

Sir gawain and the green knight summary essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

The three hunts of Bercilak were similar to the three seductions of Gawain.

Bercilak and Gawain made a bargain at the castle. Bercilak said Whatever I earn in the woods will be yours, whatever you win will be mine in exchange.

(Gawain 81) The Green Knight tells Gawain that he was sent by Morgana Le

Fay because she wanted to test Gawain's pride and determine the truth of

the Round Table's fame, and the tales that tell of it. (Gawain 123) During

Bercilak's first hunt, they hunted deer. The hunters were on one side with the

peasants and dogs on the other, surrounding the deer. The peasants and

dogs made noise and chased the deer towards the hunters. The hunters

slaughtered them as they came near. In Gawain's bedroom, Bercilak's wife

came into his room and tried to seduce him. She came in and locked the door

trapping him in the room. Gawain was trapped like the deer were trapped

in the forest. Gawain used words to talk his way out of the situation, but before

she left she gave him a kiss.

On the second hunt, they found a boar and trapped it on a mountain.

The boar attacked and fought back aggressively. Bercilak faced it one on

one and killed it. In Gawain's bedroom, Bercilak's wife made another pass at

him.

This time she was more aggressive. The hunters used the same tactic on the

boar as Bercilak's wife used on Gawain. She tried to wear him down, but it

had no effect because Gawain still put out. She gave him two kisses before

she left his room.

For the third hunt Bercilak tracked a fox. The fox was sly and clever and he chased it all over. Bercilak swung at it and it swerved and ran into the dogs. The dogs killed it. Bercilak's wife tried to be sly like a fox on her third attempt to seduce Gawain. After failing to seduce Gawain, Bercilak's wife tried to give him something to make him break his word. First she offered to give him a ring, which he refused. Then, she offered a magical scarf which he accepted.

The two different situations paralleled each other in symbolism.

Bercilak hunted the animals like his wife hunted Gawain. The whole experience was only a test for Gawain and he managed to pass except for taking the scarf and breaking his word.

English