

Book three: The Ill-Made Knight

Chapter 1

1. How is the boy Lancelot characterized in this chapter? What might his characterization foreshadow?

2. What does Lancelot mean when he speaks of Fort Mayne?

Chapter 2

1. What effect does the comparison between Lancelot and Bradman and Woolley (well-known cricket players) create?

2. How does the description of Lancelot’s training regimen further develop his character?

Chapter 3

1. How is Uncle Dap likened to Merlyn and Sir Toirdealbhach?

2. How does Merlyn's appearance at King Ban's castle advance the plot?

Chapter 4

1. The author employs a brief aside directly preceding the joust between Lancelot and the black knight: “The first time you do a thing, it is often exciting. To go alone in an airplane for the first time used to be so exciting that it nearly choked you.” What effect does this anachronism create?

2. How does Lancelot’s attitude toward Guenever evolve in this chapter?

Chapter 5

1. Describe the tone the author employs when discussing the Roman war. How does this tone affect the novel's thematic development?

Chapter 6

1. How does this chapter foreshadow tragedy for King Arthur?

2. How is Lancelot's character further developed in this chapter?

Chapter 7

1. What do the presence of Sir Carados and Sir Turquine contribute to the plot? What do their characters imply about knighthood?

Chapter 8

1. How do Lancelot's adventures in this chapter help to define Arthur's new ideas of chivalry and morality?

2. How do Lancelot's responses to his encounters in this chapter further develop his character? The motif of chivalry?

Chapter 9

1. How do the events in this chapter indicate a change in the relationship between Lancelot and Guenever?

2. How have the knights made a fetish of the Round Table, and what theme does this develop?

3. What effect does Arthur's worry about the Orkney faction create?

Chapter 10

1. How does this chapter further develop the conflict within Lancelot? What theme does this chapter develop, and how?

Chapter 11

1. Why does Lancelot’s adventure in this chapter have such a “dreamlike quality?” How does this quality affect the tone of the chapter?

Chapter 12

1. How are the events in this chapter a turning point for Lancelot?

Chapter 13

1. How does the long description of “the seventh sense” help to characterize Guenever?

2. How does this chapter drive the plot forward?

Chapter 14

1. How does Lancelot and Guenever's interaction in this chapter further develop both of their characters?

Chapter 15

1. What does Guenever's jealousy reveal about her character?

Chapter 16

1. Describe the contrasting characteristics of Guenever and Elaine presented in this chapter.

2. How does this chapter further establish Arthur's status as a tragic hero? What theme does this develop?

Chapter 17

1. What does Lancelot's response to Galahad reveal about his character?

Chapter 18

1. How is Lancelot's madness inevitable?

Chapter 19

1. How is the conversation between King Pelles and Sir Bliant an effective device at this point in the novel?

Chapter 20

1. How is Lancelot depicted as both pathetic and noble in this chapter?

Chapter 21

1. How has Elaine changed in the two years since Lancelot's madness began?

Chapter 22

1. Elaine chooses to call her new home with Lancelot the Joyous Island. What does this reveal about her character?

2. In this chapter, Lancelot finally takes up the moniker he chose as a boy. How does this further develop his character? What might it foreshadow?

Chapter 23

1. What is the predominant tone of this chapter, and how does it emphasize Elaine's feelings?

Chapter 24

1. Degalis asks Lancelot, “Do you seriously think you can stay here incognito with this wench, and still be yourself?” What theme does he develop with this question?

2. What effect does the detailed description of Lancelot’s armor create?

Chapter 25

1. How does the narrator account for the fact that Arthur, Guenever, and Lancelot have become legends in their own time?

2. What is the primary effect of the contrast between the two descriptions of England in this chapter?

3. How does the tone of this chapter change with the last paragraph?

Chapter 26

1. How does this chapter foreshadow the fall of Arthur's table?

2. How is Mordred's character developed in this chapter?

Chapter 27

1. How does the allusion to Richard III further contribute to Mordred's characterization?

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

3. How does Arthur's plan to send his knights on a spiritual quest further develop the motif of questing?

Chapter 28

- 1. What effect does the narrator produce as he tells the reader to seek the details of the quest for the Holy Grail in Malory's work?

- 2. What effect does Sir Gawaine's heavy dialect produce?

- 3. What does Gawaine's story of his failed attempt to find the Holy Grail suggest about who will ultimately find it?

Chapter 29

1. How does this chapter reveal that adhering to the moral standard required to find the Grail is an extremely difficult task?

Chapter 30

1. What does Arthur's defense of the Orkney clan reveal about his character?

2. What causes Guenever to doubt Sir Percivale's inclusion on the holy boat? What does this reveal about the characteristics necessary to reach the Holy Grail?

Chapter 31

1. What does the narrator's description of Lancelot, at his return to Camelot, suggest about his quest?

Chapter 32

1. What is Lancelot's tone towards Galahad as he describes him? What does this reveal about Galahad as a character?

2. How do Lancelot's experiences in this chapter relate to the theme of the conflict between love and duty?

Chapter 33

1. How has Lancelot matured during his quest for the Grail?

Chapter 34

1. How does the narrator attempt to dispel the myths associated with Guenever's character?

2. Is Guenever a sympathetic character in this chapter? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Chapter 35

1. How does this chapter further define Lancelot's internal conflict?

Chapter 36

1. How does the changing atmosphere of Camelot make the setting dangerous for Guenever?

2. How does this chapter advance the plot?

Chapter 37

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

2. Why does Lancelot return to fight for the queen, and what does this reveal about his character?

Chapter 38

1. How does this chapter further define Guenever's character?

Chapter 39

- 1. The narrator makes a point of leaving out the details of the tournament, referring again to Malory's work instead. What might this suggest about the narrator's attitude toward the tournament?

- 2. How does Elaine's characterization set her apart from Guenever?

Chapter 40

1. How does Elaine's final act exacerbate the conflict between Lancelot and Guenever?

Chapter 41

1. How does the tournament in this chapter show “the true tension at court?” How does it advance the plot?

2. What does the image at the end of the chapter—of Lancelot putting on his armor and Arthur assisting him—reveal about both characters?

Chapter 42

1. Where is the irony in Guenever's response to Lancelot when he rescues her?

Chapter 43

1. How is this planned second trial by combat for Guenever's life less honorable than the first? What does it reveal about Lancelot's character?

Chapter 44

1. How do Lancelot's actions toward Meliagrance during the trial by combat further develop his character?

Chapter 45

1. What is the tone of this final chapter of book three? How does this tone help bring the book to a close?

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