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LITERATURE CURRICULUM III--TEST FOR "LEGENDS OF KING ARTHUR."

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LITERATURE CURRICULUM III:

Test for LEGENDS OF KING ARTHUR

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**OREGON CURRICULUM STUDY CENTER**

**Literature Curriculum III**

**TEST: Legends of King Arthur**

**Instructions to students:**

Answers to the questions are to be recorded on the separate answer sheets provided. **PLEASE BE SURE TO USE ONLY SIDE A OF THE ANSWER SHEET, THE SIDE THAT HAS ROOM FOR 5 CHOICES.**

Use a soft lead pencil (#2 or softer) and completely fill the space between the lines for the response you choose as the correct answer. Your score on this test will be the number of correct answers you mark. There is only one best answer for each item.

Sample test item: Who is the chief executive of the United States Government?  
(1) The President  
(2) The Secretary of State  
(3) The Secretary of Defense  
(4) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Since the correct answer is 1, the answer sheet is marked like this:

Sample test item:      1      2      3      4      5  
                                            

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1. **King Arthur's real father was**
  - 1) **Sir Ector**
  - 2) **King Lot**
  - 3) **King Uther**
  - 4) **Sir Ulfius**
  
2. **The noblemen continued to delay the coronation of Arthur because they**
  - 1) **feared he would be a cruel, selfish king**
  - 2) **disliked the idea of a young king**
  - 3) **feared his magical powers**
  - 4) **feared losing their own authority and power**
  
3. **The pulling of the sword from the stone by Arthur symbolized that he received his right to rule from**
  - 1) **the people**
  - 2) **witches**
  - 3) **divine power**
  - 4) **nature**
  
4. **Who was Merlin?**
  - 1) **a legendary dragon feared by knights**
  - 2) **Archbishop of Canterbury**
  - 3) **Arthur's foster father**
  - 4) **a mythical character with special powers**
  
5. **Why did Arthur fight wars soon after he became king?**
  - 1) **England was invaded by the Romans.**
  - 2) **He had to establish his kingdom by defeating his opposition.**
  - 3) **He was greedy for more land.**
  - 4) **He had to complete the wars that were in progress when he became king.**
  
6. **The central idea in this story is that**
  - 1) **a person's life is sometimes determined by things which he cannot control**
  - 2) **a selfish monarch can be successful**
  - 3) **each individual completely controls his own life**
  - 4) **mankind can create a permanent ideal society**
  
7. **Which one of the following aspects of the story compare to something found in present day life?**
  - 1) **the political moves Arthur made to establish his kingdom**
  - 2) **the supernatural powers of people like Merlin**
  - 3) **the selfishness of the ruler**
  - 4) **the gentlemen's dedication to ladies**

8. King Arthur had all the children who were born on May 1 drowned because
- 1) an angel in a dream commanded him to do so
  - 2) his kingdom was becoming too populated
  - 3) Merlin told him his eventual conqueror was born on May 1st
  - 4) he wanted to symbolize the cruelty of spring
9. What is significant about the fact that Mordred escaped drowning?
- 1) Every man can avoid death if he tries hard enough.
  - 2) "Two wrongs do not make a right."
  - 3) Man alone cannot change the course of destiny.
  - 4) Crime does pay sometimes.
10. What significance is attached to the magical events (especially the sword) in King Arthur's life?
- 1) Magic is included for the reader's entertainment.
  - 2) They show that man needs help beyond himself.
  - 3) They simply help the narrator get Arthur out of impossible situations.
  - 4) Magic did exist in the past but lost its power as men became evil.
11. Who objected most to Arthur marrying Guenever?
- 1) Launcelot
  - 2) Guenever's father
  - 3) the Archbishop of Canterbury
  - 4) Merlin
12. One of the themes of the Arthurian legend is the establishment of an ideal society. What event shows us early in the story that this is humanly impossible?
- 1) Igraine kills her third son.
  - 2) Arthur marries Guenever.
  - 3) King Lot banishes Gawaine.
  - 4) Arthur has a child by his half-sister.
13. The Round Table represents
- 1) the future
  - 2) the fellowship of knights
  - 3) the war-like nature of man
  - 4) the ideal life

Part II

14. In Part II "The Tale of Sir Gareth or Beaumains" follows a formula that is as old as storytelling itself. The formula is
- 1) love, revenge, death
  - 2) adventure, crime, punishment
  - 3) heroism, adventure, reward
  - 4) none of these

