

Lesson 1

Mixed Fealties

By Thomas Malory

About Words and Word Origins

What does twisting have to do with being angry? Both the word *wroth* (meaning angry) and the word *writh* (meaning to twist) come from the Old English word for twist, *wriþan*. The noun form of the word *wroth* is *wrath*. *Wroth* is rarely used today, and when it is used it usually appears in writing, not speech. However, the word *wrathful*, which also means angry, is rather common and can also be used in contexts that *wroth* cannot. For example, we can say that *The king was wroth when he found out about the villain's deed*, but we cannot say that *The wroth king threw down his scepter*. Instead, we would say *The wrathful king threw down his scepter*. Thus, *wroth* cannot be used as an attributive adjective (an adjective that comes before the word it modifies), while *wrathful* can. *Wriggle* (also meaning to twist and turn) is a related to *writh*, *wrath* and *wroth*, and is derived from the Old English word *wrigian*.

Vocabulary and Exercises

counterfeit (adjective) fake but passed off as real

Under the light it was obvious that the \$100 bill was counterfeit.

pant (verb) to breathe heavily as from exhaustion or emotion

After running the five-mile race, Ellis, Tad, Gabriel and the other runners panted all the way to the stand where their mothers were handing out glasses of lemonade.

treason (noun) disloyalty to a king or country

Was Benedict Arnold ever put on trial for treason?

manor (noun) property belonging to a lord

Did the seventeenth-century house on the manor belong to Henry V's earl?

ambush (verb) to make a sudden or surprise attack

The soldiers were ambushed last night.

henchman (noun) a follower or one who does the commands of another

The villain's henchman was able to capture the hero and bring him to the castle.

bid past bade past participle bidden (verb) to command

John's father bade the boys not to stay out late ever again without permission.

scabbard (noun) sheath for a sword

The knight drew out the sword from the scabbard.

priory (noun) a place where nuns or monks live

The abbess of the priory welcomed the visitor.

dismay (verb) to lose hope; to be in fear

Mounted on his horse, the king told his knights not to dismay, that all would go well in battle.

valiant (adjective) brave

Although he was valiant soldier, he was self-willed and not to be trusted.

assail (verb) to attack forcefully

The soldier assailed the guards at the gate.

plaintive (adjective) mournful; very sad

We heard the plaintive cries of the widows in mourning.

miscreant (noun) a villain or rascal

The county sheriff took the miscreants and led them to their cell.

wroth (adjective) very angry

Do not make the king wroth by your rudeness.

Exercise 1.1

SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

Choose a word that is the closest synonym or antonym to the word printed in small capitals.

EXAMPLE 1 COSTLY

- a) daring
- b) soft
- c) inexpensive
- d) slim
- e) bright

Answer: c

EXAMPLE 2. SHOUT

- a) haggle

- b) yell
- c) agitate
- d) gather
- e) leave

Answer: b

1. COUNTERFEIT
 - a) mercantile
 - b) loose
 - c) ragged
 - d) genuine
 - e) roasted
2. VALIANT
 - a) courageous
 - b) crushed
 - c) servile
 - d) messy
 - e) scattered
3. TREASON
 - a) soft
 - b) swift
 - c) political
 - d) loyalty
 - e) fresh
4. ASSAIL
 - a) propel
 - b) sample
 - c) choose
 - d) ease
 - e) attack
5. PLAINTIVE
 - a) direful
 - b) playful
 - c) joyful
 - d) careful
 - e) restful
6. MISCREANT
 - a) cripple

- b) notion
 - c) author
 - d) rogue
 - e) man
7. DISMAY
- a) criticism
 - b) possibility
 - c) hopefulness
 - d) darling
 - e) mansion
8. BID
- a) ask
 - b) find
 - c) prop
 - d) identify
 - e) praise
9. PRIORY
- a) dairy
 - b) pasture
 - c) priesthood
 - d) abbey
 - e) anticipation
10. SCABBARD
- a) game
 - b) sheath
 - c) sea creature
 - d) sword
 - e) jousting

Exercise 1.2

FILL IN THE BLANK

Use one of the following words from the word bank to complete the sentences below.

