English 12

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,* p. 196—202

Read this selection from an Arthurian romance to find out if Gawain keeps his promises.

Answer the focus questions A-J found at the bottom of each page in complete sentences on your own paper.

Answer two of the Literary Focus questions on p. 203 (Questions 6-11).

Cooper English 12 Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Objective: To examine the archetypal pattern of a medieval romance that exists in modern literature and art.

**Holt text, p. 194-195 The Medieval Romance**

Who developed the Arthurian romance? Where and when was it developed?

What is a romance?

**Notes from storytelling—**

What is the Green Knight’s challenge?

What time of year is it?

How does Gawain prove that he is a worthy and pure knight?

How is Gawain tempted by the lady of the red lord’s castle?

What does Gawain steal from the red lord?

**Read the end of the tale in which Gawain faces the Green Knight.**

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A. Literary Focus

The Romance How does this scenery fit in with the elements of the romance?

B. Reading Focus

Understanding Cause and Effect: In these two stanzas, Gawain describes a disturbing and frightening place. What causes him to stay in such a place?

 C. Literary Focus

The Romance: What particular convention, or element, of romances does Gawain’s description of whom—or what—he expects to meet call to mind?

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D. Reading Focus Understanding Cause and Effect:

The Green Knight is going to give Gawain an ax blow to the back of his neck. What do you expect the result to be?

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E. Literary Focus The Romance:

 What does Gawain’s glance reveal about him?

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F. Reading Focus Understanding Cause and Effect:

Why does the Green Knight stop his ax before it hits Gawain?

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G .Reading Focus

Understanding Cause and Effect:

What causes Gawain to be able to survive the Green Knight’s stroke?

H. Reading Focus

Understanding Cause and Effect:

To what does the Green Knight attribute his actions?

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G. Literary Focus: The Romance:

Why is Gawain so angry with himself?

H. Reading Focus : Understanding Cause and Effect:

What is the effect of Gawain’s choice to take the blow, of his confession, and of his apology?

Summary: How is Gawain a superhuman romance hero? How is he weak or flawed, just as an ordinary person might be? Cite details from the poem to support your response.