

Simon Armitage Sir Gawain

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
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Programmes for Sir Gawain and The Green Knight, Simon Armitage
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Translated By Simon Armitage
The Death of King Arthur
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
The Owl and the Nightingale
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CliffsNotes
Sir Gawain and The Green Knight
Sir Gawain & the Green Knight
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
The Story of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
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The Poetry of Simon Armitage
Against All England
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preserved on a single surviving manuscript dating from around 1400 composed by an anonymous master
sir gawain and the green knight was rediscovered only 200 years ago and published for the first time in 1839 one of the earliest great stories of english literature after beowulf the poem narrates in crystalline

verse the strange tale of a green knight on a green horse who rudely interrupts the round table festivities one yuletide casting a pall of unease over the company and challenging one of their number to a wager the virtuous gawain accepts and decapitates the intruder with his own axe gushing blood the knight reclaims his head orders gawain to seek him out a year hence and departs next yuletide gawain dutifully sets forth his quest for the green knight involves a winter journey a seduction scene in a dream like castle a dire challenge answered and a drama of enigmatic reward disguised as psychic undoing simon armitage's new version is meticulously responsible to the tact and sophistication of the original but responsible equally to its own powerfully persuasive claims to be read as an original new poem it is as if six hundred years apart two northern poets set out on a journey through the same mesmeric landscapes acoustic physical and metaphorical in the course of which the gawain poet has finally found his true and long awaited translator

when the mysterious green knight arrives unbidden at the round table one christmas only gawain is brave enough to take up his challenge this story first told in the 1400s is one of the most enthralling dramatic and beloved poems in the english tradition now in simon armitage the poem has found its perfect modern translator armitage's retelling of *sir gawain and the green knight* captures all of the magic and wonderful storytelling of the original while also revitalising it with his own popular funny and contemporary voice

description the programme for the reading of simon armitage's translation of *sir gawain and the green knight* the programme details the history of the manuscript and the possible origin of the anonymous author an interrogation of the poem's form and a broad outline of the poem is also discussed a biography of armitage also features

the alliterative *morte arthure* the title given to a four thousand line poem written sometime around 1400 was part of a medieval arthurian revival which produced such masterpieces as *sir gawain and the green knight* and *sir thomas malory's prose morte d arthur* like gawain the alliterative *morte arthure* is a unique manuscript held in the library of lincoln cathedral by an anonymous author and written in alliterating lines which harked back to anglo saxon poetic composition unlike gawain whose plot hinges around one moment of jaw dropping magic the death of king arthur deals in the cut and thrust of warfare and politics the ever topical matter of britain's relationship with continental europe and of its military interests overseas simon armitage is already the master of this alliterative music as his earlier version of *sir gawain and the green knight* 2006 so resourcefully and exuberantly showed his new translation restores a neglected

masterpiece of story telling by bringing vividly to life its entirely medieval mix of ruthlessness and restraint

following his acclaimed translations of sir gawain and the green knight and pearl simon armitage shines light on another jewel of middle english verse in his highly engaging version armitage communicates the energy and humour of the tale with all the cut and thrust of the original an unnamed narrator overhears a fierce verbal contest between the two eponymous birds which moves entertainingly from the eloquent and philosophical to the ribald and ridiculous the disputed issues still resonate concerning identity cultural habits class distinctions and the right to be heard excerpts were featured in the bbc radio 4 podcast the poet laureate has gone to his shed including the lively illustrations of clive hicks jenkins this is a book for the whole household to read and enjoy

it is new year at camelot and a mysterious green knight appears at king arthur s court challenging the knights of the round table to a christmas game he offers his splendid axe as a prize to whoever is brave enough to behead him with just one strike the condition is that his challenger must seek him out in a year and a day to have the deed returned sir gawain accepts and decapitates the stranger only to see him pick up his head walk out of the hall and ride away on his horse now gawain must complete his part of the bargain search for his foe and confront what seems his doom michael smith s translation of this magnificent arthurian romance draws on his intimate experience of the north west of england and his knowledge of mediaeval history culture and architecture he takes us back to the original poetic form of the manuscript and brings it alive for a modern audience while revealing the poem s historic and literary context the book is beautifully illustrated by throughout with detailed recreations of the illuminated lettering in the original manuscript and the author s own linocut prints each meticulously researched for contemporary accuracy this is an exciting new edition that will appeal both to students of the gawain poet and the general reader alike

while the knights of king arthur s round table are toasting the new year a colossal stranger clad in green armor bursts in to deliver a formidable challenge any of them may strike off the intruder s head as long as he is prepared to receive a similar blow from the green knight in one year of all the gallant knights in the assembly only sir gawain brave gallant and true to his word is willing to answer the dare so begins this gem of medieval english literature which traces gawain s adventures as he endeavors to fulfill his pledge dating from the late fourteenth century or earlier the story blends paganistic elements with christian ethics to celebrate the virtue of forgiveness thus forming a classic example of the chivalric tradition this edition presents the legend in two forms in prose and

in verse both translated by the distinguished scholar jessie weston

featuring both the original text and a modern translated version this fourteenth century arthurian poem tells the legendary tale of the mysterious green knight and sir gawain a great knight of the round table the knights of the round table are celebrating yuletide when their festivities are interrupted by the mystifying green knight riding on his green horse the green knight challenges king arthur s legendary men to a wager he who takes a blow at the green knight must be prepared to accept a return attack one year and one day later it is the gallant sir gawain who takes this challenge on he raises his axe and strikes off the head of the green knight yet the intruder is undefeated still alive he picks up his head and promises he will see sir gawain in a year and a day in stanzas of alliterative verse ending in a rhyming bob and wheel the poem chronicles sir gawain s heroic quest this high quality edition features both william allan neilson s 1917 translated text and the original version by the anonymous writer known as the pearl poet or the gawain poet ragged hand has proudly republished this classic poem in a beautiful new edition complete with an introduction by k g t webster this volume is not to be missed by fans of the famous legend of king arthur and his knights of the round table

this middle english poem about the moral testing of a young hero is commonly described as the greatest arthurian romance in our literary tradition it is a question still as to who the author is but this poet is considered second only to chaucer

simon armitage is one of the leading poets of his generation since his first collection zoom in 1989 he has published ten full length collections of poetry while also writing and presenting numerous works for radio television and film he is now one of the poets most widely studied at gcse examination level this study guide to simon armitage s poetry will be essential reading and preparation for gcse students and their teachers to whose needs it has been expertly tailored the book examines armitage s work in just the ways that students need to think about it in respect of how the poems are crafted in language and form and the kinds of themes ideas and attitudes that they reflect it also includes sections on studying individual poems for the examination an illuminating biography with questions and answers and sample essays

this book examines poems plays and chronicles produced in cheshire from the 1190s to the 1650s that collectively argue for the localization of british literary

history

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