



OMNIBUS SUMMER READING LIST | 8th Grade

Reading is the gateway to knowledge. There is no more valuable learning activity. Our summer reading program is designed to encourage year-round immersion in literature. I have provided the following summer reading lists to assist you in selecting the best literature available for you. The number of books is not as important as the quality of books and the time spent reading. Below are two categories of books you are asked to read from. The first is the Primary book list. You are required to read one of the selections under Primary Books. The other is the Secondary book list. You are to read one of these but are free to read as many as you like.

Why is reading assigned over the summer? Reading keeps your scholarly muscles in shape, working out your brain by:

- * **Building vocabulary**
- * **Improving spelling through word recognition**
- * **Focusing your thoughts**
- * **Introducing new people, places, ideas, and situations**
- * **Exposure to the time period we will be studying (Christ to Martin Luther)**

Please read your choices over the summer and complete the short comprehension evaluation (see attached). This packet will be sent home at the end of the year for every student entering 8th grade.

These evaluation assignments are due on September 8, 2023.

PRIMARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. *Ivanhoe* by *Walter Scott*
2. *The Three Musketeers* by *Alexandre Dumas*
3. *Le Morte d' Arthur: King Arthur and the Legends of the Round Table* by *Sir Thomas Malory (Keith Baines rendition)*



SECONDARY BOOKS

Choose one of the following:

1. *Morning Star of the Reformation* by *Andy Thomson*
2. *The Count of Monte Cristo* by *Alexandre Dumas*
3. *The Black Arrow* by *Robert Louis Stevenson*
4. *Wulf the Saxon: A Story of the Norman Conquest* by *G. A. Henty*
5. *The Trojan War* by *Olivia Coolidge*
6. *Adam of the Road* by *Elizabeth Janet Gray*



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PRIMARY BOOKS – Choose one of the following: the links take you to a free online version.

1. Ivanhoe by: Walter Scott Online copy <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/82/82-h/82-h.htm>
2. The Three Musketeers by: Alexandre Dumas
<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/1257/pg1257-images.html>
3. Le Morte d' Arthur: King Arthur and the Legends of the Round Table by: *Sir Thomas Malory*
(*Keith Baines rendition*)

SECONDARY BOOKS – Choose one of the following:

1. Morning Star of the Reformation by: Andy Thomson
2. The Count of Monte Cristo by: Alexandre Dumas
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1184/1184-h/1184-h.htm>
3. The Black Arrow by: Robert Louis Stevenson
<https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/32954/pg32954-images.html>
4. Wulf the Saxon: A Story of the Norman Conquest
by: G. A. Henty
 - PDF of this book: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/8745>
5. The Trojan War by: Olivia Coolidge
6. Adam of the Road by: Elizabeth Janet Gray

SYNOPSIS OF THE BOOKS

Ivanhoe:

Twelfth-century England is in turmoil. The Third Crusade failed; King Richard is imprisoned in Austria; Prince John—the king's evil brother—controls the throne; and the country's ruling class, the French-descended Normans, are taking advantage of Saxon landowners and nobles. Before the knight Wilfred of Ivanhoe left for the crusades, Cedric, his Saxon father, shunned him for supporting King Richard. Now that Ivanhoe has returned, he attempts to save his love, Lady Rowena, and right the many wrongs—with the aid of a mysterious Black Knight as well as Robin Hood and his merry men. Filled with jousting, sword fighting, and damsels in distress, this historical romance by Scottish author Sir Walter Scott also examines topics such as prejudice and reconciliation.

The Three Musketeers:

Young, poor D'Artagnan is off to seek his fortune in Paris. Even before he reaches the city, he gets himself into mischief and, shortly after arriving, he offends three of the King's musketeers. But those adversaries soon turn into close allies, and together they confront increasingly complicated situations. The four friends take on kidnapers, secret lovers, blackmail, and murder plots as they save the innocent and punish the wrongdoers (but not without some fun in between).



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Le Morte d'Arthur: King Arthur and the Legends of the Round Table:

In a time when there were damsels in distress to save and mythological dragons to slay, King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table were there to render justice in the face of any danger. From the incredible wizardry of Merlin to the undeniable passion of Sir Launcelot, these tales of Arthur and his knights offer epic adventures with the supernatural as well as timeless battles with our own humanity. Keith Baines' splendid rendition of *Le Morte d'Arthur* faithfully preserves the original flavor of Malory's masterpiece - that of banners and bloodshed, knights and ladies, Christians and sorcerers.

Morning Star of the Reformation:

When young John of Wycliffe arrives at Oxford University, he finds it a fascinating and perilous place. With his friend, Sebastian Ayleton, John experiences the terrible plague called the "Pestilence" (the Black Death), and he becomes involved in clashes between university factions as well as riots among the townspeople. Whenever he can find time away from his studies, John's favorite place is the inn of the Kicking Pony. There he and his companions discuss the political and religious issues of the day, and it is with his friends that he first shares his growing vision of an English Bible for all Englishmen to read.

The Count of Monte Cristo:

Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantes is confined to the grim fortress of If. There he learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo and he becomes determined not only to escape, but also to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration.

The Black Arrow:

The *Black Arrow* is an exciting adventure story full of intrigue, suspense, hair-breadth escapes, and desperate fights. It also contains an unusual love story: the heroine first appears disguised as a boy, and the hero, conditioned to be indifferent or hostile to women, comes grudgingly to admire and then to love her. The *Black Arrow* offers valuable insights into history and rates among the best novels available about the fifteenth-century English civil conflict known as the Wars of the Roses.

Wulf the Saxon:

The story of a young Thane who wins the favor of Earl Harold and becomes one of his advisors. When Harold becomes King of England, Wulf assists in the Welsh wars and takes part against the Norsemen at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. When William of Normandy invades England, Wulf is with the English host at Hastings and stands by his King to the last in the mighty struggle.



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The Trojan War:

Whereas most books on the Trojan War concentrate on the origins and the Iliad, this book touched on all the different stories circulating about the Trojan War: The death of the first Greek to land on the shore; the Amazon Queen's appearance; Odysseus' feigning madness to try and get out of going to war; Paris' death and his nymph sweetheart who he betrayed; the bow of Hercules; the son of Achilles; the madness of Ajax; and many more stories. This book contains so many different stories about the Trojan War, the warriors on both sides, their fate, and the background stories that it is hard to put down. Yes, it was written for elementary children and young adults, but even the adults can get lost in this book.

Adam of the Road:

Adam is a young boy who travels the roads of England with his father, a minstrel, and his dog, Nick. However, one day Adam's dog is stolen, and his father vanishes. Alone, Adam wanders the roads he once traveled with his father searching for him. Along his journey through villages, markets, and fairs, Adam meets many different kinds of people and has many adventures.

These books will be available to check out from Hillcrest over the summer. You can also find them in the public library, especially through MNLink (can be accessed online).

The primary & secondary books we are reading in Omnibus II in 8th grade for the 2022-2023 year.

PRIMARY BOOKS - First Semester

- The Church History
- Confessions

- The Creeds
- The Ecclesiastical History
- The Rule of St. Benedict
- Beowulf
- The Songs of Roland

PRIMARY BOOKS - Second Semester

- The Song of Roland
- The History of the King of Britain
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- The Canterbury Tales (Selected Tales)

SECONDARY BOOKS - First Semester

- The Hobbit
- The Fellowship of the Ring
- The Nine Tailors
- The Dragon and the Raven
 - The Gospel of John
- The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
 - A Midsummer Night's Dream

SECONDARY BOOKS - Second Semester

- Winning His Spurs
 - The Two Towers
 - Ephesians
- The Return of the King



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IVANHOE Comprehension Sheet

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who saves Ivanhoe from the castle?

- (a) Rowena.
- (b) Robin Hood.
- (c) The Black Knight.
- (d) Athelstane.

