

NAME _____

DUE

DATE: _____

hr. _____

DISCUSSION ON "THE KNIGHT'S TALE"

Circle your assigned SMALL GROUP LETTER: A B C D E F

First, go round robin and have each group member share likes and dislikes about "The Knight's Tale." Jot some of those ideas down here:

10
asides

LIKES

DISLIKES

Next, depending on your small groups, do the questions below in this order:

Group A --discuss 1-2-3-4-5-6

Group C --discuss 1-4-5-2-3-6

Group F

Group B --discuss 1-3-4-5-2-6

Group D and Group E - -

discuss 1-5-2-3-4-6

discuss 1-6-4-5-2-3

THE GROUP RECORDER SHOULD CONTINUE TO WRITE DOWN SOME NOTES ON EACH QUESTION BASED ON YOUR DISCUSSION.

- The genre of "The Knight's Tale" is "medieval romance." Thinking about the events of the story, many of which are typical of medieval romances, predict 5 characteristics of typical medieval romances. Then, jot down an example of each from the actual "Knight's Tale."

CHARACTERISTICS

"Knight's Tale" EXAMPLES

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- Discuss the role of the specific gods in this story as well as their importance in developing plot as well as theme.

MARS (ARES)

VENUS (APHRODITE)

DIANA (ARTEMIS)

OTHERS:

★ What does the gods' importance in this story tell you about Chaucer's time?



3. Make several comments about the role(s) of the women (the "weeping widows," Emily, Hippolyta) in this story.

What does this tell you about Chaucer's time?

4. The story, which Chaucer "adapted" from the Italian poet, Boccaccio, was originally called "The Story of Theseus" Discuss the importance of Theseus. Why might "The Story of Theseus" be an appropriate (perhaps better?) title?

5. Discuss examples/importance of the following medieval themes in this story.

Groups
A →
+ B

- a. What does this story say about the conflict of free will vs. destiny (fate or fortune)

Groups
C →
+ D

- b. What does this story say about the concept of the "restoration of order"?

Groups
E →
+ F

- c. What does this story say about the adherence to a chivalric code/honorable way of life/duty/friendship, etc.?

- Everyone → d. What other themes seem to be present in "The Knight's Tale"?

In-class:

6. If you have time, ask Wally for the activity "A More Than Courteous Knight."

☆ At the end of discussion, return this agenda to Wally w/ all "Knight's Tale" was

attached to it!

A More Than Courteous Knight

Directions: In this portrait of the Knight, Chaucer scrutinizes the outer and inner person. In each set of four, draw connecting lines from each verse of Chaucer's description to the word or phrase expressing his point or purpose.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 There was a <i>Knight</i>, a most distinguished man,
 2 Who from the day on which he first began
 3 To ride abroad had followed chivalry
 4 Truth, honour, generousness, and courtesy</p> | <p>persevering
 adhering to a code of conduct
 manifesting key virtues of an ideal
 representative of a social class</p> |
| <p>5 He had won nobly in his sovereign's wars
 6 And ridden into battle, no man more,
 7 As well in christian as in heathen places,
 8 And ever honoured for his noble graces</p> | <p>faithful to allegiances
 brave
 cultured
 cosmopolitan</p> |
| <p>9 No christian man so often, of his rank
 10 When, in Granada, Algeciras sank
 11 Under assault, he had been there, and
 12 In North Africa, raiding Benamarin;</p> | <p>real
 atypical
 tested
 aggressive</p> |
| <p>13 In fifteen mortal battles he had been
 14 And jousted for our faith at Tramissene
 15 Thrice in the lists, and always killed his man.
 16 This same distinguished knight had led the van</p> | <p>spiritually motivated
 capable
 courageous
 admired by Chaucer</p> |
| <p>17 And in his bearing modest as a maid
 18 He never yet a boorish thing had said
 19 In all his life to any, come what might;
 20 He was a true, a perfect gentle-knight.</p> | <p>courteous
 humble
 authentic
 fair</p> |
| <p>21 Speaking of his equipment, he possessed
 22 Fine horses, but he was not gaily dressed.
 23 He wore a fustian tunic stained and dark
 24 With smudges where his armour had left mark;</p> | <p>proud
 prepared
 professional
 battle-scarred</p> |
| <p>25 Just home from service, he had joined our ranks
 26 To do his pilgrimage and render thanks.</p> | <p>tested
 faithful to duty</p> |

1. A word that sums up the dominant impression of the knight is
 authentic balanced real ideal strong meek valorous

2. A compressed paradox—two words in opposition—that characterizes the knight is
 gentle lion strong lamb courteous bear humble eagle mild tiger
 because _____