

Malory: Questions to Consider

1. Compare the portrayal of Arthur's birth in Malory and Geoffrey of Monmouth. Especially, you may want to consider the role of Ygerne.
2. Explore the political events that lead to Arthur's coronation and subsequent rise in power in both Geoffrey and Malory.
3. Compare the role of Kay in Malory and in Chrètien.
4. Why does Malory call Balin and Balan "two passing good knights as ever were in those days." How can this statement be justified?
5. Explain the "dolorous stroke." Is Balin responsible for the events that follow?
6. Discuss Pelleas's and Gawain's motives in "Pelleas and Ettard."
7. Explain the justice meted out at the conclusion of "Pelleas and Ettard."
8. Describe the supernatural events that occur in Malory's text. How do they contribute to plot?
9. Consider Elaine's and Guenivere's actions and motives in "Lancelot and Elaine." Place their reactions in the context of courtly love.
10. Consider Dame Brusen in connection with other manipulative women in the romance tradition, such as Morgan le Fay in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and Lunette in "The Knight with the Lion."