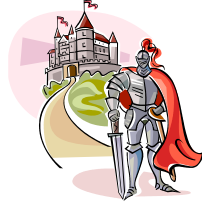


Name _____
Honors English 12

Date: _____
Period: _____

"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"
Reading Guide



1. What is the story's setting? How does the appearance of the Green Knight exhibit characteristics of romance?
2. The Green Knight's challenge completes the exposition, or necessary background information, of the plot. What important information from the story has been established so far?
3. What challenge does the Green Knight offer?
4. How does Gawain's description of himself reflect a knight's code of chivalry?
5. How does the moment when the decapitated Green Knight picks up his own head complicate the conflict between Sir Gawain and the Green Knight?

6. The chivalrous knight's idealistic devotion to his lady is a major element in this medieval adventure. What other principles guide Gawain's behavior?
7. What does Sir Gawain's agreement to remain silent about the gift suggest about his character?
8. The Green Knight has proclaimed himself a better man than Gawain. How does Gawain dispute that idea in these lines?
9. How does the initial depiction of the Green Knight's lady contrast with the chivalric ideal of women? Why is the idea of her as an unfaithful wife ultimately ironic?
10. What does Gawain mean when he says, "Foolish cowardice taught me... to bargain... and abandon my kind"?
11. How does the ending resolve the conflict between Gawain and the Green Knight?