WORD BANK

bid, pant, counterfeit, ambushed, dismayed, miscreant, plaintive, wrath, treasonous, valiant, assailed

EXAMPLE

After the king meets with the ambassadors, he will ___ his servants to lead them out of his palace.

Answer: bid

1. The prime minister gave an address telling the people not to be ___ after the recent bad news regarding the economy.
2. How many of the ___ soldiers died in battle, giving up their own lives for the safety and welfare of their own countrymen?
3. The ___ travelers had to yield their purses to the thieving highwaymen.
4. During the political unrest in the communist country, the thieves, insurrectionists, troublemakers and other ___ were put into prison without a trial.
5. The old woman let out such a ___ sound that anyone's heart would have been moved to hear her.
6. What was the penalty for committing ___ acts during the American War for Independence?
7. After running only several yards, Jim began to ___, giving clear evidence that he was out of shape.
8. The enemy soldiers traveled several miles and ___ the fortress.
9. When the messenger brought the ill news of the treasonous earls to the king, was he very ___?
10. The shifty-looking man paid us in dollar bills that proved to be ___.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Which of the following is true concerning the ship that appeared in the lake of the woods where Arthur had been hunting?
 - a) Morgan le Fay had sent it to bring the hunting party back to Camelot.
 - b) It was sent by enchantment.
 - c) It was sent by the Lady of the Lake
 - d) It belonged to Ontzlake.
 - e) It belonged to Damas.
2. How had the knights ended up in the prison where Arthur awoke?
 - a) They were sent there by Morgan le Fay's enchantment.

- b) They had been cruelly waylaid by Damas.
 - c) They had been cruelly waylaid by Ontzlake.
 - d) They were traitors to Ontzlake and imprisoned for their disloyalty.
 - e) They were miscreants imprisoned for crimes against Arthur.
3. Which of the following words BEST defines the word *smote* (printed in bold)?
- a) congratulated
 - b) struck
 - c) lay down
 - d) played with
 - e) destroyed
4. Which of the following BEST describes Accolon?
- a) a traitor to Arthur
 - b) Morgan le Fay's brother
 - c) Onzlake's brother
 - d) an enchanter
 - e) one who fights for Damas
5. What is the relationship between Morgan le Fay and Arthur?
- a) brother and sister
 - b) cousins
 - c) mother and son
 - d) aunt and nephew
 - e) uncle and niece
6. What is the irony of Accolon's declaring that he would kill all enchanters when he woke up in the well?
- a) Accolon took advantage of Morgan le Fay's enchantment in the battle.
 - b) Accolon loved the Lady of the Lake.
 - c) Accolon never wanted to kill Arthur.
 - d) Like Arthur, Accolon was duped by the ladies in the ship.
 - e) Morgan le Fay was not related to Accolon.
7. Which of the following typical characteristics of Romance is NOT found in this story?
- a) enchantment
 - b) a lady threatened by villains
 - c) fealty to one's lord and treachery
 - d) a dark prison
 - e) a tournament

8. Why did Accolon agree to the contest with the knight, who later proved to be Arthur?
- a) He had decided that he would not kill his opponent in the contest.
 - b) He had been bewitched by the Lady of the Lake.
 - c) He had Excalibur.
 - d) Accolon wanted to kill Arthur, as he had cheated him.
 - e) Accolon wanted to prove that he was stronger than any knight in Damas's kingdom.
9. Which of the following words does NOT describe how women are portrayed in Malory's Romance?
- a) as enchantresses
 - b) as rescuers
 - c) as deceitful
 - d) as royalty
 - e) as cowardly
10. Which of the following describes the sword that Arthur used in battle?
- a) One of Morgan le Fay's ladies gave it to Arthur.
 - b) It was not fit for battle.
 - c) King Arthur believed that Morgan le Fay had given it to help him.
 - d) all of the above
 - e) none of the above