2. Who makes apologies to King Richard in Chapter 40?

- (a) Robin Hood.
- (b) Ivanhoe.
- (c) Prince John.
- (d) Friar Tuck.

3. What does Athelstane offer to do in Chapter 27?

- (a) Tell the Normans of King Richard's whereabouts.
- (b) Ransom the prisoners.
- (c) Trade his life for Cedric's.
- (d) Marry Rowena.

4. What is Ulrica seen doing before her death?

- (a) Sounding a bugle.
- (b) Dousing herself with oil.
- (c) Running through the castle halls.
- (d) Singing crazily.



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5. How many women are gathered in an apartment in Athelstane's castle?

- (a) Twenty.
- (b) Ten.
- (c) Four.
- (d) Twenty-eight.

6. What is Urfried's real name?

- (a) Ulrica.
- (b) Alyth.
- (c) Otthild.
- (d) Odila.

7. What does Bois-Guilbert aspire to become?

- (a) King of England.
- (b) A laird.
- (c) Sherrif.
- (d) Grand Master of the Templar Knights.

8. What disgusts Cedric about Urfried?

- (a) That she did not commit suicide.
- (b) That she finds pleasure in misery.
- (c) That she now hates the Saxons.
- (d) That she is insane.



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9. Who does De Bracy think is the Black Knight?

- (a) Prince John.
- (b) Ivanhoe.
- (c) Beaumanoir.
- (d) King Richard.

10. Who kidnaps Rebecca in the middle of the battle?

- (a) Bois-Guilbert.
- (b) Fitzurse.
- (c) De Bracy.
- (d) Malvoisin.

11. How many days is Rebecca given to find a champion?

- (a) Eight days.
- (b) One day.
- (c) Seven days.
- (d) Three days.

12. Who goes to Torquilstone posing as a priest?

- (a) Robin of Locksley.
- (b) Gurth.
- (c) Ivanhoe.
- (d) Wamba.



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13. How many men are said to be backing the opposition to De Bracy, Bois-Guilbert and Front-de-Boeuf?

- (a) Ninty.
- (b) Two hundred.
- (c) One hundred and fifty.
- (d) Three hundred.

14. What time does Bois-Guilbert say the prisoners will be killed by?

- (a) By noon.
- (b) By midnight.
- (c) By dawn.
- (d) By dusk.

15. In Chapter 30, who wants to release the prisoners?

- (a) Prince John.
- (b) De Bracy.
- (c) Bois-Guilbert.
- (d) Front-de-Boeuf.

Short Answer Questions

1. What does Ivanhoe tell King Richard is threatening his kingdom in Chapter 41?

2. Who is Ambrose?



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The Three Musketeers

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences. The questions are in order of the book.

1. Who is in charge of the musketeers?

2. The musketeers are bodyguards for whom?

3. What does the letter that Treville gives to D'Artagnan say?

4. How was Athos wounded?

5. Describe what happens to D'Artagnan at the tennis match (Be Specific)

6. Describe how Aramis treats his servant.

7. What does Madame Bonacieux do for a living?



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8. What has happened to Madame Bonacieux?

9. Who is “the man from Meung”?

10. Who is Anne of Austria?

11. What does Anne of Austria give to the Duke?

12. What does the Magistrate tell Bonacieux has happened to his wife?

13. Where does Bonacieux think he is going when the guards put him in the carriage?



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14. What mission does Madame Bonacieux entrust to D'Artagnan?

15. What does Madame Bonacieux steal from her husband and give to D'Artagnan to aid him on his mission?

16. How does Porthos get into the fight with the man at the inn on the way to London?

17. How does Aramis get shot in the shoulder on the way to London?

18. After the three musketeers and D'Artagnan learn about the war, they realize they must raise the money to buy their equipment. What is Athos' plan regarding his equipment?



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19. Why is Athos disturbed by the ring that Milady mistakenly gives to D'Artagnan?

