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? ____________

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.

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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? ___________________________________________

21. Explain how the boar is killed. __________________________________________________________________

22. What happens to the boar’s head? _________________________________________________________________

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? _____________________________________________

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!)? ______________________________________________________________________________