15. One of the purposes of a disguised hero such as Beaumains is to
- 1) lengthen the narrative
  - 2) make the story less suspenseful
  - 3) test the true nobility of other characters in the story
  - 4) confuse the reader
16. Gareth finds that all of King Arthur's knights are courteous to him, even though he is disguised, except
- 1) King Arthur himself
  - 2) Gawaine
  - 3) Sir Kay
  - 4) Launcelot
17. One of the most important purposes of this story about Gareth, Linet and Dame Liones is to
- 1) explain and praise the knightly way of life
  - 2) reveal the wickedness of women
  - 3) introduce the theme of revenge
  - 4) shock the reader
18. This story of Beaumains also illustrates that if a man succeeds in his meetings with humiliation and danger he will be
- 1) envied
  - 2) disappointed
  - 3) rewarded
  - 4) conceited instead of thankful
19. Gareth endures the bad treatment of the damsel Linet because he is
- 1) convinced she will change
  - 2) blinded by love of her wealth
  - 3) foolish
  - 4) an ideal gentleman of that time
20. The code of chivalry and courtly love required that the lady be
- 1) treated as man's equal
  - 2) obeyed in all things
  - 3) taught reverence of man
  - 4) sheltered from any encounters with knights
21. The fair damsel Linet said she objected to Gareth because he was merely .
- 1) a foreign knight
  - 2) a young braggart
  - 3) a smelly kitchen knave
  - 4) a commoner

22. What was the fate of the Red Knight's victims? They were
- 1) hung from trees
  - 2) drowned in the lake
  - 3) beheaded
  - 4) forced to joust
23. Gareth spared the Red Knight's life because the Red Knight claimed he had killed his victims cruelly when he had been commanded to do so by
- 1) a fair lady seeking revenge
  - 2) a witch of the Red Lands
  - 3) his King Ban
  - 4) Sir Pechance
24. The significance of the Seat Perilous is that it is reserved for the knight
- 1) who has had the most successes in battle
  - 2) who has the perfectly pure soul
  - 3) who defeats King Arthur
  - 4) who has the most wealth
25. The completion of the seating at the Round Table marked the beginning of the kingdom's
- 1) fame
  - 2) eternal happiness
  - 3) power
  - 4) decline
26. Galahad, the son of Launcelot, represents
- 1) the supernatural powers that destroy evil men
  - 2) the decline of knighthood
  - 3) Launcelot himself reborn in a state of innocence
  - 4) Christ
27. Launcelot failed in the quest for the Holy Grail because he
- 1) died before he could find the Grail
  - 2) loved Guenever, wife of King Arthur
  - 3) was a coward
  - 4) feared Christian truths
28. The quest for the Holy Grail symbolizes man's search for
- 1) the reason for his poor existence
  - 2) the impossible goal
  - 3) material well-being
  - 4) spiritual wholeness which has been lost through sin

29. Why did Galahad ask for death?

- 1) He was a coward.
- 2) He wanted to be a martyr.
- 3) He did not wish to humiliate his father Launcelot who had failed in his search for the Grail.
- 4) He chose happiness of the spirit over possible happiness found in the world.

30. Galahad's mother was

- 1) Guenever
- 2) Lady of the Lake
- 3) Elaine
- 4) Linet

31. Why did King Arthur regret Gawaine's and the other knights' decision to seek the Holy Grail?

- 1) He foresaw the end of his great kingdom.
- 2) He wished to be the finder of the Holy Grail.
- 3) He wanted Galahad to find it.
- 4) He knew this meant Guenever really cared for Launcelot.

32. How did Galahad sum up his opinion of the world when he is on his deathbed?

- 1) He considered it to be as good as can be expected.
- 2) He said it is a wicked world.
- 3) He said it was in a constant state of change.
- 4) He thought the future for life on earth would be better because of his search for the Grail.

33. The basic reason for the fall of Arthur's kingdom is

- 1) his son Mordred
- 2) man's imperfection
- 3) his incompetence as a ruler
- 4) mankind's impatience

34. When Arthur learns of Guenever's unfaithfulness he demands that she be

- 1) burned to death
- 2) banished from his kingdom
- 3) hanged
- 4) imprisoned

35. One reason Gawaine swears to do battle against Launcelot is because Launcelot killed his

- 1) father
- 2) wife
- 3) sister-in-law, the Dame of Lioness
- 4) brothers



36. Who charged King Arthur to take Guenever back?
- 1) the Pope
  - 2) the Archbishop
  - 3) Merlin
  - 4) Mordred
37. King Arthur would have stopped warring against Launcelot were it not for the vengeance of
- 1) King Ban
  - 2) Sir Bors
  - 3) Mordred
  - 4) Gawaine
38. The returning of the sword to the Lake is significant because it represents
- 1) Launcelot's downfall
  - 2) the end of Arthur's mission
  - 3) the Lady of the Lake's selfishness
  - 4) the beginning of Arthur's suffering
39. What does Guenever do after Arthur's death?
- 1) reigns as Queen
  - 2) kills herself
  - 3) enters a nunnery
  - 4) marries Launcelot
40. An important theme in this story is that
- 1) perfection cannot be attained in this world
  - 2) love is often responsible for a happy society
  - 3) only perfect men like Arthur can create a perfect world
  - 4) no man is an island