20. What does Milady ask D'Artagnan to do for her?

21. Why does Athos get so upset when D'Artagnan tells him about the mark on Milady's shoulder?

22. What is Milady doing when D'Artagnan rides off to the battle at La Rochelle?

23. Who is John Felton?

24. What does Felton do with Milady when she arrives in England?



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25. How does Felton realize that Milady has betrayed him?

Morning Star of the Reformation by Andy Thomson Comprehension Sheet

1. How does the author describe John Wycliffe?

2. How does the author describe Sebastian Ayleton?

3. What is John discovering about the church that bothers him? What things does he learn about it?



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4. Who are Fleet Nigel and Giles?

5. What do we do today that John Wycliffe wanted people to be able to do.. but most other Christians who lived during Wycliffe's time thought was wrong, bad, a sacrilege?

6. Why are so many people dying in this story?

7. Does Sebastian become a priest? Why or why not?

8. What jobs does John Wycliffe have?



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9. How does John die?

10. What is the biggest problem with the church in Wycliffe's day that can (and even may be) a problem today in our culture?

The Count of Monte Cristo Comprehension Sheet

Please circle the correct answer.

1. What is Edmond Dantès's profession at the beginning of the novel?

- Soldier
- Tailor
- Sailor
- Lawyer



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2. Who is the first person Dantès visits when he reaches Marseilles?

- His father
- Caderousse
- Mercédès
- Danglars

3. Which of the following statements is closest to the truth?

- Fernand Mondego envies Dantès's successful career, while Danglars envies Dantès's relationship with Mercédès.
- Fernand Mondego envies Dantès's relationship with Mercédès, while Danglars envies Dantès's successful career.
- Fernand Mondego envies Dantès's close relationship with his father, while Danglars envies Dantès's close relationship with Caderousse.
- Fernand Mondego envies Dantès's close relationship with Caderousse, while Danglars envies Dantès's close relationship with his father.

4. What does Danglars write in his letter to the public prosecutor?

- That Dantès is a soldier in Napoleon Bonaparte's army
- That Dantès is a powerful Jacobin
- That Dantès is a revolutionary spy
- That Dantès is bearing a letter that contains a revolutionary Bonapartist plot

5. Why does Villefort sentence Dantès to life in prison?

- Because he hates all Jacobins
- Because he is secretly a revolutionary and is worried this fact will come to light
- Because his father is the revolutionary plotter to whom Dantès's letter was addressed, and Villefort is worried this fact will come to light
- Because he truly believes Dantès has broken the law

6. How does Dantès figure out that he has been framed?

- He figures it out himself after discovering his accusation letter.
- Villefort tells him.
- Abbé Faria deduces it.
- None of the above

7. Why does everyone believe that Abbé Faria is insane?



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- Because he claims to have an enormous hidden treasure
- Because he believes so strongly in a united Italy
- Because he remains a priest even though he does not believe in God
- Because he refuses to speak to any of the other prisoners

8. Why does Dantès consider Faria his second father?

- Because Faria saves his life
- Because Faria educates him
- Because Faria makes him wealthy
- All of the above

9. How does Dantès escape from prison?

- He hides in Faria's shroud.
- He digs his way out using Faria's tools.
- He buys his way out with his enormous fortune.
- He tunnels out of his cell.

10. Where is the Faria's fortune hidden?

- In Faria's old house in Rome
- Beneath the prison
- On the island of Monte Cristo
- In the Vatican

11. Why does Dantès give Caderousse a valuable diamond?

- Because Caderousse seems to regret his part in Dantès's downfall
- Because he knows that this windfall will only lead to more heinous acts on Caderousse's part, and he is eager to catch him doing some foul deed
- Because Caderousse agrees to give the diamond to Louis Dantès
- He does not give him the diamond; Caderousse's wife steals it from Dantès

12. When Dantès saves Monsieur Morrel from ruin, how does he sign his letter?



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- The Count of Monte Cristo
- Sinbad the Sailor
- Lord Wilmore
- Edmond Dantès

13. Who is the Abbé Busoni?

- An Italian priest who acts as confessor to Abbé Faria
- An Italian priest who acts as tutor to Abbé Faria
- An Italian priest who recognizes Dantès as a convict but does not turn him over to the authorities
- An alter ego of Dantès

14. How does Dantès win Albert de Morcerf's trust?

- By saving him from bandits
- By lending him his carriage
- By telling him that he once knew his father
- By saving Mercédès from financial ruin

15. Why does Eugénie Danglars not want to marry Albert de Morcerf?

- Because she despises men
- Because she wants to be a free and independent artist
- Because she is in love with her friend, Louise d'Armilly
- All of the above

16. Why does Valentine Villefort not want to marry Franz d'Epinaï?

- Because his father was a loyal royalist
- Because her grandfather despises him
- Because she is in love with Maximilian Morrel
- All of the above

17. What do Julie and Emmanuel prove to Dantès?



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- That true gratitude is possible
- That it is possible to be satisfied with one's life
- Both of the above
- None of the above

18. Whose greed does Dantès exploit?

- Danglars's
- Bertuccio's
- Benedetto's
- Albert's

19. Which of the following people does not play a part in the revenge scheme against Villefort?

- Signor Bertuccio
- Benedetto
- Madame de Villefort
- Maximilian Morrel

20. How does Haydée help bring about Fernand Mondego's downfall?

- By seducing him and then blackmailing him
- By seducing his son
- By testifying against him
- By stealing his money

21. Why does Albert de Morcerf refuse to fight a duel with Dantès?

- Because he is a coward
- Because he refuses to fight a duel he knows he will lose
- Because his mother tells him Dantès's story
- Because Eugénie begs him not to

22. Why do Albert and Mercédès abandon all of their wealth?



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- Because they want nothing to do with a fortune that has been acquired through treachery
- Because they have both sworn to donate all of their wealth to God if Albert survives his duel with Dantès
- Because Dantès offers them a larger fortune if they consent to leaving the old one behind
- Because they are both planning on entering religious orders that denounce earthly possessions

23. Why does Maximilian long to kill himself?

- Because his father has been dishonored
- Because he has lost his fortune
- Because he believes that Valentine is dead
- Because his sister, Julie, has married his enemy

24. Why does Dantès allow Maximilian to believe that Valentine is dead?

- To punish him for the sins of his father
- Because Dantès also believes that she is dead
- Because he believes one can only know true happiness after knowing true despair
- To keep him focused on his military service

25. How does Dantès learn to feel normal human emotions again?

- By rekindling his love for Mercédès
- By acting as a father to Maximilian
- By allowing himself to fall in love with Haydée
- He never regains his normal human emotions

The Black Arrow Comprehension Worksheet

Part I: Identify. Give a description and brief character analysis of each of the characters. (3 points each)

1. Dick Shelton

2. John Matcham/Joanna Sedley



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3. Alicia Risingham

4. Sir Daniel Brackley

5. Jon Amend-All/Ellis Duckworth

6. Will Lawless

7. Captain Arblaster



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8. Lord Foxham

9. Sir Oliver

10. Richard Crookback

Part II. Short Answer. Answer in complete sentences, giving as much detail as possible. (4 points each)

1. Why does Stevenson give Joanna Sedley the first name "Joan"? To what major saint is he comparing her, and in what way is this comparison valid?



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2. In the first half of the novel, Dick Shelton appeared as a singularly naïve character. Steadily, however, his wisdom has been growing. In the second half of the book, what major mistakes does he make, and how does he respond to them?

3. Why does Stevenson give Will Lawless the name “Lawless”? Does this name still fit him at the story’s ***conclusion***?



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Wulf, the Saxon

Copy important quotations from the book, Wulf, the Saxon under the Quotation heading and note the source and page numbers.

Under Comment, consider the following: What does this make you think of? Do you agree or disagree and why? What does this tell me about the person/s involved? Any reflections? Is it surprising and why or why not?

Quotation

Comment

1.

2.

3.



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4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.



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10.

11.

12.





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Comprehension Worksheet for The Trojan War by Olivia Coolidge

Part I

1. Why did Zeus marry Thetis to a mortal, King Peleus?

2. Why did the goddess Discord throw the golden apple on the table during the feast, and why did this cause a disruption?

3. Name 2 ways in which Paris wronged Menalaus.

4. Name some characteristics of Odysseus.

5. How did the clever Odysseus locate Achilles?

6. What was the reaction of Achilles to Agamemnon's sacrifice of his daughter? What was Clytemnestra's reaction?



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Part II

7. Why did Laodamia die?

8. Name the warrior who did not prepare to go to war.

9. What actions did Achilles take to aid the Greeks?

Part III

10. What did Apollo afflict on the Greek army? _____ WHY?

11. Why did the Trojans consider Paris a coward?



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12. Why did Hector's son cry when his father took him in his arms?

13. Odysseus told Agamemnon that the Greeks must do "some desperate deed that will give heart to our men." What was the deed he suggested?

14. What kind of bargain did Hector try to make with Achilles as they met for the last time on the battlefield? What was Achilles' reply?

Part IV

15. Why was there a 12 day delay in the Trojan War?

16. Which great Greek hero did Memnon kill? _____ Why didn't Memnon kill the hero's father?



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17. Describe the character of Pyrrhus as he is portrayed in Scyros.

18. Why was Philoctetes punished by the gods? What was his punishment?

19. What happened to Paris? What happened to Helen after Paris's death?

20. What did the Trojans finally decide to do with the wooden horse?

21. In what circumstances did Pyrrhus die?

22. Describe the death of Agememnon.



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23. What did Menalaus do about Helen once she returned to him? What did Hecuba want him to do with her?

24. Describe the reunion of Telemachus and his father, Odysseus.

25. Why did Penelope believe that Odysseus was really some god? How did he prove to her that he was her husband?

Adam of the Road Comprehension Sheet

Ch. 1-4

1. List 3 important events from Ch. 1-4.



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2. What is unusual about Roger?

3. Describe Dame Malkin and her cottage.

4. Where are Roger and Adam going?

5. Tell how Adam intends to be like Roger when he is grown.

Ch. 5-8

1. What does Adam do which embarrasses him greatly?

2. What is the court language in which Roger tells stories and sings songs to the Knights and their Ladies?

3. Describe London as Adam sees and smells it.

Ch. 9-13

1. Who is traveling to Canterbury as Adam and Roger go on their way?



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-
-
2. What important event happened in England seventy-nine years before this story took place, and why was it important?

-
-
-
3. What terrible thing happened to Adam during the night at the inn?

-
-
-
4. How does Bayard become lame?

-
-
-
5. How do the ferryman and his wife help Adam?

Ch. 14-18

1. What do Adam and the men find when they go into Rideware Hall?
-
-
-

2. Why does Adam go to the shrine of St. Swithin?
-
-
-

3. How does Adam fall off the wall?
-
-
-



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4. What is the Hue and Cry?

Ch. 19-23

1. Why does Adam decide not to go on with the de Veseys?

2. How does Adam earn a meal from the peddler?

3. Who does Adam discover in London and why does Adam attack him?

4. Where does Adam learn Nick has gone?

5. How does Adam come to stay to help Perkin's parents and why?



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Le Morte de' Arthur: King Arthur and the Legends of the Round Table Comprehension sheet

In paragraph form, describe your favorite scene from each tale.

1. The Tale of King Arthur



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2. The Tale of King Arthur and Emperor Lucius

3. The Tale of Sir Launcelot Du Duke



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4. The Tale of Sir Gareth

5. Describe your favorite part in the Book of Sir Tristram of Lyonesse



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6. Describe your favorite part in the Tale of the Sangreal

7. Summarize what happened in the Book of Sir Launcelot and Queen Gwynevere.



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8. Summarize the death of King

Arthur _____
