Beginnings of the English Domination of Ireland

Brittany Lassen

Mt. Pleasant High School

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Beginnings of the English Domination of Ireland

Created by Brittany Lassen – Mt. Pleasant High School

Grade Level (Req.): 11th-12th grade
Content Area (Req.): World Geography, World History, Reading
Unit (Opt.): Medieval Europe

Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.):
- Geography (mapping)
- Current Events (Irish opinion of Great Britain, current issues)

Time Frame (Req.): 2 class periods (45 minutes each)
Goal (Req.): To understand how the Anglo-Normans (eventually, British) began their domination of Ireland and how that invasion began over 800 years of British rule.

Objective (Req.): Students will be able to describe the events that led up to the Anglo-Norman (British) invasion of Ireland.

Materials Needed (Req.):
- Pictures from Ireland of Trim Castle, other castles (in powerpoint), picture of Hill of Tara
- Chapter 7 (High Kings and High Villains) from “History of Ireland,” by Malachy McCourt
- Laminated Maps of British Isles, including names of Irish counties, also include Normandy and northern coast of France
- Overhead markers
- Map Directions
- Graphic organizer for day before, RAP (vocab) page

New Vocabulary (Opt.):
- Anglo-Norman
- High kings

Anticipatory Set/Introduction [Inquiry Question is required] (Req.): Show students a picture of Trim Castle (oldest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland—picture taken by teacher in Ireland). Show other pictures of Anglo-Norman and British architecture (pictures taken by teacher in Ireland). Ask the students what they think of these or what comes to mind. Then ask what they think the Irish people think of them. Explain that these were actually the fortresses of invaders who dominated Ireland for over 800 years until 1922. Ask the students again what they think the Irish people’s opinion are of these buildings. They should be able to conclude that there is some bitterness associated with these because the Irish hated being controlled by a foreign power and were constantly fighting and rebelling against it. (Maybe have powerpoint of pictures scrolling when they walk into the classroom—see attached).

Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.):
1. Bell ringer/anticipatory set
2. Hand out Ireland/UK/Normandy maps, and have students pick up overhead markers. Also hand out map directions (See attached for both map and directions).
3. Remind students of early Irish history (studies earlier in unit) by showing pictures of high kings and the places from which they ruled, including Hill of Tara.
4. Explain that we will be looking at the end of that story—that is, the end of the high kings and the beginnings of British rule.

5. Review first two characters/sections of chapter 7 of Malachy McCourt’s “History of Ireland” (High Kings and High Villains—Turlough O’Connor, Rory O’Connor, and Dermot MacMurrough), which would have been students’ homework to read the previous night. The sections focus on the last two high kings, Turlough and Rory O’Connor. Students will have completed a graphic organizer based on those first two sections. (See attached).

6. Put the students into partners or small groups. Have them use their homework to complete #s 1-5 on the map directions. Go over it with them when they are done.

7. Now have students read through the last part of their reading section (pp.64-69) about Dermot MacMurrough and complete the graphic organizer based on it as their homework. [End of Day 1].

8. The next day, go over the homework together. Discuss how MacMurrough is portrayed and how he is viewed by the Irish people. Discuss possibility of bias.

9. Put students back in the same groups. Make sure they still have the maps and directions.

10. Complete #6 using their homework and their copied chapter. Students will be tracing MacMurrough’s route on paper and on the maps. This will show them how he basically invited the English in.

11. Students should also complete critical thinking questions #s 7-8 in their groups.

12. Go over #s 7-8 with them. Then ask, so, did the English invade? Discuss as a class.

13. Show them pictures from Ireland today regarding anger towards Britian. Foreshadow some of the events we will be discussing later throughout the class.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

Formative Evaluation (Req.): Students will be completing a graphic organizer that will be checked in class. Thus, it will be clear which students understand the material and which do not before we move on to mapping the routes.

Assessment (Req.): Students will be reading through some information and will need to pick out different locations and then place them on a map. These maps will be checked.

Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):

- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.
- Geography, grade 9-12: Understand how physical and human characteristics create and define regions.
- **History, grade 9-12:** Understand how and why people create, maintain, or change systems of power, authority, and governance.
- **History, grade 9-12:** Understand the role of individuals and groups within a society as promoters of change or the status quo.
- History, grade 9-12: Understand the effects of geographic factors on historical events.
- History, grade 9-12: Understand cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reading for Literacy in History/Social Studies, grade 6-12: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key ideas and details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reading for Literacy in History/Social Studies, grade 6-12: Evaluate authors’ differing points of view on the same historical events or issue by assessing the authors’ claims, reasoning, and evidence.</td>
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<th>NGS Standards Used (Req.):</th>
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<tr>
<td>• How to Use Maps and Other Geographic Representations, Tools, and Technologies to Acquire, Process, and Report Information From a Spatial Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Physical and Human Characteristics of Places</td>
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<tr>
<th>Five Themes of Geography Used (Req.):</th>
<th>School District Standards and Benchmarks (Opt.):</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Location</td>
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<th>21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.):</th>
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<td>Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):</td>
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<th>Other Essential Information (Opt.):</th>
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<td>Other Resources (Opt.):</td>
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Directions for Anglo-Norman Invasion of Ireland Map

1. What regions did Turlough O'Connor control? _____________________________
   a. Locate these regions on the map and write T.O.C.

2. What region did Murtough MacLoughlin control? _______________________
   a. Locate this region on the map and write M.M.

3. What region did Dermot MacMurrough control? _________________________
   a. Locate this region on the map and write D.M.

4. How did this all change after the death of Turlough O'Connor?

5. How did Dermot MacMurrough's power change after the death of Turlough O'Connor?

6. As you read about Dermot MacMurrough's actions, rise to power, and downfall, list all of the places that he went to and what he did there. (Begin at the section entitled Dermot MacMurrough on page 64). Mark these places on your maps, and draw lines to trace his path.
   a. M______________________, I______________________________ →
      i. Invaded ______________________
      ii. Stole _______________________
      iii. Allied with __________________
   b. E_________________________ →
      i. Learned _________________________________________________
   c. F_________________________ →
      i. Swore _____________________________________________________
      ii. Received _________________________________________________
   d. E_________________________ →
      i. Found _____________________________________________________
   e. W_________________________ →
      i. Found _____________________________________________________
      ii. Found _____________________________________________________
      iii. Promised _________________________________________________
   f. I_________________________ →
      i. Accompanied by ____________________________________________
      ii. Acknowledged _____________________________________________
      iii. Was reinstated as __________________________________________
g. W_____________________, I_____________________
   i. Joined __________________________________________________
   ii. Gave ___________________________________________________
   iii. Negotiated with _________________________________________
   iv. Became King of _________________________________________

7. MacMurrough then made a very important promise that he failed to keep. What was it?

8. So what? Why was this event considered one of the most defining moments of Irish history? (What happened because of this?)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>King</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Region(s) Controlled</th>
<th>Rise to Power</th>
<th>Qualities/Characteristics</th>
<th>Downfall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turlough O’Connor</td>
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<td>Murtough MacLoughlin</td>
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<td>Rory O’Connor</td>
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<td>Dermot MacMurrough</td>
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How is Dermot MacMurrough viewed by the Irish people? Why?
CHAPTER VII:
High Kings and High Villains—Turlough O'Connor, Rory O'Connor, and Dermot MacMurrough

TURLOUGH O'CONNOR

After the death of Brian Ború, his heirs ruled Ireland for a while, but never with the same success. The High Kingship continued but now in the annals there is recorded a new category of High Kingship: "High King with opposition." With the death of Brian, there was a power void, one various families tried to fill, but was ultimately filled by the Norman invaders.

In addition to the O'Brien clan, which held sway in Munster, the most important families were the MacLoughlins in Ulster and the O'Connors in Connaught. Leinster—where Brian Ború and other High Kings had such contentious difficulties—was ruled by various families, but most important were the MacMurroughs. Indeed, it is Dermot MacMurrough and his dealings with various kings and High Kings that ultimately brought about the Norman invasion. But we are getting ahead of ourselves. By the mid-twelfth century, the O'Connor clan was looming large in Ireland's affairs.

Turlough O'Connor was a strong High King, perhaps the last with any great power; in his son, Rory O'Connor, we have a much lesser man who is remembered primarily for being the last of the High Kings; Dermot MacMurrough is remembered as one of the greatest villains in Irish history.

Even by the twelfth century, O'Connor was a great and glorious name with much honor attached to it. In Irish the name was Ua Conchobair, and it implied descent from the great Conchobar and the days of Cúchulainn. Today the name still is revered. To get some idea of the popularity of the name, type in the words "Turlough O'Connor" or "Rory O'Connor" into the Internet and search for either name. You will find scores of Irishmen bearing the name: rock stars and footballers, photographers and psychiatrists, and a slew of others who bear the names of these two Irish High Kings. It is a proud family name, in all its permutations, and most modern bearers are well aware of the connection with their past.

In 1119, more than a century after Brian Ború's death, Turlough O'Connor took the High Kingship. He was a strong and ambitious leader, a king of Connaught, and like Brian he seemed to understand the concept of nationhood. Like Brian, Turlough also became a patron of national culture, attempting to revive once again the glory of Ireland's golden age that had died in the years right after Brian's death. More importantly, perhaps, Turlough worked hard for Church reform. This was a critical moment for the Irish Church; Church reform had been implemented on the continent and Ireland lagged well behind. The century of Viking rule had devastated the Irish monasteries, and those Christian Vikings who remained in Dublin after the Battle of Clontarf increasingly looked towards the east and to Canterbury as their center of spirituality. Turlough presided over a convocation of Irish bishops that assembled at Kells with the purpose of bringing the Irish Church more into line with its European brethren, yet despite these attempts at reformation, the Irish Church was still out of line with the rest. The desire of the Europeans to bring Ireland back into the fold of the Roman Church would soon have drastic consequences for the country.

To maintain his power, Turlough ringed his native Connaught with forts. He bridged the Shannon. Dividing and conquering, he split Munster, the long-standing stronghold of the O'Briens, into
two kingdoms. Yet he also made mistakes that proved catastrophic. In 1126, he ousted the king of Meath, placing his ineffectual son on the throne; he had tried earlier to do the same in Leinster. Both of these acts would have disastrous results, for they formed new alliances out of former rivalries that would stand in opposition to Turlough. In the north, Murtough MacLoughlin united Ulster and placed the minor kingdoms of Ulidia and Oriel under his rule, and in Leinster, Dermot MacMurrough ousted Turlough’s son Conor, whom the High King had installed there as king. (This son was the same son Turlough later set up in Meath who was killed within six months of taking the throne.) Both these men, MacLoughlin and MacMurrough, would play roles in the cataclysmic events to come.

When Turlough died in 1156, his son Rory was made king of Connaught, but the more powerful MacLoughlin in Ulster claimed the High Kingship. There are many who claim that Turlough was the last of the great High Kings, but in hindsight the matter seems inconsequential. For within a few years of his death, Anglo-Norman forces would land in Ireland, and the High Kingship of Ireland would be relegated to the annals of history alone. As the forty-eighth High King of Ireland, Turlough tried to control the island and its many kings by strengthening his own power base in Connaught, by dividing troublesome regions, and by enlisting the support of the Church. Whether he would have been able to defend against the Norman invaders is a moot point, one that underscores the tragedy of both his death and his lack of strong heirs.

RORY O’CONNOR

Rory O’Connor was never the king his father was. The youngest of Turlough’s sons, he was not even his father’s favorite. That honor went to Conor, who Turlough tried twice to position into a kingship. In the first instance, Conor was defeated by a more powerful king, and in the second, he was murdered, unable to fulfill the dreams of his father.

