

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Vocabulary Quiz

1. As he entered into the hole, Sir Gawain found the Green Knight's habitation to be disagreeably _____, as he expected of any moist cave.
(A) blithe
(B) dank
(C) doughty
(D) plighted
(E) recked

2. King Arthur received his knights cordially while he sat upon his throne centered on the _____.
(A) dais
(B) dint
(C) meed
(D) nonce
(E) scathe

3. The knights of the round table offered fidelity to their _____ faith and avoided any _____ pertaining to overindulgence in food or drink.
(A) blithe . . dint
(B) dank . . scathe
(C) doughty . . rote
(D) plighted . . surfeit
(E) recked . . raillery

4. As he crossed the _____, a seeming wasteland, Sir Gawain _____ what he thought to be the boundary of an old forest.
(A) dais . . recked
(B) meed . . dighted
(C) welkin . . vouchsafed
(D) wold . . descried
(E) scathe . . weird

5. The fair lady of the castle had heard of Sir Gawain, since his fame was well-known throughout the land as a _____ knight, who feared neither man nor beast.
(A) blithe
(B) dank
(C) doughty
(D) plighted
(E) recked

OVER

6. TRYST : AGREEMENT ::

- (A) score : musician
- (B) book : library
- (C) castle : fortress
- (D) danger : safety
- (E) horse : corral

7. BLITHE : ANXIOUS ::

- (A) loathsome : disliked
- (B) handy : skillful
- (C) useless : wasteful
- (D) refused : unwanted
- (E) joyful : sorrow

8. MEED : RECOMPENSE ::

- (A) folkdance : choir
- (B) relation : stranger
- (C) gala : party
- (D) closet : house
- (E) peasant : lordship

9. VOUCHSAFE : DENY ::

- (A) walk : swim
- (B) compose : sing
- (C) attack : battle
- (D) remain : depart
- (E) recall : memorize

10. WELKIN : SKY ::

- (A) volume : measurement
- (B) rule : anarchy
- (C) road : motor home
- (D) netherworld : Hades
- (E) snake : lizard

11. After one year, Sir Gawain stood before the entrance of the Green Knight, knowing his weird had met up with him at last.

The word “weird” means

- (A) harm.
- (B) destiny.
- (C) particular occasion.
- (D) condescension.
- (E) power.

12. At first, the knights of the round table believed the Green Knight was engaging in some tasteless raillery at the expense of the king.

The word “raillery” means most nearly in this sentence

- (A) effort.
- (B) reward.
- (C) routine.
- (D) teasing.
- (E) harm.

13. As Sir Gawain was preparing to leave, the lord reminded the knight to reckon his advice and not to scorn it.

The word “to reckon” means

- (A) to bestow.
- (B) to take heed.
- (C) to dress.
- (D) to discern.
- (E) to adorn.

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Gawain dresses early and made sure to put on the supposedly magic
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green belt. The brave knight sets out from the castle with a guide,
whom shows him the way to a valley where the green chapel is.

The
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guide warns Gawain not to go, but the knight goes steadfast on his
16

journey. In the valley, Gawain finds a grass-covered mound with
holes in it, which he presumes to be the green chapel. Suddenly the
Green Knight appears, and calls on him to keep his end of their

17
agreement without flinching. Gawain agrees, but is scared. As the
Green Knight raises his axe, Gawain flinches, and the Green Knight
mocks him. Again the Green Knight raises his axe, and only to see

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if Gawain will flinch. Gawain does not flinch, so the Green Knight
lowers the axe again and nicks Gawain's neck. Realizing he is not
dead, Gawain leaps away, shouting that the Green Knight has had
his one blow, and the agreement is sealed. The Green Knight
smiles, and explains that he had done what he did on purpose, being
the same lord, Bercilak de Hautdesert. Indeed, Gawain had kissed
the lord's wife, who was used to test Gawain's knightly resolve. In
addition, Gawain's green belt that he wore belonged to the Green

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Knight. The belt was not really magic at all, but was a sign of his
moral weakness when Gawain had accepted and believed in the
belt. Furthermore, the Green Knight says he was sent to Camelot by
Morgana le Fay, Arthur's half-sister and a witch, who wanted to test
the pride and fame of Gawain and his fellow knights.

Gawain returns home, ashamed that he had yielded to such sin.
King Arthur with his knights of the round table hear the strange tale

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of Gawain upon his return. Since they sympathize with Gawain, the
knights offer to wear green belts themselves as constant reminders
that the possibility of sinning is always close at hand.

14. A. NO CHANGE
B. had made
C. makes
D. making

15. A. NO CHANGE
B. then
C. he
D. who

16. A. NO CHANGE
B. steadfastly
C. steady
D. steadfastness

17. A. NO CHANGE
B. for him
C. to him
D. on Gawain

18. A. NO CHANGE
B. but
C. in addition to
D. either

19. A. NO CHANGE
B. Gawain's green
belt worn
C. the green belt
that Gawain wore
D. his green belt that
he wore

20. A. NO CHANGE
B. hearing
C. had heard
D. hears

STOP