



Week 5 – Notes

- I. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
 - a. Symbols
 - i. King Arthur → Chivalric Code. Faultless.
 - ii. Sir Gawain → Flaw within the ideal. Paragon of knights, but with flaw.
 - iii. The Green Girdle
 - iv. Green Chapel
 - v. Green Knight
 - vi. Gawain's Shield → Knot, sign of Solomon. Virgin Mary.
 - b. Allegory
 - c. "The Gawain Poet"
 - i. ca 1375 > 1400
 - ii. Also wrote Pearl, Patience, Purity.
 - d. Alliterative Revival
 - e. Symbolism & Allegory → Modes of literary expression that convey meaning through analogy and extension.
 - f. Symbolism → Meaning is static and continues throughout a work. The attachment of ideas, values, persons, or a way of life to a specific material object.
 - i. Signifies a combination of attributes in a sustained constancy of meaning
 - ii. Embodies ideas / emotions that writers and readers share.
 - g. Allegory
 - i. More complex and sustained symbolism. Allegory is a symbol as a motion picture is to a still picture.
 - ii. A self-sufficient narrative that also signifies another series of events or conditions.
- II. Symbols
 - a. Dream of the Rood: Cross
 - b. Woman at end of *Beowulf*
- III. Quest Narrative
 - a. Call to Adventure
 - b. Conflicts
 - c. Encounter w/ Underworld
 - d. Resurrection & Enlightenment