

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL

SATIRE ANALYSIS

A note-taking study guide to go with the movie "Monty Python and the Holy Grail". The focus is on the use of satire in the film and what medieval elements the film is satirizing. Gives explanations along with room for student notes.

MONTY PYTHON
and the
Holy Grail





NAME _____

PERIOD _____

"MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL"

SATIRE ON THE MIDDLE AGES

***SATIRE** is a form of humor where the writer or speaker tries to make the reader or listener have a negative opinion about someone, by laughing at them, making them seem ridiculous or foolish, etc. If someone is being satirical, their aim is not just to amuse, but to affect the person that they dislike; to hurt them, ruin them, or prove a point about them.

*In this movie the actors are using **SATIRE** to point out and poke fun at many things from the Middle Ages that we tend to romanticize or make to seem better than they actually were. Under the Middle Ages topics below write what the movie is actually saying about what life was really like during the Middle Ages.

KING ARTHUR

A legendary king of the Britons (possibly based on a historical figure in the 6th century, but the story has been retold too many times to be sure); said to have led the Knights of the Round Table at Camelot.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE

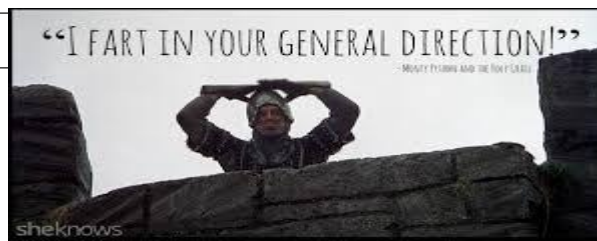
(1347 - 1352) An outbreak of the Black Death disease which devastated the world, killing a quarter of the world's population and a third of Europe's population. It actually broke out in China in the late 1320s, but didn't reach Europe until 1347.

THE PEASANTS LIFE

A member of the lowly social class which toils on the land, constituted by small farmers and tenants, sharecroppers, farmhands and other laborers on the land where they form the main labor force in farming.

THE KNIGHT'S CODE OF CHIVALRY

An ethical code prevalent in Medieval Europe; the honor code of the knight, having such primary virtues as mercy towards the poor and oppressed, humility, honor, sacrifice, fear of God, faithfulness, courage and utmost graciousness and courtesy to ladies.



RELIGIOUS WITCH HUNTS

For three centuries of early modern European history, diverse societies were consumed by a panic over alleged witches in their midst. Witch-hunts, especially in Central Europe, resulted in the trial, torture, and execution of tens of thousands of victims, about three-quarters of whom were women.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

The Knights of the Round Table were those men awarded the highest order of Chivalry at the Court of King Arthur. The table at which they met was created to have no head or foot, representing the equality of all the members. Different stories had different numbers of knights, ranging from only 12 to 150 or more.

CAMELOT

In Arthurian legend the capital of King Arthur's kingdom; according to the legend, truth and goodness and beauty reigned there.



THE HOLY GRAIL

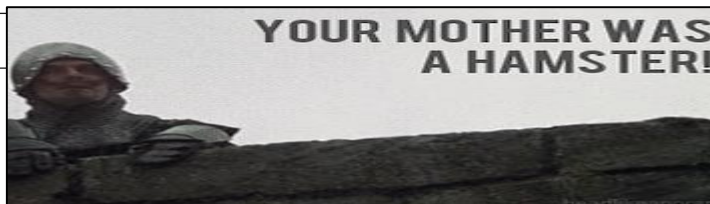
According to Christian mythology, the Holy Grail was the dish, plate, or cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper, said to possess miraculous powers.

THE CRUSADES

The Crusades were a series of religion-driven military campaigns waged by much of Christian Europe against external and internal opponents. They were fought mainly against Muslims. Crusaders took vows and were granted an indulgence for past sins.

MERLIN THE MAGICIAN

Merlin is best known as the wizard featured in the Arthurian legend.



On second thought, let's **GET not go to Camelot.** ON
It is a silly place. I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU NO MORE. WITH YOU EMPTY-HEADED ANIMAL FOOD TROUGH WIPER. I FART IN YOUR GENERAL DIRECTION. YOUR MOTHER WAS A HAMSTER AND YOUR FATHER SMELT OF ELDERBERRIES.



AND DON'T APOLOGIZE! EVERY TIME I TRY TO TALK TO SOMEONE THIS AND FORGIVE ME THAT AND I'M NOT WORTHY.



THERE ARE I'M FRENCH. SOME THAT WHY DO YOU CALL ME... THINK I HAVE THIS OUTRAGEOUS ACCENT. YOU SILLY KING? One day, lad, all this will be yours!



WE ARE THE **KNIGHTS WHO SAY NI!** WE WE SHALL SAY NI! WHO SAY AGAIN TO YOU IF YOU DO NOT APPEASE US. **NI!** What is it that you want? WE WANT... **A SHRUBBERY!**



This is supposed to be a happy occasion. LET'S NOT BICKER AND ARGUE ABOUT who killed who. And the Lord spake, saying shall thou take out holy pin, then shall thou count to three. No more, no less.



What, the curtains? You must cut down the mightiest tree in the forest... WITH... A HERRING! **THE HOLY HAND OF ANGIOCH**

YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO WIELD SUPREME EXECUTIVE POWER JUST BECAUSE SOME **WATERY TART** THREW A SWORD AT YOU!



SHE TURNED ME INTO A NEWT! **A NEWT?** **KING OF the who?**



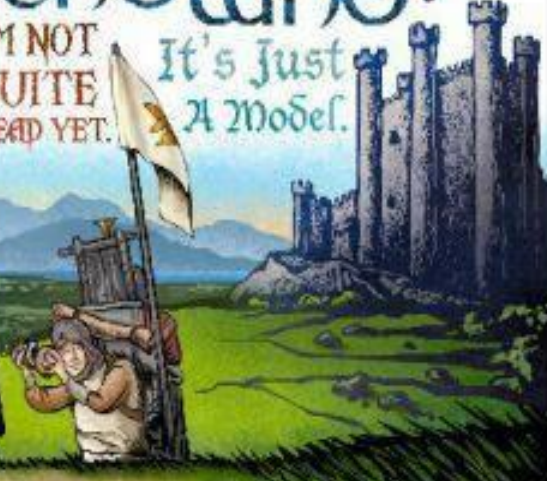
'Tis but a scratch. The Black You're arm's off! It's just a **flesh wound.** I'm invincible! You're a loony.



Knight Always Triumphs!

I'M NOT QUITE DEAD YET.

It's just A Model.



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HERE. SCAN WITH A QR
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