

Worksheet for *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

This poem is translated by _____, the same man who translated _____ for us. The author and date of this poem are both unknown. Most historians agree that the poem was written between 1300 and 1400 because of the particular descriptions of the armor worn by the knights.

Part One

1. When the story begins, _____ is being celebrated in _____.
2. What two groups have come together to celebrate? _____

3. What is Arthur's wife's name? _____
4. What unusual custom does Arthur observe? _____
5. Gawain and Agravaine are Arthur's _____.
6. (131) Why will the poet not tell us what was served at the banquet? _____
7. What seemingly contradictory descriptions are given of the Green knight? _____

8. What designs adorn his saddle? _____
9. What forms the knight's "cape?" _____
10. How is his horse made fancy? _____
11. (205) What does he carry in his two hands? _____
12. Because Arthur knows nothing of _____, he greets the Green Knight _____.
13. The Green Knight has come to Camelot to discover for himself if _____
_____.
14. Oh, so _____ is a sign of peace!
15. Arthur says that if the Green Knight has come to fight, they will fight. Stating what seems to him to be the obvious, the Green Knight calls Arthur's knights "_____, " saying there is _____ in the hall to match him.
16. What's the challenge offered by the Green Knight? _____

17. What causes Arthur to feel shame? _____
18. Who accepts the Green Knight's challenge? _____
19. (350-60) What is Gawain's motivation for interfering? _____

20. Gawain swings the axe and chops off the head of the Green Knight. How do the other knights react? _____
_____ How does the Green Knight react? _____

21. (430) What a grisly Christmas image: _____!

22. If Gawain does not keep their date, what will be his fate? _____

23. What cliff hanger does the poet use to end Part One? _____

Part Two

1. "But a _____ runs fast, and always runs _____; _____ and _____ are never the same."

2. Why is Lent "uncomfortable?" _____.

3. (research) What is a "Michaelmas moon" and when is All-Saints Day? _____

4. Why is everyone sad? _____

5. Gawain says he will leave _____ and that _____ will guide him.

6. (564) "Whether _____ or _____, _____ must be put to the _____."

7. What does it mean that Gawain's mail shirt was "woven like silk?" _____

8. Dressed beautifully, what does Gawain do before he goes to say good-bye to Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table? _____

9. Who is Gringolet? _____

10. What animals decorate Gawain's helmet? _____

11. Who crafted the pentangle star? _____

12. List the five ways in which Gawain is faithful. _____

13. (698) Gawain rides and rides until he reaches _____.

14. What kind of people live in Wirral Forest? _____

15. Many things attack Gawain. List some. _____

16. What makes the fighting especially difficult? _____

17. On Christmas Eve, what prayer does Gawain make to Mary? _____

18. On Christmas morning, what does Gawain pray for? _____

19. What is oh-so-weird about the castle Gawain sees? _____

20. The squires and knights pour out of the castle to welcome Gawain. Why are they so hospitable to him? _____

21. Say some things about the host of the castle. _____

22. (865) "And all at once it seemed to be _____ . . ."

23. ". . . and used Their wine so well that he stuttered." means _____ !

24. What two expectations do the inhabitants of the castle have of Gawain's visit? _____

25. Compare the two women Gawain meets in the chapel.

Young woman

Old woman

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

26. At Christmas dinner, the host sits with _____, and Gawain sits with _____.

27. (1020) What occurs on the third day after Christmas? _____

28. On what day must Gawain keep his date with the Green Knight? _____

29. What luck! The host knows where the green chapel is! It's only about _____ away!

30. While the host goes hunting, what does he suggest Gawain should do? _____

31. What offer does the host make to Gawain? _____

32. (1117-20) How do you say goodnight like a Frenchman? _____

Part Three

1. The people in this story must be _____ because they plan their days around going to _____.

2. What kind of dogs do the hunters take with them? _____ What is their prey? _____

3. What "law of the season" will they observe? _____

4. What other breed of dogs are on the hunt? _____ What job do they do? _____

5. What surprises Gawain when he awakes? _____

6. (1225) The lady of the castle wants to tie Gawain to his bed so that she can _____.

