

Name _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Study Guide/Questions for “A Knight’s Tale” – THIS IS A QUIZ GRADE

Connecting the film to “The Canterbury Tales”

If you are absent for any part of the film: Read “A Knight’s Tale” plot summary on IMDB:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0183790/plotsummary>

Include as many details as you can for each of the following characters:

**The Knight
Aka Sir Ulrich
von Lichtenstein from Geldeland**

His Squires

His Lady

His Enemy

His Liege Lord

His father

Define **ANACHRONISM**:

Identify any FIVE anachronisms from the entire movie:

Choose ANY TEN of the following PLOT questions to answer IN COMPLETE SENTENCES:

1. How does William become a “knight?”
2. According to the rules of feudalism, why would William *never* be allowed to be a knight?
3. What does William mean when he says “*A man can change his stars*” after his first joust posing as Sir Ector?
4. As William is convincing Wat and Roland to go along with his scheme, he mentions the unfairness of the system that only allows nobility to be knights. What is his argument?
5. What is a clear difference between Geoffrey Chaucer and William, Wat, and Roland?
6. Why is it not surprising that William, Wat, and Roland had not heard of Chaucer or his book “The Book of the Duchess?”
7. When William asks her to speak, Jocelyn replies “But sir, my sex are marred by their silence.” Also, when Kate is asking about Williams’ armor, she says “Do they say I can’t do it because I’m a woman?” What does this show you about the role of women in the Middle Ages?
8. Chaucer serves as William’s *herald*, introducing him to the crowd before a joust. Why is this appropriate to what you know about Chaucer?
9. William jousts Sir Thomas Colville in Rouen, but instead of defeating him after Colville is injured, William honors his request to keep his honor intact. How does he do this and what does this show about William?

10. How does this pay off for William later in the story when the true identity of Colville is revealed
LATER IN THE MOVIE?

11. When William is knocked unconscious briefly, his mind returns to his childhood and a conversation with his father. What do you learn about him?

12. When Chaucer tells the men who threaten to hurt him for a debt that “I will eviscerate you in fiction – every last pimple, every last character flaw. I was naked for a day. You will be naked for eternity” what does he mean?

13. In his third joust, William defeats his opponent after he is told “His people starve while he sits at a banquet.” Why does this inspire William to fight harder?

14. Who did Sir Thomas Colville turn out to be? _____ Why did he disguise himself?

15. In what country do the jousting tournaments take place? What nationality are William and his knights?

16. William and his fellow squires speak English, as do Chaucer and Jocelyn. Given the location of their tournaments and the level of society each represents, what language *should* each character speak?

William: _____ Wat & Roland: _____

Jocelyn: _____ Count Adhemar: _____

Chaucer: _____

17. William has a flashback on the barge traveling back to England of when he was first placed in service to Sir Ector. For how long was his commitment and why would his father send him away?

18. After William is found out to be a phony, Jocelyn says she is willing to run away with him, even if it means living in a hovel with pigs because the poor can marry for love. Why is this a true statement of life in the Middle Ages?

19. Prince Edward knights William after William has been in the stockade. Why does he do this and does it fit with what you know about the rules of chivalry and knighthood?

20. William continues to fight in the final joust even after his is seriously injured. Why does he do this?

OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS (MUST BE ANSWERED):

Did watching this movie help you understand the Middle Ages and *The Canterbury Tales*? If so, how? If not, why not?

Did you enjoy *A Knight's Tale*? Would you recommend it to a friend? What makes it a good story? (use literary elements like plot, character, setting, theme in your answer.)