

Geoffrey of Monmouth
Questions for Consideration

1. Describe the events leading up to Arthur's conception.
2. How does Uther die?
3. Describe Arthur's coronation. What does he do upon gaining the crown?
4. Find a few of the battle scenes, and describe some effective medieval battle tactics.
5. How does Arthur become a legend (e.g., note details about him that seem larger than life or heroic)?
6. What role do supernatural events, dreams, and magic play in the text? What could be the purpose of obviously fantastic elements in a work that calls itself 'history'?
7. Why does Geoffrey of Monmouth portray the Romans so negatively?
8. What religious elements do you find in the text, and what seems to be their purpose?
9. Find examples of *comitatus*, or the relationship between uncle and nephew.
10. Are women important in this text? Explain your response.
11. Do any characters' names appear that you recognize (other than Arthur)? Identify and describe. Remember that swords and horses could easily be considered as characters in an Arthurian tale.
12. How does the fight begin between Arthur's men and the Roman troops?
13. Discuss Mordred's treachery.
14. What happens to Arthur in his battle with Mordred?