7. What two things has God in Heaven given to the lady? _____

8. What three traits possessed by Gawain attract her the most? _____

9. Gawain does not seem to be succumbing to her charms. How does the lady explain this to herself? _____

10. Calling upon Gawain's training in chivalry, the lady leaves his room with a _____.

11. Yuck! On pages 90-91, we get a step-by bloody step lesson in _____.

12. As they agreed, the lord of the castle gives Gawain _____, and Gawain gives the lord of the castle _____, representing what each won that day.

13. With the same deal in tact for day two, the lord of the castle heads to the woods with what kind of dogs?

_____ Their prey? _____

14. (1440) (research) What does *hoariest* mean? _____

15. How sad! The boar is all alone because _____.

16. Why do the arrows the men shoot at the boar not hurt him? _____
17. The lady thought Gawain learned his lesson yesterday: it's his duty to kiss a lady when _____
_____!
18. What is Gawain's reason for not kissing her? _____
19. What does the lady want Gawain to "teach" her? _____

20. Why does she think he'd be able to teach her anything? _____
20. Because Gawain is always _____, _____!
21. Explain how the boar is killed. _____
22. What happens to the boar's head? _____ (HMMMMM...reminds me of
_____.)
23. The lord gives Gawain _____, and Gawain gives the lord _____.
24. What disturbs the lord of the castle at dinner that night? _____

25. Day three, same deal. . .the hunters take which dogs? _____
Their prey? _____
26. When the lady comes to him for the third time, she is beautifully dressed. Give some details. _____

27. (1764) What is Gawain's PG-rated reaction to the lady? _____
28. What does the lady ask for? _____ Why does he not oblige her?

29. She offers Gawain her _____, but he refuses it. She offers him her _____,
but he refuses that too. He tells her he cannot accept any treasure until _____.
30. He changes his mind and takes the belt. Why? _____
31. Gawain agrees to keep the gift a secret from _____. After she leaves him, Gawain feels
very guilty and privately seeks out a _____ to make a _____.
32. How is the fox killed? _____
33. The lord and Gawain exchange treasures: a _____ for _____.

Part Four

1. What bad omen awakens Gawain? _____
2. What does he do with the belt? _____
3. As Gawain leaves the castle, what are his last words? _____
4. Gawain's guide gives him the bad news: if he fights the Green Knight, he's sure to die. For the Green Knight,
"_____ is as natural as _____." The guide urges, begs Gawain to "pick some
_____, " to ride where _____. (This advice sounds like it
could come from the _____ or the _____ in what other work we've read?
_____)

5. Because he's a knight and lives by a code, we know Gawain won't run away. He says, "however it happens, It will happen, for evil or good, as _____
 _____. Be brilliant! These words could so easily have been spoken by which three heroes this year? _____
6. Gawain has been looking for a chapel. Instead, he finds a _____ with boiling _____ next to, a perfect place to meet _____!
7. Why does the Green Knight feel he can trust Gawain? _____
8. The Green Knight swings the axe at Gawain. What does Gawain do? _____
9. What annoys Gawain? _____
10. What injury does Gawain suffer? _____
11. So the Green Knight is actually _____!
12. (2354-55) "An honest man _____."
13. Gawain wasn't tempted by _____ or _____ but by _____.
14. What two things shatter chivalry and destroy virtue? _____
15. What does Gawain do with the belt? _____
16. Forever more, how will Gawain feel? _____
17. What does the Green Knight do with the belt? _____
18. What do women do to men? _____ List the four famous men who fell victim as Gawain did. _____ What would be wonderful?

19. Why will Gawain keep the belt? _____
20. At last! The Green Knight's name: _____
21. Who set up the test for Gawain? _____ Say some things about her. _____

- What was she testing? _____
22. (2480) Why is Gawain still alive? _____
23. When he tells his story to teach the lesson he learned, Gawain shows people _____.
24. "For a man may hide an _____ to his _____, But he'll never be _____ of it, it's _____."

25. What strangely endearing thing do the ladies and knights of Camelot do? _____

26. What line ends the poem (in English!)? _____