

# Simon Armitage Sir Gawain

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight  
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Sir Gawain and the Green Knight Translated By Simon Armitage  
Programmes for Sir Gawain and The Green Knight,  
Simon Armitage  
The Death of King Arthur  
The Poetry of Simon Armitage  
Fifteenth-Century Studies 38  
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The Idea of North  
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when the mysterious green knight arrives unbidden at the round table one christmas only gawain is brave enough to take up his challenge this story first told in the 1400s is one of the most enthralling dramatic and beloved poems in the english tradition now in simon armitage the poem has found its perfect modern translator armitage s retelling of sir gawain and the green knight captures all of the magic and wonderful storytelling of the original while also revitalising it with his own popular funny and contemporary voice

preserved on a single surviving manuscript dating from around 1400 composed by an anonymous master sir gawain and the green knight was rediscovered only 200 years ago and published for the first time in 1839 one of the earliest great stories of english literature after beowulf the poem narrates in crystalline verse the strange tale of a green knight on a

green horse who rudely interrupts the round table festivities one yuletide casting a pall of unease over the company and challenging one of their number to a wager the virtuous gawain accepts and decapitates the intruder with his own axe gushing blood the knight reclaims his head orders gawain to seek him out a year hence and departs next yuletide gawain dutifully sets forth his quest for the green knight involves a winter journey a seduction scene in a dream like castle a dire challenge answered and a drama of enigmatic reward disguised as psychic undoing simon armitage's new version is meticulously responsible to the tact and sophistication of the original but responsible equally to its own powerfully persuasive claims to be read as an original new poem it is as if six hundred years apart two northern poets set out on a journey through the same mesmeric landscapes acoustic physical and metaphorical in the course of which the gawain poet has finally found his true and long awaited translator

description the programme for the reading of simon armitage's translation of sir gawain and the green knight the programme details the history of the manuscript and the possible origin of the anonymous author an interrogation of the poem's form and a broad outline of the poem is also discussed a biography of armitage also features

the alliterative morte arthure the title given to a four thousand line poem written sometime around 1400 was part of a medieval arthurian revival which produced such masterpieces as sir gawain and the green knight and sir thomas malory's prose morte d arthur like gawain the alliterative morte arthure is a unique manuscript held in the library of lincoln cathedral by an anonymous author and written in alliterating lines which harked back to anglo saxon poetic composition unlike gawain whose plot hinges around one moment of jaw dropping magic the death of king arthur deals in the cut and thrust of warfare and politics the ever topical matter of britain's relationship with continental europe and of its military interests overseas simon armitage is already the master of this alliterative music as his earlier version of sir gawain and the green knight 2006 so resourcefully and exuberantly showed his new translation restores a neglected masterpiece of story telling by bringing vividly to life its entirely medieval mix of ruthlessness and restraint

simon armitage is one of the leading poets of his generation since his first collection zoom in 1989 he has published ten full length collections of poetry while also writing and presenting numerous works for radio television and film he is now one of the poets most widely studied at gcse examination level this study guide to simon armitage's poetry will be essential reading and preparation for gcse students and their teachers to whose needs it has been expertly tailored the book examines armitage's work in just the ways that students need to think about it in respect of how the poems are crafted in language and form and the kinds of themes ideas and attitudes that they reflect it also includes sections on studying individual poems for the examination an illuminating biography with questions