Literary Terms: Arthurian Legend

Although it centers on a Briton king, the Arthurian legend was a literary tradition not limited to the island of Great Britain, where the Britons lived. It indeed had a long history in France with such writers as Chretien de Troyes (fl. 1170), who is considered the first great author of the legend. In England, the first work on the Briton king was written two centuries later with *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (c. 1370). Written in Middle English, the work has been edited and made available to students studying Medieval literature by the Oxford professor J. R. R. Tolkien, author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Thomas Malory (†1471) wrote an extensive number of episodes regarding the king and his knights titled *The Death of Arthur (Le Morte d'Arthur)*, although the work was originally titled *The Book of King Arthur and His Noble Knights of the Round Table*, from which the story "Mixed Fealties" (not Malory's own title) was taken. The Victorian poet Alfred Tennyson (1809–1892) wrote on Arthur in one of the finest narrative poems ever written, titled

Idylls of the King. The work went through several changes as he added to his originally published work in 1859. In his 1888 edition, the work contained twelve poems, arranged chronologically.

Gareth and Lynette
By Alfred Tennyson

About Words and Word Origins

Do you know what a *voucher* is? It is a receipt that shows that you made a purchase or some kind deal. The word comes from a Latin word meaning to call up as a witness for a trial. Related to *voucher* is the word *vouch for*. When you vouch for people, you are proving what they say is true. Suppose a boy is accused of keeping a window in his room open one afternoon and letting rain from a storm come in. He tells his mother that he had closed it. His brother can *vouch for* him by saying, "I saw him close it." Another word related to both words *vouch for* and *voucher* is the word *vouchsafe*, which means to give or say something to another person that requires humbleness.

Vocabulary and Exercises

Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the italicized words. The answers are provided at the end of the exercise.

1. The mother *fondled* her baby.
 - a) caressed
 - b) put to bed
 - c) fed
2. Bob's *venturesome* trip to the East made him the envy of all his friends.
 - a) difficult
 - b) risky
 - c) proud
3. Thomas asked me to stop *hovering* over him.
 - a) begging for a favor
 - b) looking at
 - c) being stationed nearby
4. Did the little children *cleave to* their mother anytime they went out of doors?
 - a) hold tightly onto
 - b) bother
 - c) be noisy and disorderly

5. The villages by the coast were beset by violent *marauders* that had sailed across the sea.
- a) foreigners
 - b) warriors in battle
 - c) those who attack and plunder
6. Was it wrong
That in an hour like that I did not weigh
Too nicely this or that, but granted him
A *boon* that pleased him, and that flattered me?
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- a) a feast
 - b) love letter
 - c) request
7. Tom *harried* the store clerk until he got his money back.
- a) yelled at
 - b) pestered continually
 - c) threatened
8. The shocking news of the president's death made the country *reel* in fear and in anguish.
- a) failed
 - b) stagger
 - c) enter into a fury
9. I can *vouch for* my sister that she is an excellent cook.
- a) say solemnly
 - b) support someone else's claim
 - c) contradict
10. Tim, who is a professional chef, gave some *disdainful* looks at the new restaurant cook's culinary failure.
- a) cheerful
 - b) sly
 - c) showing a lack of respect or regard for
11. When the old man yelled, the noisy children suddenly quieted and *scampered* away.
- a) ran hurriedly

- b) lingered
 - c) acted respectful
12. We watched the butterfly *flit* from flower to flower.
- a) gather pollen
 - b) fly high in the air
 - c) go hurriedly from one place to another
13. The soldier praised his *doughty* regiment.
- a) brave
 - b) cowardly
 - c) poorly armed
14. Politically active, Dan felt that he should *redress* the wrongs of his local government.
- a) put on clothes
 - b) correct
 - c) attack
15. John did not want to *relinquish* his responsibilities at home, although his responsibilities at work may force him to.
- a) give up
 - b) attach
 - c) grab for oneself

Answers: 1) a 2) b 3) c 4) a 5) c 6) c 7) b 8) b 9) b 10) c 11) a 12) c 13) a
14) b 15) a

Exercise 1.3

SUGGESTED WORD

Write down a word that is suggested by the sentence. Not one of the words is used twice. The first sentence has been completed by you.

WORD BANK

~~venturesome~~, hover, cleave, vouch for, disdainful, scamper, flit, doughty, redress, relinquish, marauder

EXAMPLE

Investing all of his family's savings, John's father started a new business.

