The Sir Gawain and the Green Knight SLO Review

12th Grade

Monday, April 18, 2016

Please Read All Instructions:

Students, today you will begin reviewing for the Student Learning Objective (SLO) on the 25th where you are tested to see what you have learned this year in British Literature. Therefore, for the following weeks we will review most of the major literary works we have read. Read the following instructions and complete each activity in order.

Opening Session: Lecture Notes

Instructions: Please take notes as we review Sir Gawain and the Green Knight on the Smart Board.

Work Session: The Canterbury Tales Review Choice Board

Instructions: Complete two (2) of the activities described in the chart below. Ask your teacher for any supplies you may need to complete the assignments. Personally, I would suggest completing the activities that interest you the most or that would teach you things you do not already know. You may use your phone to assess the Internet to complete your work. If you do not finish, it is homework.

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| Option 1 | Chivalry is considered one of the highest forms of social behavior. Why then did it develop in a time considered barbaric by modern standards? Create your own modern rules of chivalry with codes and conduct to follow. After you are finished, write 1-2 paragraphs comparing and contrasting them with the chivalric rules of Arthurian legends. |
| Option 2 | Women and their role in society began to change with the introduction of the Code of Chivalry and Courtly Love. Write a short dialogue (1-2 pages) that displays Courtly Love demonstrating the power of women, then rewrite the same scene as if it were set in modern times. |
| Option 3 | Recently medieval romance has made a resurgence in romance novels perhaps proving that Courtly love and chivalry are not dead. Write a medieval romance story or narrative poem of your own in which courtly love or chivalry plays a part. |
| Option 4 | Create a comic strip based on the exploits in the story. You must have at least eight frames with captions for each frame. The frames should progress in the order that the action occurs in the story; your chosen frames should represent significant events in the plot of Sir Gawain. Use color, and be creative. |
| Option 5 | Write a tabloid article in which you describe the events that took place in the tale. Remember, the tabloids we see in supermarkets are pretty ridiculous, so yours should follow suit. Your tabloid must be typed; include a picture on a piece of unlined paper for extra credit. Your article must be one page in length; include an appropriate title, plenty of details, and lots of humor. |

Closing Session/Homework: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight Questions

Instructions: After you are finished with everything above, answer two out of five questions below on paper and submit them with your other assignments.

1. Gawain is an important character in most Arthurian legends and, in fact, there are more tales written about Gawain than Lancelot. In other romantic verse, Gawain is characterized as the “golden boy” whose purity helps to find the grail. In this poem, however, Gawain’s character is more complicated. Look back through the text and trace the physical and psychological changes Gawain goes through. Be sure to note situations when he disregards his own high standards and how his failure is resolved.
2. One of the most important characteristics of knighthood is “service to a lady.” Analyze the characterization of women in the poem. Discuss to what extent the women are worthy of respect. Based on your analysis of the women characters, what can you theorize about the poet’s view of women?
3. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is a romantic poem of the chivalric era. Romances are generally stories of the adventures of knights which describe the behavior of the courtly society, such as the loyalty between a king and his subjects and the relationship of the knight to the Lady. Consider how the concept of the romance has changed from this original idea to the modern day romance novel. What elements of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight continue in romance novels of today? Why do these elements persist? What has been dropped off? Why?
4. A common denouement in literature is the hero’s return home, bringing with him the object of the quest, but, most importantly, returning in a more enlightened state. Did Gawain return home enlightened? If so, in what way? What was the object of the quest? Did he complete the quest?
5. Compare and contrast Sir Gawain with Lady Bercilak in terms of their physical attributes, motivation, and behavior. How are they alike/different? Which of the characters is more virtuous? Explain your assessment of their characters.