

# Reading Abbey

## Chorus

*Henry the First built Reading Abbey,  
Henry the First made the monks a big  
church. The market town became not too  
shabby,  
A religious spot for travellers in the lurch.*

## Verse 1

The site was picked on ground up high,  
Between the rivers Kennet and Thames.  
They used the lead to keep the place dry,  
The Flint came from local friends.  
Limestone from France and Oxfordshire,  
But not by road on boat it came.  
Ceramic tiles with patterns inspired  
The Abbey for Reading's fame!

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## Verse 2

The monks worshipped a lot by day  
And studied the bible too.  
For medical care they did more than pray,  
Royal hosts, yes it's true!  
Pilgrim's came from blessed word  
To test one of their famous claims.  
The Abbey had, or so they claimed,  
The hand of dear St. James!

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## Verse 3 (slower)

Closed by Henry the eighths royal word  
In November Fifteen Thirty-Nine.  
He killed two monks, hung drawn quartered  
Treason was their crime.  
The civil war for the Abbey was bad  
In Sixteen Forty-Three.  
By the next year the King was glad,  
He smashed it up you see!

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