Rory became king of Connaught on his father’s death in 1156, but his claim to the High Kingship was challenged by Murtough MacLoughlin. For several years, these two battled for the over kingship, continuing a war that seemed endless to the two families. Various alliances were made and inducements were offered to the numerous minor kings. In the end, however, these lesser kings supported MacLoughlin, who by all standards was a more powerful and forceful ruler, and in 1162, MacLoughlin was named “High King without opposition” by the Ostmen of Dublin, who also accepted Dermot MacMurrough—MacLoughlin’s greatest supporter—as the lord of the city. And while MacMurrough was politically shrewd enough to back MacLoughlin, Tiernan O’Rourke, the king of Breifne, stayed loyal to Rory. For reasons we’ll learn later, there was no love lost between O’Rourke and MacMurrough, and the sides that were drawn there in 1062 would play out for the rest of the decade.

MacLoughlin was a fierce and harsh man, and even his own people grew tired of his cruelty. When he blinded the king of Ulidia in 1166, after the king had submitted to MacLoughlin’s terms and offered various princes as guarantors, the people finally rose and fought back, killing MacLoughlin at the battle of Leitir Luin.

Once again, there was a power void and Rory O’Connor filled it quickly. He marched to Dublin, where he was proclaimed High King. As Rory completed the “Circuit of the Ard Rí,” Dermot MacMurrough found himself beset by chiefs of Waterford, Leinster, Ossory, and Dublin who were terrified of MacMurrough. Among them was Rory’s ally Tiernan O’Rourke, who had his own grudge against MacMurrough. After O’Rourke and his armies looted and burned MacMurrough’s palace to the ground, MacMurrough
escaped with his daughter to England. O’Connor joined O’Rourke, and as High King supported his actions against MacMurrough. Neither could have known the impact that MacMurrough’s flight would have on their country. But for the time being, O’Connor settled the various kingships and principalities, and Ireland, it seemed, was in a relatively peaceful state.

MacMurrough was a proud man, and he had fled to England to seek help in regaining his crown. When he returned again in 1167, he was accompanied by a small force of Anglo-Norman knights and archers. In the meantime, Rory O’Connor had grown quite strong, and as the firmly ensconced High King, he met MacMurrough in Dublin. He insisted that MacMurrough recognize his High Kingship, pay an “honor price” of gold to Tiernan O’Rourke, and hand over two of his sons as hostages (a time-honored practice among the Irish kings). In return, Rory granted MacMurrough his familial lands—a far cry from his kingship of Leinster. But MacMurrough agreed, for after all, he had much bigger plans in the future.

In 1169, MacMurrough joined his army with two Anglo-French armies that had landed in Ireland, and together they marched on Wexford and took the city within a day. Rory O’Connor needed to act. He marched into Leinster and began negotiations with MacMurrough. He would give MacMurrough the kingship of Leinster, if MacMurrough continued to acknowledge him as High King. He also, O’Connor insisted, must send the foreign soldiers back and bring no more into the country. MacMurrough agreed, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Rory O’Connor’s problems with the foreign soldiers were just beginning. In 1170, Richard de Clare, called Strongbow, landed with his troops as he had promised MacMurrough and took Waterford. With an eye toward the High Kingship, MacMurrough met him there, and together they marched to Dublin. O’Connor and O’Rourke, allied once again, came to the town’s defense, but Strongbow and MacMurrough’s forces slipped by them, and the Ostman chief Asgall surrendered the town to them. O’Connor and O’Rourke retreated and left Dublin to the Normans and MacMurrough. Firmly situated, MacMurrough’s forces drove deep into Meath.

O’Connor now had a challenger for the High Kingship. With the Anglo-Norman forces on his side, MacMurrough led the superior military force, and the defenders were stymied by the modern techniques of the European soldiers. O’Connor and O’Rourke decided to lay siege to Dublin. For two months, O’Connor and 30,000 soldiers camped out in what is now Phoenix Park and waited for the Norman enemy to starve. Rory even offered to recognize Strongbow’s kingship of Leinster—MacMurrough had died and had promised such to his ally—if Strongbow would recognize him as High King of Ireland. Strongbow refused.

Now, there are tragic events, momentous events, that nevertheless are comical in a way. Strongbow picked two of his best men who led 600 men out of the castle and into Phoenix Park. The besiegers had no guard, and most of them, including Rory O’Connor, were naked and bathing in the Liffey. Strongbow’s men attacked and routed the naked natives. As he gathered his clothes about him, Rory O’Connor may have realized that politically and militarily, Ireland was turning into something different. That this was the end.

