

Reading Questions: *SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT* Fits 3-4

Be sure to note line numbers for your answers.

1. What tenets of the chivalric code and of medieval love are evident in fits 3 and 4?
2. In what ways are the host and Sir Gawain presented as foils as Fit 3 unfolds? (hint: notice throughout this fit the juxtaposition of scenes)
3. Sir Gawain soon finds himself in an unfortunate situation with the host's wife. What are his thoughts? In what ways does he parry her advances?
4. Why does the lady repeatedly say her guest cannot possibly be Sir Gawain? For what, according to her, is Sir Gawain particularly famous?
5. How does each hunt mirror (or fail to mirror) the strategems and events taking place back at the castle each day?
6. How does the setting reflect the themes of the tale in fit 4?

7. What is the significance of the three swings taken by the Green knight? How does Gawain behave in these circumstances?

8. Who or what does Sir Gawain initially blame for his failure, citing the events that happened to Adam, Solomon, and Samson in the Bible?

9. For what purposes does Sir Bertilak say Morgan le Fay sent the Green Knight on the mission to Camelot the previous Christmas?

10. How is Sir Gawain's attitude toward his performance different than the attitude of both Sir Bertilak and the court at Camelot?

11. Why doesn't Sir Gawain return with Sir Bertilak to his castle to celebrate?

12. Many literary historians claim that "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" is one of the greatest classics of English literature. Argue for or against that claim.