

**British Literature
Mid Term Exam
A Review**

Renaissance Poetry--

Sonnets

1. Every sonnet has what three things in common?
2. How can you tell a Petrarchan (Italian) Sonnet from a Shakespearean sonnet?
3. *Whoso List to Hunt* by Thomas Wyatt is on page 531. What type of sonnet is this? Is this poem about a deer? What literary device is this?
4. In Shakespeare's sonnet 130, on page 320, what are the two ideas about love?
5. In Shakespeare's sonnet 29, on page 315, what two ideas does the speaker express?
6. Can you read a sonnet, like the one on page 316 and express the two main ideas of the sonnet?

Carpe Diem poetry and Poetry Focus Statements

1. What is a poetry focus statement? How do you write one?

2. What was Robert Herrick's message in *To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time*? What poetic techniques does Herrick use to send this message?
3. What was Andrew Marvell's message in *To His Coy Mistress*? What poetic techniques does Marvell use to send this message?

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

The Details

1. The Green Knight bursts into whose party? What day is that party taking place?
2. What are a few games that are played in the poem?
3. What imagery is on Gawain's shield and armor?
4. When Gawain is lost, what happens when he prays?
5. What does the lady of castle do to Gawain? Why does she do this?
6. How does Gawain cheat at the lord's game?
7. The lord of the castle turns out to be whom?

8. Why does the Green Knight spare Gawain's life?
9. Why did the Green Knight test Gawain?
10. What is Gawain's reaction to the end of the game?

The Big Stuff

1. What does the color green symbolize?
2. How is the natural world functioning in the poem?
3. Does Gawain keep the knightly virtues?
4. How do the animals of the hunting game resemble Sir Gawain?

The Canterbury Tales

1. How does Geoffrey Chaucer treat the church satirically?
2. What is the importance of *The Canterbury Tales*?

3. What does *The Pardoner's Tale* tell us about life in the 1300's?
4. What are four examples of irony found in *The Pardoner's Tale*?

Epic Poetry

1. What are the 4 characteristics of an epic?
2. How does *The Iliad* show these characteristics?
3. How does *Beowulf* show these characteristics?
4. What is an epic simile? Why were epic similes used?
6. Why is Hector's death so gruesome?

7. Why is Grendel so evil? Why is his death so gruesome?
8. How do you know *Beowulf* was written in different sections? Be sure to have examples to prove this...
9. What is alliteration? How does *Beowulf* use alliteration? Why does *Beowulf* use so much alliteration?
10. What is a kenning? What is an example of a kenning? Why are kennings used in *Beowulf*?
11. Describe Beowulf—is he the stereotypical hero?
12. What is Unferth's role in *Beowulf*?