When the English King Henry II arrived in Ireland in the autumn of 1171, he claimed much of the land that his English barons had won for themselves. At Cashel, he met with a convocation of Irish bishops who bemoaned the state of the Irish church. Henry assured them that he would take care of the problem. Spending the winter in Ireland, he accepted the allegiance of the Irish kings one by one. By winter’s end, every king had submitted but one: Rory O’Connor. The High King of Ireland—together with the chieftains of the north—would not submit. But Rory was the High King of a dissolving kingdom; the foreign king was distributing land at a quick
pace to his own people.

In 1175, Rory O'Connor finally submitted to Henry II. In the Treaty of Windsor, Rory accepted Henry II as the overlord and promised to pay annual tribute gathered from all of Ireland to him. For his part, Rory would remain King of Connaught and High King of all unconquered lands in Ireland. The breadth of that realm was shrinking rapidly, and before long the treaty was broken.

Even in Connaught among his own people, Rory's power was eroding. There was general dissatisfaction, and Rory was forced to name his son Concho bar (Conor) king in 1183. He once more attempted to regain his power, but fell far short. In his heart, he must have known that the world he inherited from his father was long gone, that an enemy much greater than he—or any Irish king—had ever known was building castles throughout the land, and that a return to power was a desperate hope.

Rory O'Connor died in 1198, and like his father Turlough, he was buried at Clonmacnoise. He was the fiftieth High King of Ireland. And the last.

DERMOT MACMURROUGH

There probably isn't a man in all of Irish history who is reviled more than Dermot MacMurrough. (You'll find his first name written as Dermott, Diarmaid, and Diarmait.) His death notice from the Annals of Tigernach in 1171 is more a curse than an obituary:

Diarmaid MacMurrough, king of Leinster and the Ostmen, the man who troubled Banba and destroyed Ireland, after mustering the foreigners and after ruining the Irish, after plundering and razing churches and territories, died at the end of the year of an insufferable disease, through the miracles of Finnian, Columcille and other saints whose churches he plundered. *

The passage of time is no kinder to the man, and historians throughout the centuries do not let the Irish forget MacMurrough's perfidy. He is blamed for "inviting" the Anglo-Normans to invade Ireland, and, in many a man's mind, he is responsible for all the troubles since.

The story of MacMurrough's treachery begins in 1151 during the reign of Turlough O'Connor as High King. Turlough had, twenty-five years earlier, invaded Meath, deposed the king, and set up three separate rulers. One, an underling of Turlough's, controlled west Meath, and MacMurrough and a man named Tiernan O'Rourke shared rule over east Meath.

In 1151, Turlough held a meeting with MacLoughlin, where the two powerful men swore loyalty and friendship to each other. Turlough also tried to restore the kingdom of Meath, which he had divided earlier, to its proper ruler. O'Rourke rebelled against these new arrangements and so the three kings, O'Connor, MacLoughlin, and MacMurrough, invaded and sacked his territory. And to add insult to injury, MacMurrough also stole O'Rourke's wife, along with all her treasures and cattle.

Now there are those who love to couch this story in the mists of romantic passion, and within a grand comparison to the Trojan War and the story of Helen and Paris. And sure enough we have seduction, betrayal, and grave consequences. But neither MacMurrough nor O'Rourke's wife was a young lover over-brimming with passion; to be kind, both were what we might call of "a sober age." Indeed, one historian stated that instead of a vibrant Paris, Ireland's "Helen" was ravished by an "athletic grey-beard." The circumstances of the battle, and the accounts of the chroniclers as well, seem to imply that MacMurrough's actions were aimed more at insulting O'Rourke than at carrying off his true love. There are some who say that O'Rourke's wife, Dervorgilla—also reviled in Irish history for her small part in all this—saw MacMurrough as an
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attractive suitor and invited him to carry her off, for the man has been described as tall and handsome. But it seems to me these accounts are by those who simply like a “femme fatale” wrapped up in their history. Nevertheless, MacMurrough sent her back to her husband within a year, with not a little encouragement from Turlough O’Connor.