Answer: venturesome

1. The Vikings made a series of violent raids against the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex.
2. Why do you stand by me all the time?
3. When Ronan and Hugh entered the dark room, little mice raced across the hardwood floor.
4. What a courageous deed it was for the admiral to risk his life and limb for his country!
5. There are many flaws in the educational institution and mistakes of the past that need to be corrected.
6. The young girl stuck by her father the entire time the family was visiting.
7. I will prove that what George is saying is true.
8. Tom looked down on the new portrait artist's recent work and said that it was ill-conceived and sloppily executed.
9. In our conversation, Jack went quickly from political topic to political topic without saying much of anything at all about each.
10. Fred resigned, leaving his work responsibilities to concentrate on his personal problems at home.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What is Gareth described as doing in the beginning of the story?
 - a) cheerily watching a pine tree being caught by a waterfall and thinking of his past adventures
 - b) gloomily musing on his mother's doting and his inability to become one of Arthur's knights
 - c) resentfully pondering his brothers' misdeeds
 - d) negatively thinking of his own abilities and his impossible desire of becoming a brave knight
 - e) watching an enemy of the king being swept away by a waterfall
2. Why does Gawain mention his brother's names (paragraph 2)?
 - a) as examples to prove his own worth
 - b) as examples to show that the knights of Arthur's Round Table are not all what they are supposed to be
 - c) as examples to convince his mother that being a knight in Arthur's Round Table is not difficult
 - d) as examples of cowardliness
 - e) as examples of those who do good in the world

3. Which of the following BEST describes Gareth's father Lot?
 - a) lonely
 - b) cold
 - c) deceased
 - d) guileful and untrustworthy
 - e) old, worn, and senile

4. Why does Gareth tell the story of Fame and Shame?
 - a) to suggest that he will only marry women who are worthy to marry a king's son
 - b) to communicate the idea that to follow King Arthur would not be shameful
 - c) to give an illustration that great things are to be had only by risk and bravery
 - d) to talk in an allegory of the deeds of past knights
 - e) to suggest that he will not marry because he desires to devote himself to the king

5. Which of the following BEST describes Lynette when she enters King Arthur's court and asks for a boon?
 - a) uncouth
 - b) haughty
 - c) submissive
 - d) nostalgic
 - e) playful

6. How is Sir Kay portrayed in the story?
 - a) as common and not very knightly
 - b) as cowardly
 - c) as the only knight who knows Gareth's worth
 - d) as fawning
 - e) as more noble than Lancelot

7. Which of the following knights was supposed to be the most difficult for Gareth to defeat and which was truly the most difficult to defeat, respectively?
 - a) Morning Star Noonday Sun
 - b) Evening Star Morning Star
 - c) Death Evening Star
 - d) Noonday Sun Death
 - e) Noonday Sun Morning Star

“Give it back to Lancelot,” said she. “O curse my tongue that was reviling you so today.

8. Which of the following best defines the word *reviling* (printed in bold in the text) as it is used in the story, reprinted above?
 - a) praising
 - b) dawdling
 - c) singing gaily
 - d) severely criticizing
 - e) objecting to
9. Which of the following BEST identifies Lynette’s attitude toward Gareth as the story progresses?
 - a) from love to disrespect
 - b) from unwilling obedience to unwilling admission of his abilities
 - c) from awe to doubt
 - d) from reluctance to trust to great hatred
 - e) from complete disdain to wonder, love and respect
10. Which of the following is NOT true of the last knight that Gareth must face?
 - a) He is representative of death.
 - b) He is dressed in horrible and threatening garb.
 - c) All who see him fear him, including Lancelot.
 - d) The knight was really an old man who turned into a young boy.
 - e) In order to defeat him, Gareth had to first defeat his brothers.

Questions for Class Discussion

1. How is Gareth characterized or portrayed in Tennyson’s work? Find specific narrative and descriptive passages to support your answer. How does this depiction support the plot and theme?
2. How is Gareth’s mother characterized in the work? Is she typical of mothers in the way they treat their sons? How does her concern and love for Gareth prevent him from doing great things?
3. Explain the “Fame” and “Shame” allegory that Gareth tells his mother in the beginning of the story. What exactly is Fame and Shame as it is personified? (Often we think of fame in a negative light—as achieving celebrity status—, but that is not what is suggested in the poem.)
4. Explain Gareth’s exclamation at the beginning of the story: “I have become a man, and a man’s work must I do. Follow the deer? No. I will follow the

