

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	OLHS English	School:	OLHS
Book Title:	Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	Genre:	Historical fiction
Author:	J.R.R. Tolkien	Pages:	214
Publisher:	Ballantine Books	Copyright:	1975

In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Book Summary and summary citation: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

Written by a medieval poet whose name is unknown, and comparable with the works of Chaucer, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, and Sir Orfeo are masterpieces of a remote and exotic age - the age of chivalry and wizards, knights and holy quests. Yet it is only in the unique artistry and imagination of J.R.R. Tolkien that the language of these great stories comes to life for modern readers in these masterful and compelling translations.

The centerpiece of this brilliant collection, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, is a tale as lush and dark as England's medieval forests. It is romance interlaced with scenes of the hunt and temptations of the flesh; it is a fairy tale of giant warriors in armor and King Arthur's most noble knight; and it is a rousing adventure of epic enchantment and the destiny of human desires.

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is a classic tale of King Arthur's most pure knight, Gawain. This text is used in the CP English 12 course to further our thematic studies of the role of the hero, the value and power of language and the relevance of class systems.

Additionally, the following curriculum indicators will be addressed in this unit of study:

Acquisition of Vocabulary: 2, 3. Reading process: 6, 7. Reading application: 12, 13. Reading application Literary: 18, 20, 21. Writing process 1,2,3. Writing application: 10. Writing conventions: 15, 16, 17

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

From Amazon .com - Back Cover copy*

The study of Sir Gawain, the finest of all the English medieval romances, was signally advanced by the publication in 1925 of the edition by the late Professors Tolkien and Gordon. This remained the most widely used text of the poem; but after forty years the time came for revision.

The new edition pursues the aim of the first--to present an accurate text pleasantly, with sufficient apparatus to enable a reader to understand the rich but difficult language, and so to reach for himself an informed appreciation of the poem. The text, and the uniquely full glossary, were revised to take account of recent views. The Introduction, Notes, and Linguistic Appendix were largely rewritten; and the book was entirely reset. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

* Professional reviews of this text have been difficult to locate; however, this text is a full-length version of the excerpt of Sir Gawain found in the board-adopted textbook for CP English 12.

Review #2

From About.com*

SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT, PEARL, and SIR ORFEO are masterpieces of a remote and exotic age--the age of chivalry and wizards, knights and holy quests. Yet it is only in the unique artistry and imagination of J.R.R. Tolken that the language, romance, and power of these great stories comes to life for modern readers, in this masterful and compelling new translation.

* Professional reviews of this text have been difficult to locate; however, this text is a full-length version of the excerpt of Sir Gawain found in the board-adopted textbook for CP English 12.

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

<u>Title:</u> Sir Gawain from HRW textbook - Very limited	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u> The Once and Future King	<u>Author:</u> T.H. White
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

Document any potentially controversial content:

In the fantasy poem, Sir Gawain beheads the Green Knight (who picks it up and walks out of the building). Later, Sir Gawain is tempted to kiss another man's wife.

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated Regular At Risk

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Reading level of this title (if applicable): High school/college

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 9/24/07

Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults