

The Representation of the Middle Ages in *A Knight's Tale*

Overview: This week, we will be watching the movie *A Knight's Tale*. This movie is set in Medieval England and focuses on the life story of a peasant as he seeks to change his social status through participation in the medieval tournament games. This movie contains both factual and fictional representations and information.

While we watch this movie, you will be responsible for taking notes on your observations in three different categories. These categories are: Social Status, Women's Roles, and Lifestyle. In order to earn full credit for your notes, you must have at least **five** notes/observations per category. As you take notes, keep the response questions at the bottom of this page in mind; your notes should help you to respond to these questions!

Social Status	Women's Roles	Lifestyle
Example: It is clear that social status is very important in this society. This is shown by....	Example: Women are clearly looked down upon. This is shown when...	Example: It is strange to me that people do not seem to have jobs...etc.

After the movie:

After we finish this movie, you will be responding to **two** of the questions below. These responses should be thoughtful, quality writing. Each response should be **AT LEAST** a full paragraph, although it may take more writing to earn an A. See the grading rubric below.

Questions:

1. How does the depiction of social status in the movie compare to what we learned about social status in class? Use examples from the movie to show how it is an accurate/inaccurate representation of the social system of the time. (Remember what the system was called...!)
2. How does the depiction of women's roles in the movie compare to the information we learned about women in the middle ages? If you do not feel that you retained enough info in class to answer this question, you may need to do further research on women in the Middle Ages. Use examples from the movie to back up your position.
3. Based on your notes/observations about the depiction of lifestyle in the movie, how does life in the middle ages compare to life in modern times? What aspects are similar and/or different? Use examples from the movie to compare/contrast life then to life now.

<p>To earn an A, responses must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be well written with proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. - be long enough to show effort, thought and to answer the question completely -use specific examples from the movie -show student knowledge of the middle ages 	<p>To earn a B, responses must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -be well written with only minor grammatical, spelling and punctuation problems. -be long enough to show effort, thought, and to answer the majority of the question. -use general references to the movie -show some understanding of the middle ages 	<p>Responses that earn a C will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -be one full paragraph -show effort in writing, although reading may be made difficult by spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors. -use very little evidence and few examples from the movie - show very little understanding of the middle ages -leave important parts of the question unanswered
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