- Christ, the King. I will live pure, speak true, right wrong, and follow the King. Why else was I born?" What do the words tell about Gareth and why he wants to go to Arthur's court?
5. Finally Gareth's mother gives into her son's request and allows him to leave home to serve at Arthur's court. What are the conditions that she sets up? Why does she set up those conditions, and what significance do the conditions have on the story's theme?
 6. Idealism is a way of looking at the world. An idealist says, "I can make this world a better place by doing great things," even though there is nothing that may encourage that thought. An idealist sees the world as it should be and does not flinch from striving for that perfection. How does Gareth show his idealism in this story? What great things does Gareth achieve through his idealism? What works against his goals?
 7. The poem "Gareth and Lynette" was originally published with a larger group of poems in a work titled *Idylls of the King*. The grand theme that ties all of the poems together involves the idealism of the Christian church and the forces, such as skepticism and evil intent, that attack those ideals. *Idylls of the King* is somewhat allegorical, as is the individual poem "Gareth and Lynette." In all of the poems that make up the larger work, Arthur represents Christ, his adulterous wife Guinevere represents the church, and the various men and women who want to destroy Camelot represent the lurking evil, demonic and human, that want to see the church and its influence destroyed. Attempt to interpret "Gareth and Lynette" as an allegory. What do the various rogue knights represent? What is the theme of the allegory?

Literary Terms: Allegory

An allegory is a story, poem, play or other work that has two levels of meaning. The literal level is the plot line, while the figurative level is what the characters, events places and other details of the works all represent. On a literal level "Gareth and Lynette" is a story about a young man who enters the court of Arthur, taking on a humble position and who after his year of servitude goes out on a quest to save a woman in distress. He overthrows three knights and an apparently formidable fourth with courage, strength and perseverance. On a figurative level, Gareth represents faith and humility; his quest represents the walk of faith and the courage it requires; and Gareth's defeat of the last knight represents faith's victory over death.

Boadicea

By William Cowper

About Words and Word Origins

One of the most famous dates in English history is 1215, the year in which King John signed a document called the Magna Carta. A rascally king, John immediately violated the agreement, which he signed only because he was forced to. Despite his refusal to abide by the agreement—and the refusal of other kings after him (such as the tyrant Henry VIII)—, the document has been the sort of gold standard by which kings were to rule, along with other documents such as the Petition of Right, which Charles I signed. England, then, is said to be a constitutional monarchy, which means that it is in a sense “ruled” by a king or queen, but his or her power is limited by various laws that have been passed throughout the centuries. The word *monarchy* comes from the Greek roots *μόνος* (*mono*, meaning alone) and *ἀρχή* (*arch*, meaning rule). There are other words dealing with forms of government that use the stem *arch*, including *oligarchy* (rule by a few). There are still other words dealing with government that use the root *κρατία* (*kratia*) meaning strength or power. The words *democracy* (rule of the people), *ochlocracy* (rule of the mob), and *plutocracy* (rule of the rich) all use this root.

Vocabulary and Exercises

indignant (adjective) angry

When Mark took her answer sheet without asking, his sister became indignant.

mien (noun) the look on one’s face; the way one acts

The children were intimidated by the old man’s somber mien.

hoary (adjective) white with age

Megan’s mother recognized her old Sunday school teacher by his hoary head.

Gaul (proper noun) in ancient history an area belonging to the Roman Empire located in present-day Europe

The Roman Empire’s collapse was imminent after the fierce warriors from Gaul sacked Rome.

progeny (noun) offspring; descendants

The Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization that consists of the female progeny of those involved with the American War for Independence.

posterity (noun) future generations

He was writing his journal not just for himself, but also for his posterity.

bard (noun) minstrel; poet

The Anglo-Saxon bard told the story of the Battle of Brunanburh.

lyre (noun) an ancient instrument resembling a harp

While the minstrel played the lyre, the king's guests ate at the table.

hurl (verb) to throw violently

Sitting on top of the roof, Noah and Nate hurled the lumber onto the ground.

vengeance (noun) revenge

Richard's cousin was angry that his sister had done what she had, and out of vengeance, he spoiled her cake.