and answers and sample essays

annual collection of essays on diverse aspects of the fifteenth century this year emphasizing topics in medieval literature the fifteenth century defies consensus on fundamental issues most scholars agree however that the period outgrew the middle ages that it was a time of transition and a passage to modern times fifteenth century studies offers essays on diverse aspects of the period including liberal and fine arts historiography medicine and religion volume 38 addresses a broad spectrum of topics monastic reformation of domestic space in richard whitford s werke for housholders margery kempe and spectatorship in medieval drama the book of margery kempe and the trial of joan of arc a new edition and interpretations of the book of the duke and emperor in the context of ms manchester chetham s library 8009 mun a 6 31 two cultural perspectives on the battle of lippa transylvania 1551 translation and manipulation of audience expectations in sir gawain and the green knight the dry tree legend in medieval literature and wessel gansfort john mombaer and medieval technologies of the self book reviews conclude the volume contributors brandon alakas maria dobozy andrew eichel rosanne gasse kate mclean jesse njus sarah ritchey p r robins barbara i gusick is professor emerita of english at troy university dothan alabama review editor rosanne gasse is associate professor of english at brandon university

with contributions from 29 leading international scholars this is the first single volume guide to the appropriation of medieval texts in contemporary culture medieval afterlives in contemporary culture covers a comprehensive range of media including literature film tv comic book adaptations electronic media performances and commercial merchandise and tourism its lively chapters range from spamalot to the rsc beowulf to merlin computer games to internet memes opera to young adult fiction and contemporary poetry and much more also included is a companion website at [medievalafterlives.wordpress.com](http://medievalafterlives.wordpress.com) aimed at general readers academics and students interested in the burgeoning field of medieval afterlives complete with further reading weblinks my favourite guides to contemporary medieval appropriations images and interviews guide to library archives and manuscript collections guide to heritage collection

the legendary tale of king arthur and his knights of the round table is one of the most famous folk tales in history with merlin the wizard and the virtuous sir lancelet being known and loved by young and old alike to this day slightly less celebrated however is the green knight who first appeared in the 14th century arthurian poem sir gawain and the green knight one of arthur s greatest champions he is both a judge and tester of knights looked upon by his peers as an amiable yet terrifying and mysterious personage one of the best known arthurian stories it is a classic example of chivalric romance within which the green knight goes on a quest that tests his prowess virtue and determination in the face of

great danger the poem is written in stanzas of alliterative verse which all end in a rhyming bob and wheel and is attributed to the unidentified pearl poet this volume contains the original text together with an english translation by william allan neilson making it a must have for those with an interest in the famous arthurian legend ragged hand is proudly republishing this classic arthurian poem now in a brand new edition complete with an introduction by k g t webster

while a compass might tell us which direction we are going there is really only one direction to which it ever points north north is the ultimate point of orientation but it is also a celebrated destination for the adventurous the curious the solitary and the foolhardy in this fascinating book updated in this accessible pocket edition peter davidson explores the concept of north through its many manifestations in painting legend and literature arctic bound davidson takes the reader on a journey from the heart of society to the most far flung outposts of human geography packing in our rucksacks a treasure trove of stories and artworks from the icelandic sagas to nabokov s snowy kingdom of zembla from hans christian andersen s forbidding snow queen to the works of artists such as eric ravilious ian hamilton finlay and andy goldsworthy he celebrates the different ways our artists and writers have illuminated our relationship with the earth s most dangerous and austere terrain through davidson s astonishing but inviting erudition we ultimately come to see north as a permanent goal frozen forever on a horizon we never seem to quite reach

from the uk poet laureate and bestselling translator of sir gawain and the green knight a complete verse translation of a spirited and humorous medieval english poem the owl and the nightingale one of the earliest literary works in middle english is a lively anonymous comic poem about two birds who embark on a war of words in a wood with a nearby poet reporting their argument in rhyming couplets line by line and blow by blow in this engaging and energetic verse translation simon armitage captures the verve and humor of this dramatic tale with all the cut and thrust of the original in an agile iambic tetrameter that skillfully amplifies the prosody and rhythm of the original armitage s translation moves entertainingly from the eloquent and philosophical to the ribald and ridiculous sounding at times like antagonists in a twitter feud the owl and the nightingale quarrel about a host of subjects that still resonate today including love marriage identity cultural background class distinctions and the right to be heard adding to the playful raucous mood of the barb trading birds is armitage who at one point inserts himself into the poem as a magistrate to adjudicate one who is skilled with words worldly wise frowns on every form of vice featuring the middle english text on facing pages and an introduction by armitage this volume will delight readers of all ages

