1. Sir Launcelot’s nobles advise him to go to war. Who has invaded and laid waste to his lands?

*Le Morte d’Arthur*: Study Guide

2. What part does the supernatural play in the duels between Sir Gawain and Sir Launcelot?

3. Who is Sir Modred, and why does he meet King Arthur’s ships with an army?

4. Explain how King Arthur receives his fatal wound?

5. As the King dies, he asks Sir Bedivere to throw his sword into the lake. What happens next?

6.How does Gawain’s dislike of Launcelot lead to Arthur’s downfall?

7. What dream does Arthur have? What might this dream mean?

8. Who speaks to Arthur the night before his battle with Mordred? In what context do his visitors appear?

9. What warning does Gawain give? What reason does he give for postponing the battle?

10. What treaty does Arthur propose to Mordred? Is the treaty honored? Why or why not?

11. What innocent action starts the battle?

12. How is Arthur again warned of his fate and about Mordred? Why does Arthur pursue his vengeance on Mordred despite all the warnings he has been given?

13. What happens to Arthur’s soldiers during the battle? What advice does Sir Lucan give Arthur about the battle?

14. After lying to Arthur twice, how does Bedevere finally fulfill Arthur’s wish? What does he see?

15. In what ways is loyalty, or the lack of loyalty, demonstrated in the story of Arthur?

16. Why might loyalty have been so highly valued for the people who first told this story?

17. What is the cause of Arthur’s death? What condition is he in when he is last seen? What indications are there that Arthur may not, in fact, have died after the battle?

18. Why do you think the legend is written to suggest that Arthur will return as king one day? Why might this idea be appealing to readers?

19. Examine Medieval Romance- Write the letter of the characteristic of medieval romance that is shown in each passage on the line next to the passage.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| \_\_\_\_ Gawain’s first battle with Launcelot (lines 68–119) | a. ideals of chivalry |
| \_\_\_\_ the final battle between Arthur and Modred (lines 298–318) | b. supernatural elements |
| \_\_\_\_ the disposal of Arthur’s sword Excalibur (lines 338–359) | c. larger-than-life characters |

20. A hero who upholds the ideals of chivalry is motivated by love, faith, honor, loyalty, courtesy and bravery. Underline only one name in parentheses and then complete the following sentence.

I think (Sir Launcelot, Sir Gawain) is the knight who best exemplifies the code of chivalry because ...

21. In your opinion, in what way is this passage a model for good behavior?

22. State one or more cases in which a knight in this narrative shows a lack of loyalty to King Arthur.

23**.** If Arthur, Launcelot, and Gawain were given a second chance to resolve their conflicts, what might they do differently?

24. How is Arthur portrayed in le Morted’Arthur? Is he a great leader? Does his reign realize his ideal?

25. Provide some plausible explanations for the existence of a real Arthur whose life and exploits could be the model around which so many legends arose.