**Sir Gawain and the Green Knight** Reading Questions

**Book 3:**

1. What animal does the lord hunt the first day?

   *Deer- female does; stags were left alone*

2. What happens to Gawain while he is still in bed?

   *The Lady of the castle comes in to his room and sits on his bed.*
   
   What does he pretend to do?

   *He wakes up but pretends to be still asleep to avoid the situation.*

   What happens when he finally "wakes up"?

   *The Lady flirts and teases with him- says that she snuck up on him and could have tied him up.*

   What metaphor do the lady and Gawain use?

   *The metaphor of the hunt or battle.*

   What does the lady seem to have in mind?

   *She wants to seduce him- offer him her body.*

   How does Gawain respond?

   *He says that he cannot give her what she wants- she is married and he is too honorable for that. If they were both single he would be more than happy to be her love. He basically talks her out of her plans by simply talking all day!*

   Why, as the lady is leaving, does she say "But our guest is not Gawain"?

   *He is not giving her what she wants so she says he can’t be the famous Gawain.*

   What does she give Gawain?

   *A kiss.*

3. What happens in the last part of the first day’s hunt?

   *They capture, butcher and divide up the deer.*
What does the lord give Gawain when he returns home?

*He gives him the meat.*

What does Gawain give the lord?

*A kiss.*

What do they agree on for the second day?

*The same thing- a gift of the winnings for a gift of the winnings.*

4. What animal does the lord hunt the second day?

*A boar (wild pig)*

5. What happens to Gawain the second day?

*The Lady of the castle comes to him again but this time he is awake and ready for her. Again she tries to seduce him and again he talks her out of it.*

How does he respond differently this time?

*He still flirts but he counters her logic. She says that he isn’t the true Gawain otherwise he would teach her the ways of love. He again says that he is doing the honorable thing/chivalrous thing like a true knight should.*

Why does the lady complain?

*She asks what the problem is- is she too young and inexperienced. She is trying to get her way and convince him to take her.*

What does she ask him to do?

*To take her body for his own.*

What does the lady give him?

*2 kisses.*

6. What happens in the last part of the second day’s hunt?

*The Lord corners and captures the boar on his own.*
What does the lord give Gawain when he returns home?

_The boar's head on a stick._

What does Gawain give the lord?

_2 kisses._

What do they agree on for the third day?

_The same arrangement._

What is bothering Gawain?

_He is worrying about the following days and his meeting with the Green Knight._

7. What animal does the lord hunt the third day?

_A fox._

8. What happens to Gawain the third day?

_Again- the lady tries to seduce him. She comes to him nearly naked. She greets him with a kiss. He is worried that she will ask him to take her in which case he can't refuse. This will compromise his values._

What is the meaning of the narrator's warning?

What choices does Gawain have?

_He can keep the sash and her secret and save his life OR he can give the sash to the lord and stay chivalrous but lose his life._

9. What does the lady give Gawain during her visit?

_2 kisses. She then tries to give him a token of love- a ruby ring which he refuses saying that he can't give her anything in return._

What does the lady ask for as she leaves?

_A token of love from him._

What can Gawain give her?

_Nothing._
Why doesn't he accept the ring from him?

*Because he has nothing to give her in return.*

What object does he accept from her?

*She then gives him another kiss. She then offers him a green sash/girdle that has the power to protect him from harm.*

Why does he accept it? What does it look like?

*He accepts but then she asks him to keep it secret from her husband. It is embroidered green silk.*

10. **What does Gawain do differently after the lady leaves?**

*He goes to confession.*

What is ironic about this?

*He cannot tell anyone about the sash except the priest- he is trying to be absolved for his sin of keeping the sash and wanting to live*

What should Gawain have included in his confession that he probably didn't because it was only planned at that point but hadn't actually occurred?

*He should have told how he was to keep the sash a secret from the Lord of the castle.*

11. **What happens in the last part of the third day’s hunt?**

*The Lord grabs the fox out of the mouths of the dogs.*

What color is "Sir Reynard" the fox, and how is he treated?

*Color- red? He is treated as the prize.*

Does his color remind you of anything?

*The red in Sir Gawain's armor?*

12. **What happens differently when the lord returns home on the third day? Why?**

*This time Gawain gives the lord his kisses first before he can present his winnings- probably because he is so nervous about what he has accepted and has to hide from the Lord of the castle.*
Does Gawain meet the terms of his oath?

No- since he hides the fact that he has the green girdle/sash.

How well does Gawain sleep that night? Why?

He doesn't sleep well at all- he has nightmares and is worried about the following day and his meeting with the Green Knight.