1. The murderers came in full armour, with swords and axes. The monks cried out to the Archbishop to flee to the church. But he had long since yearned for martyrdom and dreaded that it would be delayed if he fled to the church.

   By Edward Grim - a priest

2. The monks pulled, dragged and pushed him into the church.

   By Edward Grim - a priest

3. The four knights followed with rapid strides. The Archbishop ordered the doors of the church to be kept open.

   By Edward Grim - a priest

4. In the spirit of mad fury the knights called out, 'where is Thomas Becket, traitor to the King and country?' At this he quite unafraid came down the steps and answered 'here I am, no traitor to the King but a priest'. Having said this he stood by the pillar.

   By Edward Grim - a priest
5. ‘You shall die this instant’ they (the knights) cried.  
   By Edward Grim-a priest

6. They pulled and dragged him violently trying to get him outside the church. But they could not get him away from the pillar.  
   By Edward Grim-a priest

7. Then he inclined his head as one in prayer and joined his hands together and uplifted them.  
   By Edward Grim-a priest

8. The wicked knight leapt suddenly upon him and wounded him in the head.  
   By Edward Grim-a priest

9. 
Next he received a second blow on the head, but still he stood firm.
By Edward Grim - a priest

10.
At the third blow he fell on his knees and elbows saying in a low voice, 'for the name of Jesus I am ready to die'
By Edward Grim - a priest

11.
The next blow separated the crown of his head and the blood white with the brain and the brain red with the blood stained the floor. By Edward Grim - a priest

12.
The fourth knight warded off any who sought to interfere.
By Edward Grim - a priest

13.
A fifth man placed his foot on the neck of the holy priest and scattered the brains and blood about the pavement.
By Edward Grim - a priest
14.
One of the knights struck him with the flat of his sword between the shoulders saying, 'fly you are a dead man'
By William Fitzstephen. Becket's friend

15.
The knights tried to drag him out of the church but the monks held him back
By William Fitzstephen, Becket’s friend

16.
Edward Grim one of the monks putting his arm up, received the first stroke of the sword and was severely wounded in the head.
By William Fitzstephen, Becket’s friend

17.
By the same stroke the Archbishop was wounded in the head. By William Fitzstephen, Becket’s friend

18.
As he knelt down clasping and stretching his hands out to God, a second stroke was dealt him on the head, at which he fell by the altar.
By William Fitzstephen, Becket’s friend
19.
While he lay there Richard Brito struck him with such force that the sword was broken against his head
By William Fitzstephen, Becket's friend

20.
Four wounds in all did the saintly Archbishop receive.

21.
The whole of the crown of his head was lopped off but he didn't try to avoid or parry the blows.
By William Fitzstepehen, Becket's friend

22. He (Becket) accepted death from a desire to be with God
By William Fitzstephen, Becket’s friend

23.
Hugh of Horsea extracted the blood and brains from the hollow of his head with the point of a sword.
By William Fitzstephen, Becket’s friend

24.
Henry was man of reddish, freckled complexion, with a large round head and grey eyes which glowed fiercely and grew bloodshot in anger.
25.

Becket was a vain, obstinate and ambitious man who sought always to keep himself in the public eye. He was above all a man of extremes, a man who knew no half measures.

(A recent description)

26.

Becket refused to allow a priest who had killed a man and raped the daughter to be tried in the King’s court. He put him a bishop’s prison for protection against the King’s men. (a recent history book)

27.

It is certain that kings receive their power from the church. You have not the power to give orders to Bishops, nor drag priests before your courts.

(Becket to the King)

28.

My Lord Archbishop, let us return to our old friendship, and help each other as best we can, forgetting our hatred completely.

(written by Henry II to Becket)
29.

The Archbishop returned to England with the permission of the King. But unknown to the King he carried with him letters directed against a number of bishops. As soon as he was in England he excommunicated them.

( written by William of Newburgh)

30.

What miserable traitors I have nourished and promoted in my household, who let their Lord be treated with such shameful contempt by a low-born priest.

( What Henry is reported to have said.)

31

Becket wanted to be as great a man as the King, and tried to stop the judges punishing wicked clergy. For this reason there were sad quarrels between the King and Becket.

( from children’s history book)

32.

Henry was a strong King. He tried to force the clergy to obey his rules, and in a fit of temper made some of his knights kill Becket.

( 20th century history book)