

English 10
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Culminating project

Write a Medieval story in the style of *Sir Gawain*. Minimum: 5 stanzas.

Elements: alliterative verse, bob and wheel, narration (and description), Medieval flair. See the separate handout about the form.

You must

- Write in a four-stressed line with three alliterations per line, as discussed
- Include the proper bob and wheel
 - bob is two syllables, iambic or spondaic
 - wheel is iambic trimeter
 - bob and wheel rhyme ababa

To accomplish Medieval flair:

- It should be set in the Middle Ages
- It should feature some aspect of courtly love
- It should feature at least two instances of symbolic numbers and/or colors

Write it in multiple drafts

- keep your draftwork so that you can show your process

It will be graded

- on accuracy (does it meet the assignment?)
- on effort (keep those drafts, mark them up, work hard)
- on quality

If you write on the computer, save separate documents so that you have drafts. I will have copious advice about how to use the drafting process most productively. **You must have draft work to show the progress of your poem over time.**

For inspiration in developing characters, see *Good Masters, Sweet Ladies* by Laura Amy Schlitz, as well as *Sir Gawain*. You may of course use characters from *Gawain* and from the larger Arthur myth. You may choose to write an episode from the Arthurian stories we have talked about, if you like, adding your own creative touches: descriptions, ideas, commentary.

You may skip the historical bit conventional at the beginning of the poem, or you may include it if your piece is somewhat longer.

In *Sir Gawain*, look at the Middle English words (even though you don't know, necessarily, what they mean) to get a sense of how the alliteration can work.