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Edward of Woodstock, the first Prince of Wales and son of England's King Edward III, died (at the age of 45) the year before his father passed away. This image depicts his tomb effigy at the Canterbury Cathedral.

The eldest of Edward III's fourteen children, Edward the "Black Prince," called Wallingford Castle home. An incredibly talented military commander who routed the French at Crecy (thanks, in part, to the English long bow) and Poitiers, he often celebrated his conquests with jousts and tournaments.

Sometimes he personally participated.

Although there is disagreement whether he actually wore black armor (hence his nickname given, historians believe, after his death), his shield of peace was predominantly black. At the end of his life, it was buried with him.

A legend in his own lifetime, the Black Prince was the most famous medieval warrior of his day. He could be cruel. But "chivalry," to a knight of the Middle Ages, did not necessarily mean "chivalrous" as that term is used today.

Born in 1330, reportedly at Woodstock in Oxfordshire, the Black Prince was his father's formidable military aide at the beginning of the Hundred Years War. He even took the king of France to London where he held him hostage at the Tower of London.

During a battle in Spain, in 1376, the Black Prince became ill. He never recovered.

Requesting that his body be buried at Canterbury Cathedral, he wrote a Will the day before he died in 1376. The only example of his handwriting that survives, however, is an annuity he granted in 1370. It contains his motto: *De par Houmout, Ich Dene* ("by high courage I serve").

Richard II, son of Edward the Black Prince, was only 10 years old in 1377 when he succeeded his grandfather, Edward III, as the new King of England.

He did not possess his father's brand of courage.

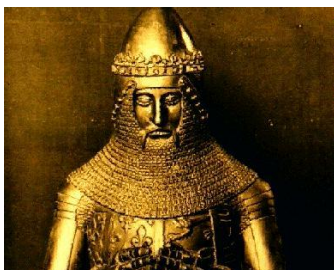
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/EDWARD-THE-BLACK-PRINCE-Knight-s-Tale-A)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/EDWARD-THE-BLACK-PRINCE-Knight-s-Tale-A)

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Media Stream



Black Prince - Edward of Woodstock, Prince of Wales

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Poitiers - French and English Battle During 100 Years War

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Jousts and Tournaments

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Black Prince - A Legend in His Own Time

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Richard II - King of England

Image online, courtesy Royal Monarchy web site.

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