As you can imagine there was no great love between O’Rourke and MacMurrough, and O’Rourke, while making no secret of his hatred, waited until the right time to have his revenge. As the saying goes: “Revenge is a dish best served cold.”

When Turlough O’Connor died in 1156, the rivalry for the High Kingship settled between Rory O’Connor and Murtough MacLoughlin. This rivalry would dominate the Irish political scene for the next thirteen years. It was here that Dermot MacMurrough perhaps made his biggest mistake—he allied himself with MacLoughlin. It seemed a wise alliance, as MacLoughlin was more powerful and claimed the High Kingship, and during his reign rewarded MacMurrough with grants and military support. But MacLoughlin was murdered by his own people, and when Rory O’Connor took the High Kingship he marched against MacMurrough. The O’Connor foray against MacMurrough was assisted by a fervent ally with a score to settle—Tiernan O’Rourke. MacMurrough, a harsh ruler, found himself beset by men who had long memories and no loyalty to him. He had made many enemies, and now, as his fortunes waned, he could find no supporters.

Crushed and deposed, on August 1, 1166, MacMurrough sailed for England. Learning that Henry II was in France, he quickly followed the English king there. Desperate, MacMurrough swore allegiance and loyalty to Henry II. In return, he received permission to raise an army from any of Henry’s lands. Returning to England, he found little success in recruiting men. He traveled to Wales, where there were soldiers aplenty looking for adventure, but

MacMurrough’s most important “recruit” was Richard de Clare, known throughout Irish history as “Strongbow.”

MacMurrough promised de Clare the hand of his daughter, Aoife, as well as right of succession after his death, should the two be successful in regaining MacMurrough’s kingship back. (Surely, MacMurrough, who had for so long been immersed in the wrangling over kingships and succession, must have known that his offer to Strongbow had no legal precedent in Ireland. But de Clare’s armies would prove to have more power than any Irish tradition or laws.) De Clare, for his part, promised to help MacMurrough by bringing troops to Ireland to support him the following spring. MacMurrough was also aided by two of de Clare’s allies, Robert FitzStephen and Maurice FitzGerald. Both men also promised to come to Ireland in the spring of the next year. As compensation, MacMurrough promised them the town of Wexford and surrounding lands. For MacMurrough now, his job was to wait.

A year later, in August 1167, he landed back in Ireland, accompanied by Anglo-French knights and archers. Surprisingly, he was welcomed. Always the politician, MacMurrough acknowledged Rory O’Connor’s High Kingship and made amends with Tiernan O’Rourke by giving his old enemy 100 ounces of gold as “honor payment.” In a gesture that was more magnanimous than wise, O’Connor reinstated MacMurrough as king of his familial lands. As surety, the High King took two of MacMurrough’s sons as hostages.

When FitzStephen and FitzGerald landed with two small armies in May 1169, MacMurrough joined them, and they attacked and took Wexford, which MacMurrough gave to the two Englishmen as promised. Immediately the victors built the first Norman edifice on Irish soil, the first of what would turn out to be a great number. Rory O’Connor quickly marched into Leinster to negotiate an agreement with MacMurrough. The agreement—negotiated by MacMurrough’s brother-in-law, the Archbishop of
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Dublin, St. Lawrence O'Toole—gave MacMurrough kingship of Leinster, and in turn he supported O'Connor's claim as Ard Ri. More importantly to O'Connor, MacMurrough also agreed to bring no more Anglo-French soldiers into Ireland, and to send back those he had with him then. MacMurrough agreed, but reneged on his promise. He may never have intended to, or perhaps he no longer had the power to.

In August 1170, Richard de Clare—Strongbow—arrived in Ireland with 2,200 troops. Another Anglo-French leader, Raymond de Ie Gros, joined him, and the two armies attacked and took Waterford. MacMurrough, FitzGerald, and FitzStephen joined them with their armies, and Strongbow was married to MacMurrough's daughter. From Waterford, they marched to Dublin, an obvious strategic and symbolic target. O'Connor's armies raced to the city to protect it, but the combined forces of Strongbow, MacMurrough, and his Norman allies outflanked them by traveling through Wicklow and easily took the city and set fire to it. The armored Norman knights with their troops of archers must have seemed invincible to the Irish warriors, who wore no protective clothing, used spears, battle-axes, and stone, and who were seeing for the very first time the efficiency of the crossbow and the power of these trained legions. They were armies from two separate periods of time—and the poorly armed Irish warrior was no match for the modern warfare of the Anglo-Norman.

