HAM 2

Read the section below and complete a Critical Reading Analysis on each paragraph. Then answer the questions on the back.

VR

Charlemagne

CC

Charlemagne is one of the most well-known kings of Dark Ages Europe. His grandfather, nicknamed Charles the Hammer, was known as a great hero for defending Europe against invaders from the south. He reunited many of the lands that formerly made up the Roman Empire. When he died control of Europe was divided between his two sons, Charlemagne and Carloman. When Carloman died leading a battle defending the Catholic Church Charlemagne became sole ruler of the empire. Could he live up to his grandfather's legacy?

Charlemagne was a very religious man. He believed it was his duty as a Christian king to rebuild the Roman Empire. It was God's empire once and it should be again. Many non-believing barbarians had taken power in Europe and Charlemagne wanted them gone. He built up his army and went after them one by one. He gave them an opportunity to convert to Christianity, stop fighting, and rejoin the empire. If they continued their rebellion against God and the empire then he had no choice but to remove them from power – forcefully if necessary. Charlemagne's tactics were very effective and before long Europe was reunited with a new name – The Holy Roman Empire.

Charlemagne's great legacy does not stop there. He realized that just reuniting his people was not enough. He had to rebuild the culture and technology lost with the fall of Rome. He had public schools built all over the empire which anyone – rich or poor – could attend. By educating his people Charlemagne believed they would rediscover the glory of Rome. Amazingly, was so interested in reading the Bible for himself that even learned to read.

The Dark Ages were an awful time. It took a great man to provide even the smallest spark of light. Charlemagne did just that. He provided hope to a people who had none for hundreds of years. He reestablished Christianity as the main unifying force in Europe. His grandfather would have been proud.

1. List as many words as you can find that make Charlemagne look like a hero.

2. List as many words as you can find that make Charlemagne look like a villain.

3. Do you think Charlemagne was a more of a hero or a villain? Why?

4. Does this reading give you enough information to make a good decision on whether Charlemagne was a hero or not? Why?