

Book 4: The Candle in the Wind

Chapter 1

1. How does the description of Mordred's race develop his character?

2. What is the effect of the narrator's summary (at the end of the chapter) of the feud between Arthur's family and the Orkney faction?

Chapter 2

1. What loyalties does this chapter reveal? How does this illuminate the conflict within the Orkney faction?

Chapter 3

1. How is Arthur’s character and impact on his country developed in this chapter?

2. This chapter includes many anachronisms in the writer’s narration; it also includes several asides, directed to the reader, comparing Arthur’s civilization to the modern age and comparing the reality of Arthur’s civilization to the myths the modern reader often associates with it. What effect does this distinctive style create?

Chapter 4

1. How does this chapter develop book four's theme of the law?

2. What startling fact does Arthur reveal about his past in this chapter, and how does this revelation further develop his character? His status as a tragic hero?

3. What effect does the foreshadowing in this chapter create?

Chapter 5

1. How does Arthur's behavior in this chapter further develop him as a tragic hero?

Chapter 6

1. How does this chapter further develop Gareth's character?

2. What does Lancelot's response to Gareth's warning reveal about his character?

Chapter 7

1. How and where does the tone change in this chapter?

2. How are the events of this chapter a turning point for Lancelot and Guenever? For the story of Arthur?

Chapter 8

1. How does Arthur demonstrate both his commitment to justice and his love for his wife in this chapter?

2. The reader does not see Lancelot rescuing Guenever from her execution; rather, this action is narrated through Arthur and Gawaine’s exclamations as they watch from a window. What effect does this point of view create?

3. How are the deaths of Gareth and Gaheris important to the plot development?

Chapter 9

1. Guenever says, “Civilization seems to have become insane.” How does this statement illustrate the demise of Arthur’s kingdom?

Chapter 10

1. What effect does Mordred have on Gawaine in the beginning of this chapter? How does Mordred's prodding affect Lancelot's sentence?

2. How is Arthur characterized in this chapter?

Chapter 11

1. How does this chapter further develop the theme of the law?

2. How has Mordred's relationship with his mother affected him?

Chapter 12

1. How has Arthur's behavior changed in this chapter compared to his behavior in chapter 10? How has Gawaine's?

Chapter 13

1. The reader learns of Gawaine's death through a letter, rather than through direct narration of the battle itself. What effect does this technique create?

2. What does Lancelot's decision to go to Arthur's aid reveal about his character?

Chapter 14

1. How does this final chapter further develop the theme of might and right?

2. How does this conclusion firmly establish Arthur as a tragic hero?

3. How does the appearance of Tom of Warwick illuminate the meaning of this book's title: "The Candle in the Wind?"

4. How does the last line of this chapter affect its tone?