With the arrival of Strongbow, it seemed that MacMurrough was no longer in control—he had ceded that to the foreigners. And as Strongbow's power grew, Rory O'Connor's disintegrated. With the High King weakened, old tribal enmities rose quickly in Ireland. O'Connor's enemies aligned themselves with the Anglo-French, and the foreigners marched deeper into Ireland to abet these uprisings. Irish history was at a defining moment.

When MacMurrough died in May 1171, Strongbow was made King of Leinster. Five months later, Henry II himself landed in Waterford with 4,000 men. MacMurrough had invited these foreigners in, had welcomed them and set them up. It was an action that would echo down through the centuries.
Reading Assignment Planning #:_____

Reading Assignment: “Chapter VII: High Kings and High Villains—Turlough O’Connor, Rory O’Connor, and Dermot MacMurrough,” pp.58-69 from Malachy McCourt’s History of Ireland

Purpose: To understand how the British domination of Ireland began.

Type of Text: ___X_____Narrative ________ Informational

Vocabulary:
• High King (p.58)—kings of Ireland who claimed to have lordship over all of Ireland, ruling from Hill of Tara
• Norman (p.58)—from Normandy, a region on the northern coast of France that was under the control of England
• Contentious (p.58)—describes an issue that causes much disagreement or many arguments
• Permutations (p.59)—different versions of the same thing (in this case, different versions of the same name)
• Canterbury (p. 59)—important religious city in England, center of English Church
• Convocation (p.59)—meeting or ceremony attended by a large number of people
• Shannon (p.59)—main river on western side of Ireland
• Ousted (p.60)—get rid of or kick out a king/ruler
• Ineffectual (p.60)—describes a person who fails to do what he/she is expected do to or is trying to do
• Cataclysmic (p.60)—an event that greatly changes a situation or society, usually not in a good way
• Moot point (p.60)—something that can be argued about or discussed but no real answer found; usually the answer wouldn’t affect much anyway; an issue that is just introduced to just be debated
• Underscore (p.60)—draw attention to something
• Inducements (p.61)—promises or gifts given to someone to get him/her to do something
• Beset (p.61)—attack or besiege
• Anglo-Norman (p.62)—describes the group, descendants of Normans from Normandy, who ruled England after William the Conqueror and the Normans invaded it in 1066 (so basically, the English)
• Ensconced (p.62)—settled somewhere comfortably with no intention of leaving
• Stymied (p.63)—if you are stymied by something, you find it very hard to take action or to continue what you are doing
• Bemoaned (p.63)—expressed sorrow or dissatisfaction about something
• Treaty of Windsor (p.64)—treaty in which Irish High King Rory O’Connor finally submitted to English King Henry II
• Reviled (p.64)—when people intensely hate someone and show their hatred for the person
• Perfidy (p.65)—betraying someone or behaving very badly towards them
• Foray (p.66)—a quick attack into enemy territory and then a return to one’s own territory
• Legal precedent (p.67)—a law or court case that happened before that helps the justice system to make decisions in similar situations
• Surety (p.67)—valuables or money used as a guarantee that you will do what you have promised; like collateral
• Edifice (p.67)—large, impressive building
• Ard Rí (p.68)—title for Irish High Kings
• Reneged (p68)—not doing what you have promised to do
• Enmities (p.68)—feelings of hatred for someone that last a long time
• Abet (p.68)— helping or encouraging someone to do something criminal or wrong (“aiding and abetting”)

Suggested Reader Strategies to Use:
___Scan   ___Summarize
____Make predictions  ____X_Analyze perspective
____Make inferences  ____X_Organize details
__X_Graphic organizer  ____Take notes
Anglo-Norman Invasion of Ireland
CASTLES OF IRELAND