celestial (adjective) heaving to do with the sky; heavenly

Through his powerful telescope, we viewed the stars and other celestial orbs.

bestow (verb) to give, especially in ceremony

The principal of the school bestowed many academic awards on Catherine and Megan.

sage (noun) wise man

As if he were some old sage, Brendan was always consulted by his brothers Andrew and Collin for advice.

monarch (noun) ruler of a kingdom; a king or queen

They thought that once the monarch was put on the throne, peace and prosperity would reign in England.

invincible (noun) unable to be overtaken

Admiral Howard and Francis Drake proved that the Spanish fleet of ships was indeed not invincible.

Exercise 1.4

FILL IN THE BLANK

Use one of the following words from the word bank to complete the sentences below.

WORD BANK

indignant, mien, hoary, Gaul, progeny, posterity, bard, lyre, hurl, vengeance

EXAMPLE

After the king meets with the ambassadors, he will ___ his servants to lead them out of his palace.

Answer: bid

1. The old man combed his ___ head before he made his reply.
2. The constitution was framed not for just those living then but for ___.
3. You must have done something very bad to Bob to make him so ___.
4. The bard played his ___ while he sang a song about the battle between his people and the Picts.
5. Why were the warriors of ___ not able to defeat Julius Caesar?
6. The ancient man sat in a chair at the family reunion, surrounded by all of his ___.
7. It was amazing to watch the shot put throwers ___ their heavy metal projectiles with one enormous thrust of the arm.
8. When Sally ate the slice of cake that was meant for Sam, he took ___ on her by eating the last of the ice cream.
9. We could not tell by his serious ___ whether Brendan and Jonathan were gladdened or saddened by the news.
10. The ancient ___ not only were poets but also often musicians and singers.

Exercise 1.5

ANALOGIES

Write down the letter next to the relationship that most resembles the one given in small capitals.

EXAMPLE. NIGHT : DARK ::

- a) sky : sunny
- b) sample : fresh
- c) table : convenient
- d) day : light
- e) heater : cold

Answer: d

1. INDIGNANT : ANGRY ::
 - a) clean : impure

- b) indirect : individual
 - c) ugly : ornate
 - d) furious : simple
 - e) frowzy : shabby
2. CELESTIAL : EARTHLY ::
- a) poisonous : harmless
 - b) autumnal : seasonal
 - c) adequate : suitable
 - d) swampy : muddy
 - e) heavenly : angelic
3. BESTOW : GIVE ::
- a) sell : present
 - b) unite : disband
 - c) want : show
 - d) purchase : buy
 - e) convince : determine
4. SAGE : FOOLISH ::
- a) meadow : rustic
 - b) enemy : friendly
 - c) rubbish : smelly
 - d) example : good
 - e) genius : tricky
5. MONARCH : QUEEN ::
- a) baron : land
 - b) tournament : knight
 - c) court : king
 - d) count : castle
 - e) author : poetess
6. BARD : SHAKESPEARE ::
- a) lexicographer : Webster
 - b) poet : song writer
 - c) fence : barbed wire
 - d) summer : season
 - e) table : food
7. INVINCIBLE : CONQUERED ::
- a) just : fairness

- b) incorrigible : corrected
 - c) sinister : faulty
 - d) playful : infantile
 - e) bookish : excited
8. ANCESTRY : POSTERITY ::
- a) Roman : ancient
 - b) scribe : secretary
 - c) age : birthday
 - d) Middle Ages : Renaissance
 - e) stencil : painting
9. HOARY : YOUNG ::
- a) berated : hairy
 - b) forgetful : covetous
 - c) modern : contemporary
 - d) cheerful : sad
 - e) sly : heavy
10. HURL : THROW ::
- a) embark : leave
 - b) advance : retreat
 - c) finish : varnish
 - d) dodge : skip
 - e) scourge : punish

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Which of the following BEST identifies what the Briton queen was doing as she sought the “counsel of her country’s gods”?
 - a) looking for advice on what she should do from injustices that she has received
 - b) telling the Druid priest to join with her in war against the Romans
 - c) worshiping her gods
 - d) seeking forgiveness from her gods
 - e) commiserating with her people
2. Which of the following does NOT identify what caused the rage and grief of the hoary chief, talked about in line 4 of stanza 2?
 - a) the “counsel” mentioned in stanza 1
 - b) the “rods” mentioned in stanza 1
 - c) “the blood that she has spilt” mentioned in stanza 3

