

Essay Questions Submitted for Test 1 as of 10 PM Sunday Night

Note: except for correcting spelling and formatting (and fixing a couple of outright mistakes), I have not edited these questions. They will show up in edited form on the test, but I will leave the questions in your own language to study from. Note: spelling names and terms right suggests a better level of learning than failing to do so. Hint, hint.

What are the themes in *Beowulf*?

What pagan values can be found in *Beowulf*?

Before *Beowulf* returned back to his homeland, Hrothgar lectured him on different values. What were these values telling *Beowulf* and did *Beowulf* get a better understanding of this speech as time went on?

What are the elements in *Beowulf* that would have made it important enough to “save”? Who would those elements appeal to?

Explain how both *Beowulf* and the *Dream of the Rood* used both Pagan and Christian imagery, symbolism, and themes in their tales.

What was the purpose of having the *Dream of the Rood* be a dream? Why is this important; could it have been told a different way, why or why not?

In Medieval Literature, what are some of the themes we learned about and what roles do they play in the stories we have read?

What are the differences between qualitative and quantitative verse and why does this matter for Medieval Literature?

Discuss the 4 main themes found in Anglo-Saxon and Old English Literature. Provide examples from the readings for each theme.

What are the themes in the ~~Chaucer~~ *Canterbury Tales*?

What role does learning play in the *Canterbury Tales*? Is it always a Good Thing? Whose attitudes toward learning does Chaucer seem to respect?

Considering that chastity was the rule of the day, especially among women, why do you think there were so many promiscuous female characters in medieval literature?

Throughout *Lanval*, how does Marie de France empower women in her attempts to feminize the typical Arthurian tale?

Compare and contrast *Lanval* and *The Wife of Bath's Tale*. How are the females in each story portrayed?

In the Wife of Bath's *Prologue*, she discusses how many people look down on her for having five husbands. Do you think we still look down on people who have wed multiple times and had multiple children today? Why do we look down on it or why don't we look down on it?

Why does Chaucer let Alisoun go unpunished for cheating on her husband?

In the end of the Wife of Bath's *Tale*, it seems the male role still prevailed. Out of all the "lines" Chaucer crossed he still would not let the female role take precedence. As the reader, do you believe Chaucer was just a male chauvinist or did he know that one rule could not be broken?

How is the moral of the Knight "If you give women power you can have all the faithful sex you want" tie into the generation today?

Why is the Pardoner's *Tale* so offensive to those who practice true Christianity like the ~~Parishoner's~~ Parson's *Tale*? [Dr K's comment: I'm not sure where this one is going...maybe the question-writer is talking about the *Prologue*?]

Why does Chaucer tell his audience in his *Retraction* to blame what they don't like on his ignorance and to only remember what he wrote of saints?

Does Chaucer's *Retraction* mean that he decided he shouldn't have written such funny stories starring sinners?

Considering the depth of the characters in our readings to this point, who is the first truly "round" character? What make them so? What was the author's purpose in developing this character in such a way?

In what ways does Chaucer challenge or question the system/process of how grace was received/given?

What is Chaucer's underlying and ending concern in the *Canterbury Tales*? How is that concern weaved in the stories? Provide examples.

Chaucer's tales gives us different styles of poetry to explore; what are the different styles called? Also, please include an example of each style used from the ~~Chaucer~~ *Canterbury Tales*.

Chaucer likes to include humor in The *Canterbury Tales*. What is ironic about this?

In The Wife of Bath & in The Miller's *Tale*, how does Chaucer portray the female characters? Are there any reasons why he portrays them like that? If so, why?

What elements make The *Canterbury Tales* so important?

What are some character qualities that are valued in both *Beowulf* and The *Canterbury Tales*?

Likewise, how do both works differ or connect in their portrayal of females? Does the time difference between the works show a significant difference in the public view of good attributes and female roles?

What religious/historical influence can be found throughout early literature? How has it changed between the *Dream of the Rood* and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*?

Compare and contrast the values set forth to the reader in *Beowulf* and *Le Morte Darthur*.

Just for fun I included a question given to me my senior year of high school: Pair at least five characters from *The Canterbury Tales* with famous celebrities of today and give three examples telling how they are similar.