

Tapestry of Grace Year 2
Rhetoric Literature
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
(due Co-op #6 – November 3)

Vocabulary(add to terms section):

Lay – a short, rhymed tale of love and chivalry, often involving supernatural and fairy-word Celtic motifs.

Bob and Wheel – five lines rhyming *ababa*. The first of these rhyming lines contains only one stress and is called the *bob*. The four lines that follow have each three stresses and are together called the *wheel*. (You will find a bob and wheel structure at the end of each section of *Sir Gawain*.)

Read the Introduction Section 1 (p. 1-top of 4)

List 5 interesting things about the origins of this poem:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

This author was most likely a contemporary to Chaucer. How does the introduction compare the two authors and their works?

This is an alliterative poem (similar to Beowulf and early Medieval works with kennings). The introduction addresses this on page 3 and discusses the challenges of translation. It is stated that this author was part of an attempt at an Alliterative Revival.

What were they trying to revive?

Was this literary movement successful?

Why or why not?

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is divided into four sections (Roman numerals). Then each section is further divided into episodes (1-101).

Read: I:1 & 2 then IV: 101 (last 9 lines of the poem)

These sections give us a connection from *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid* to the legends and myths associated with King Arthur. (Hmmm – interesting😊) We will discuss this more in class.

List 5 points of connection from Sir Gawain's story to the ancient legends based on the first two episodes of section 1. (should be directly from the text)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

As you read *Sir Gawain* – take time to read some of it out loud, so you can hear the alliteration and how the bob and wheel works. You can find some audiobook translations on YouTube but they are not the Tolkien version. It is fairly easy to read if you don't rush through it.

Setting

List the different physical (actual places) settings in this story – see how many you can name.

The author gives very vivid descriptions of the court and of nature. Give two of your favorite descriptions here. (looking for a quote)

1.

2.

What is temporal setting (time period and span of time covered in story)?

What is cultural setting of the poem? (What worlds or cultures are being brought to life? If we were peeking into the world of this story, what would we learn about the way they lived and believed?)

Plot Structures:

What are the central **conflicts** in this work? (man vs. ?)

Suspense – how does the author use it throughout the story?

Motif (a recurring subject, theme, or idea) Comment on each of these motifs. Tell how they connect the story from beginning to end.

The Journey –

The Quest –

The Test –

Personal response to poem: Write at paragraph (4-5 sentences) that expresses your opinion of Gawain as a hero.