

“SIR GAWAIN” QUESTIONS Name _____
BRITISH LITERATURE
MRS. PILGREEN Date _____ Hour _____

CHECK YOUR COMPREHENSION

1. What warning does King Arthur receive in his dream?
2. How does Arthur slay Mordred?
3. What does Mordred do just before he dies?
4. Summarize what happens when Arthur asks Sir Bedivere to throw Excalibur into the water.

CRITICAL THINKING

1. How are Mordred and Arthur similar? (List 2 similarities)
 - a.
 - b.
2. How are Mordred and Arthur different? (List 2 differences.)
 - a.
 - b.
3. What do you think are Sir Bedivere’s reasons for twice failing to obey Arthur’s request to throw Excalibur into the water?

4. How does the ending add to the mysterious, magical quality of this tale?

5. Why do you think the legend of King Arthur has retained its popularity for so long?

LITERARY FOCUS

1. In the excerpt from *Morte d'Arthur*, how do the supernatural events surrounding Arthur's death link the story to the future?

2. King Arthur was supposedly a Briton who fought against the invading Anglo-Saxons. Why do you think Britons kept his memory alive for centuries after their defeat by the Anglo-Saxons?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Choose the letter of the word that best expresses the meaning of the first word.

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|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. righteous | a. awkward | b. virtuous | c. dishonorable |
| 2. entreated | a. pleaded | b. requested | c. refused |
| 3. peril | a. safety | b. security | c. danger |
| 4. interred | a. saved | b. buried | c. uncovered |