

# Otto Of The Silver Hand

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**by**  
Howard Pyle

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**1888**

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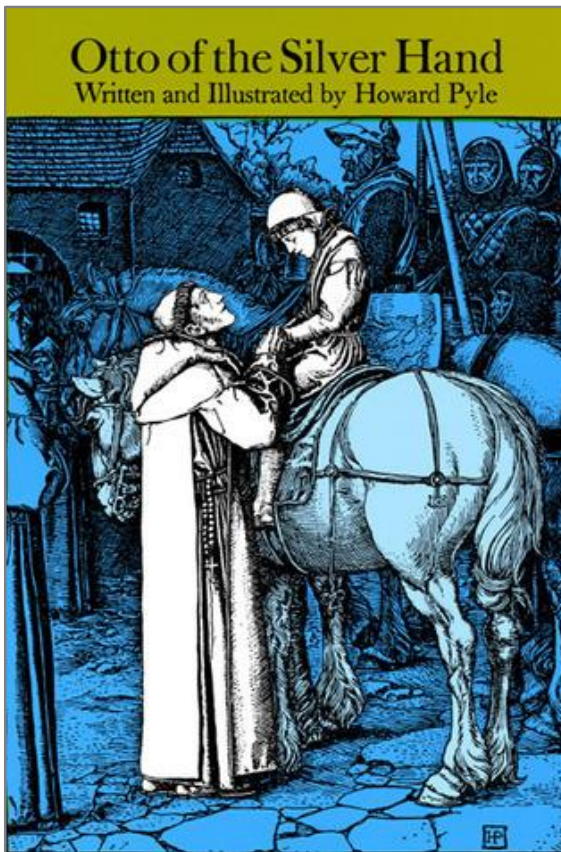
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*Otto of the Silver Hand*

Literature for Units 11 - 16

by Howard Pyle

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2865>



**Introduction**

*Otto of the Silver Hand* is the story of a young boy Otto growing up in Medieval Germany. Howard Pyle describes his tale as one “of a little boy who lived and suffered in those dark middle ages; of how he saw both the good and the bad of men, and of how, by gentleness and love and not by strife and hatred, he came at last to stand above other men and to be looked up to by all.”

**Be Sure to Notice...**

As this piece of historical fiction was written in 1888 and is now public domain, this provides an excellent opportunity to explore the ideas of both intellectual property rights (copyright) and the differences in the formality of written and spoken language in centuries past.

Note: this book is available for download on the link shown above..

**Unit Focus**

In this unit, we will be exploring the Dark Ages through the historical novel *Otto of the Silver Hand*.

**Context Resources**

You will find additional context resources with the **Resources** section of the website. Be sure to take time to explore the links and activities to help further your understanding of the Dark Ages in which Otto lived.

## Unit 11 - Assignments

### Literature

- Begin by completing an author profile for Howard Pyle. You will find an **Author Profile** page within the **Resources** section of the website. You can find information about the author on the Internet.
- Read Chapters 1-3 in *Otto of the Silver Hand*.

### Composition

- In this unit, we will be keeping a reaction journal to record our thoughts and feelings on Otto's journey. Create a *Reader's Response Journal* by printing the **Reader's Response Journal Pages** from the **Resources** section of the website. Add front and back covers with a title and illustrations. Howard Pyle includes his own illustrations throughout the book, and you may enjoy adding illustrations of various scenes to the cover as you go along.
- Complete the **Response Journal Questions** for Chapters 1-3.

## Unit 12 - Assignments

### Literature

- Read Chapters 4-6 in *Otto of the Silver Hand*.

### Composition

- Complete the **Response Journal Questions** for Chapters 4-6.

## Unit 13 - Assignments

### Literature

- Read Chapters 7-9 in *Otto of the Silver Hand*. As you have been reading, you may have begun to recognize that Howard Pyle weaves some repeated ideas or topics into his story. A theme is a deeper message that the author is trying to share with his reader for them to learn from or apply to their lives, and many times there can be multiple themes within one story. Some common themes are acceptance, perseverance, courage, cooperation, kindness, honesty, compassion, and loyalty. Talk with your classmates and parents about other books that you have read, and see if you can identify the strongest themes. As you read *Otto* this week, see if you can begin to identify a theme or themes that Howard Pyle wants us to hear.

### Composition

- Complete the **Response Journal Questions** for Chapters 7-9.

## Unit 14 - Assignments

### Literature

- Read Chapters 10-12 in *Otto of the Silver Hand*.

### Composition

- Complete the **Response Journal Questions** for Chapters 10-12.

## Unit 15 - Assignments

### Literature

Finish reading *Otto of the Silver Hand*, chapters 13-14.

### Composition

- Complete the **Response Journal Questions** for Chapters 13-14.
- Once you've finished the book, select three themes from the book that you feel are the strongest and list them in columns. Then spend a few minutes making notes on where you see each of these represented in the book.

## Unit 16 - Assignments

### Literature/Composition

Since you have been reflecting upon Otto's journey throughout your reading, you will now write a **Reader's Response Paper**. You will benefit from reading through all of the instructions first to help you see the bigger picture of the project. It would also be wise to spread your writing out over several days

- Begin by re-reading your reactions and reviewing the three themes that you chose last week. Select one of these to present in your paper.
- Start the rough draft of your writing with a title centered at the top of your page. "Reacting to Otto" would be appropriate, or you can come up with your own. Underneath that, center "By (Your Name)."
  - **Paragraph 1:** Begin your first paragraph indented. This paragraph should be a BRIEF overview (4-6 sentences) to tell what the book is mostly about. This is not the place for details, but it is a great place to use those summarizing skills that we practiced at the beginning of the year.
  - **Paragraph 2:** Indent. This paragraph should state your chosen theme in the first sentence, and then explain how it is shown in the book. You can use some general examples from the book if you'd like.
  - **Paragraph 3:** Indent. Give a strong, specific example of your theme from the book, and discuss your thoughts and reflections. Using your **Reader's Response Journal** will be very helpful. You should include one quotation, offset by quotation marks, that supports your thoughts.

- **Paragraph 4:** Indent. Give another strong, specific example of your theme from the book and discuss your thoughts and reflections. Again, include a single quotation.
- **Paragraph 5:** Indent. Write about your personal “take-aways” from your chosen theme. These are your reflections upon the theme that you selected, as shown in *Otto of the Silver Hand*. What did this book teach you? Have you grown in some way? Have your views on this topic changed? Have your beliefs about this topic been reaffirmed?
- Next, edit your paper for grammatical and spelling errors, as well as how coherent your thoughts are.
  - Pay particular attention to your use of capitalization, pronoun-antecedent agreement, and subject-verb agreement.
  - It would also be helpful to have a few other people read your writing and give you some suggestions on ways that you might make your paper more clear or exciting.
  - Type or neatly write your final draft.

You can download an example paper and a grading **Rubric** from the **Formats and Models** section of the website.

