

A Knight's Tale (2001)

Directed by Brian Helgeland

Plot Summary: Inspired by *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer, this is the story of William, a young squire with a gift for jousting. After his master dies suddenly, the squire hits the road with his cohorts Roland and Wat. On the journey, they stumble across an unknown writer, *Geoffrey Chaucer*. William, lacking a proper pedigree, convinces Chaucer to forge genealogy documents that will pass him off as a knight. With his newly-minted history in hand, the young man sets out to prove himself a worthy knight at the country's jousting competition and finds romance along the way.

Cast of Characters:

Sir William Thatcher / Sir Ulrich Von Lichenstein of Gelderland	Jocelyn (noble lady-in-waiting)
Sir Thomas Colville/Prince Edward, The Black Prince of England	Sir Ector, deceased knight to William, Roland, & Wat
Count Adhemar of Anjou	Count Adhemar's herald
Geoffrey Chaucer, Sir William's herald	Christiana (ladies maid) Germaine
Kate, the Ferrier	John Thatcher, William's father
Roland, Sir William's squire	Simon The Summoner of Rouen
Wat Falhurst, Sir William's squire	Peter The Pardoner of Rouen, relic seller

Your Assignment:

Using your notes on the *Elements of a Medieval Romance* (genre), centering around King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, analyze the characteristics of a *Medieval Romance* that apply to this 21st century film. Write a well-developed, two page literary essay (in MLA format) discussing how *A Knight's Tale* can be classified as a *medieval Romance*. **You must include specific examples from the film to support your ideas/statements.**

Remember: Do Not use 1st or 2nd person pronouns (unless it's in a direct quote); **Do Not** summarize the film; and **Do Not** confuse a modern Romance movie with the *Medieval Romance genre of literature* (no boy-girl love affair with a "happily-ever-after ending")

MLA Paper Requirements:

1. Typed, double-spaced, 1" margins on all sides, font *Calisto MT* size 12
2. Page number in upper-right-hand corner along with your last name
3. Heading: (name, teacher, class, date) in upper-left-hand corner on first page only
4. Title: center-spaced
5. Spell-checked & grammar-checked: proofed, edited, and *corrected before* final copy is printed;
(essay should be left-justified with no extra line/space between paragraphs OR between title and text)
6. **DUE DATE:** _____

Elements of a Medieval Romance (genre)

- A *near-perfect hero*
- An *evil enemy*
- A *three-stage quest* (dangerous **journey**, a **test** or **ordeal**, and a **return** to where the journey began—to tell the truth of adventures/trials)
- **Female figures:** young maidens in need of rescue, old crones, or mothers
- **Magic**/supernatural aspects
- *Good vs. Evil theme*
- Usually teaches a **moral lesson**
- Number 3 (symbolic)
- Faithful follower
- Wise old man
- Dreams