, people."
- 9–12.
- Quote this wording.
- The later saints have their own openings.

> *"Nicholas is said of Nichos, which is to say victory, and of laos, people, so"*
> The Life of S. Nicholas

03
S. George, a Knight of Cappadocia
THE LIFE OF S. GEORGE

Here followeth the Life of S. George Martyr. S. George was a knight and born in Cappadocia. Another of the eight chapters, with its own opening. Teach later pages with gravity, not as a spectacle.

- Keep "knight and born in Cappadocia."
- 9–12. Gravity; no gore spectacle.
- One of eight chapters, not the whole Legend.
- Quote this English, not a later film only.

> *"Here followeth the Life of S. George Martyr. S."*
> The Life of S. George

04
Eight Saints, Not the Full Legend
THE EDITION

The file holds eight named chapters only. Name them. This is not the seven-volume Golden Legend. For grades 9–12. The Becket chapter is also a separate hosted file; name the file you are in.

- Name the eight saints.
- 9–12.
- Not the complete Golden Legend.
- Quote Caxton/Ellis.

> *"Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop."*
> The Life of S. Nicholas

05
Caxton, Ellis 1900, with Gravity
THE EDITION

William Caxton's English, Temple Classics, F. S. Ellis, 1900. For grades 9–12. Later martyrdoms need gravity, and no gore spectacle. Quote this wording, not a later film only. One map cannot teach all eight lives at equal length.

- Name Caxton and Ellis.
- 9–12. Gravity.
- Eight chapters only.
- A beginning: S. Nicholas.

> *"Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop."*
> The Life of S. Nicholas

A name opened as a meaning | Eight lives, not the full Legend | A knight of Cappadocia, later in the file | Gravity in later martyrdom | Caxton's English, as Ellis prints it

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. Eight complete Caxton/Ellis chapters only: Nicholas, Valentine, George, Christopher, Lucy, Barbara, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas of Canterbury. Not the full seven-volume Golden Legend.
2. It opens: "Here beginneth the Life of S. Nicholas the Bishop." Nicholas is said of Nichos, victory, and of laos, people.
3. S. George, later: a knight, born in Cappadocia. Later martyrdoms: gravity, no gore spectacle. For grades 9–12.
4. The Becket chapter is also the separate hosted Becket file; name the file you are in. Quote this English, not a later film only. One map cannot teach all eight lives at equal length.

Quotations are verbatim from the William Caxton; Temple Classics, ed. F. S. Ellis (1900), The Golden Legend, Temple Classics ed. F. S. Ellis (1900), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/golden-legend-popular-saints/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.