- d) the “trampling” mentioned in stanza 5
 - e) the “pride” talked about in stanza 5
3. A *metonym* is a kind of metaphor in which a word is used to mean something that is closely associated with it. For example, the word *crown* is often used as a metonym for a king. A king’s crown is a symbol of his power, so it is naturally associated with it. Thus, when we say “a decree from the crown,” we mean a “decree from the king.” What is the word “Rome” (stanza 4, line 1) a metonym for?
- a) the Roman government, people or soldiers
 - b) Roman priests
 - c) indignation
 - d) Roman pride
 - e) the Gauls
4. Which of the following BEST identifies what will be the cause of Rome’s downfall according to the Druid (stanza 4)?
- a) Their unjust actions will come back at them.
 - b) The Briton’s forgiveness of their evil deed will make them feel guilty.
 - c) They will soon have too much land to defend.
 - d) Their love of luxury will make them weak.
 - e) They will not have enough labor to support their way of living.
5. In stanza 5, the Roman Empire is described to be all of the following EXCEPT ____?
- a) famous
 - b) cruel
 - c) proud
 - d) vulnerable
 - e) loving
6. What does the Druid predict in stanza 5?
- a) a barbarian invasion in Rome
 - b) Roman decay of morals
 - c) an improvement of the city, beginning at the gates
 - d) a glorious future for Rome
 - e) another empire that will be built
7. Which of the following is meant by “other Romans” in stanza 6?
- a) descendants of the Romans
 - b) more merciful Romans
 - c) other kingdoms or nations

- d) Roman priests
 - e) the Druids
8. Which of the following BEST describes stanza 7?
- a) a prophecy of doom for the Britons
 - b) a more detailed explanation of the prophecy given in stanza 6
 - c) a contradiction of what the Druid has said in the previous stanzas
 - d) a prophecy of the coming of Julius Caesar referred to in the next stanza
 - e) a dream of future happiness in heaven
9. According to the Druid, who shall a “wider world command” (stanza 7)?
- a) the “posterity” of Rome
 - b) Julius Caesar
 - c) the birds and beasts of England, meaning the natural world
 - d) the descendants of the Britons
 - e) the Druid gods
10. Which of the following BEST summarizes stanza 7?
- a) The birds of the prey will devour the Roman soldiers who have died in battle.
 - b) The Britons will rule over regions of the earth that Rome never traveled to.
 - c) The so-called invincible posterity of the Romans will flee from the battle with Queen Boadicea.
 - d) The Roman army, once thought invincible, will eventually become weak.
 - e) Julius Caesar will come and take revenge against his own people for their cruelty

Literary Terms: Nemesis

The word *nemesis* literally means “justice” or “revenge.” We say that a villain meets his nemesis when he encounters a person who repays his evil deeds in a very fitting way. In literature we have a lot of stories in which villains get “their just desserts,” or meet their nemesis. In the Robin Hood stories, for example, the Sheriff of Nottingham—a greedy, grasping noble who works for the king—seeks to get Robin Hood into his clutches so that he can see him executed. But the Sheriff’s tricks often fall on his own head.

In the *Odyssey*, the evil suitors of Penelope (the wife of Odysseus) meet their nemesis when Odysseus returns after his twenty-year absence disguised as a beggar. The suitors mock the beggar, but at the crucial moment, Odysseus

takes off his disguise and punishes the suitors for pestering his wife, plotting to kill his son and devouring his household wealth.

One of the most interesting stories of a villain meeting his nemesis is in the Bible, specifically in the Old Testament Book of Esther. In the book, we read of an evil Persian man named Haman who hates the Jewish people and speaks evil of them to the king. Particularly, he harbors a passionate hatred toward a Jewish man named Mordecai because he will not bow down to him in honor. Haman plots the destruction of Mordecai and builds an enormous gallows for him to hang on. Unfortunately for him, he meets his nemesis as the king finds out about his wicked plot and hangs his servant on the very gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.