Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* Reading Assignment Questions**

**Directions:** After reading *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, answer the questions below.

1. In medieval romances, there is often a character whose identity is hidden or mistaken. Explain how this characteristic affects the outcome of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

Type your response here.

2. Situational irony is a contrast between what is expected and what actually occurs. What is ironic about Sir Gawain’s acceptance of the sash from the lady of the castle?

Type your response here.

3. Why does Gawain decline the Green Knight’s invitation to celebrate the new year together at the end of the poem?

Type your response here.

4. Which character shows greater courage, Sir Gawain or the Green Knight? Support your answer with evidence from the text?

Type your response here.

5. It is believed that Sir Gawain and the Green Knight was written in the late 1300’s, as the age of chivalry began to wane. Through legend has it that Gawain was one of Arthur’s finest and most loyal knights, the Gawain poet depicts him as flawed. Why might the Gawain poet have portrayed Gawain in this way?

Type your response here.

**Essay Directions:** Pick one of the 4 prompts below and respond to that prompt in a well-written SCR. Leave the prompt that you choose at the top of your response in the box. The other prompts you may delete so it will be clear whish prompt you chose to respond to. Write your response below the prompt in the box.

1. What different ideological systems govern morality in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*? Do they seem to compete with one another, or do they overlap? Which systems appear to dominate by the end of the tale, and why?

2. What forms of love (brotherly love, spiritual love, courtly love, erotic love, and so forth) exist in the text, and in what types of relationships do they appear (friendships, marriages, relationships with God, and so forth)? Does love most commonly manifest itself as suffering or as ennoblement? Why do you think so many scholars analyze this text as part of the courtly love tradition?

3. In Part 4, the Green Knight and Gawain agree that all their problems can be blamed on women. Do you think we’re meant to take the “woman blaming” ending seriously or to question it, and therefore (perhaps) to question the entire misogynist tradition to which Gawain alludes?

4. Many scenes and characters in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* are doubled or multiplied. Why do you think the writer structures his poem this way? What effect does the repetition of passages have on the reader? How does this formal element of poetic composition relate to what is happening at the content level? You might choose one doubled scene (like Gawain’s departures from Camelot and Hautdesert) or character (Bertilak and the Green Knight) or something otherwise multiplied, like the “five fives” of Gawain’s pentangle.

Don’t forget to indent and then type your response here.