this prose rendering of a poem from the late fourteenth century or earlier recounts an adventure undertaken by king arthur s famous nephew sir gawain brave and chivalrous

faithful to his word and ever mindful of his honor as well as that of others gawain represents the model of knightly grace when a gigantic stranger clad in green armor bursts in on the round table assembly to issue a challenge the gallant gawain volunteers to do battle for his king this parable blends pagan elements and christian ethics to celebrate the virtue of forgiveness and it is frequently assigned to classes in literature and history because of its short length and its excellent representation of chivalric tradition

who is the pearl poet how do ideas about his life and interpretations of his poems shape our understanding of his work in late medieval england and beyond in becoming the pearl poet perceptions connections receptions readers can explore the world of this extraordinary fourteenth century writer in part i perceptions five scholars give insightful literary analyses of the narrative poems attributed to the poet pearl cleanness patience sir gawain and the green knight and st erkenwald in part ii connections six scholars examine connections between these diverse poems focusing on authorship ecology material culture sartorial adornment shields and the poet s pastoral theology in part iii receptions scholars consider the illustrations of the pearl manuscript british library ms cotton nero a x the poet s cultural situatedness in the northwest midlands and ricardian court his religious contexts later translations and paraphrases of his work and his medieval and modern audiences intended for students and scholars alike this book encourages readers to gain a deeper understanding of the pearl poet and his world learning many new things and enjoying old things in a new way

a new version of the middle english poem pearl written by the same poet as gawain

in summer 2010 simon armitage decided to walk the pennine way the challenging 256 mile route is usually approached from south to north from edale in the peak district to kirk yetholm the other side of the scottish border he resolved to tackle it the other way round through beautiful and bleak terrain across lonely fells and into the howling wind he would be walking home towards theyorkshire village where he was born travelling as a modern troubadour without a penny in his pocket he stopped along the way to give poetry readings in village halls churches pubs and living rooms his audiences varied from the passionate to the indifferent and his readings were accompanied by the clacking of pool balls the drumming of rain and the bleating of sheep walking home describes this extraordinary yet ordinary journey it s a story about britain s remote and overlooked interior the wildness of its landscape and the generosity of the locals who sustained him on his journey it s about facing emotional and physical challenges and sometimes overcoming them it s nature writing but with people at its heart contemplative moving and droll it is a unique narrative from one of our most beloved writers

this middle english poem about the moral testing of a young hero is commonly described

as the greatest arthurian romance in our literary tradition it is a question still as to who the author is but this poet is considered second only to chaucer

simon armitage s acclaimed version of sir gawain and the green knight garnered front page reviews across two continents and confirmed his reputation as a leading translator this new work is an entrancing allegorical tale of grief and lost love as the narrator is led on a dantean journey through sorrow to redemption by his vanished beloved pearl retaining all the alliterative music of the original a medieval english poem thought to be by the same anonymous author responsible for gawain pearl is here brought to vivid and intricate life in care of one of the finest poets writing today

winner of the 2017 pen award for poetry in translation from the acclaimed translator of sir gawain and the green knight a spellbinding new translation of this classic allegory of grief and consolation simon armitage the acclaimed poet who brought sir gawain and the green knight to vivid life in an energetic free flowing high spirited translation new york times book review turns his attention to another beloved medieval english masterpiece the soulful pearl believed to have been penned by the same author who wrote sir gawain and housed in the same original fourteenth century manuscript pearl is here reanimated with armitage s characteristic flair in the alliterative music of the original text pearl describes a bereft father mourning the loss of his precious perle returning to the garden where she first disappeared he observes the verdant shades of late summer a cruel reminder of the grief that shadows his every waking thought succumbing to the afternoon heat he falls into a trancelike sleep and dreams of a radiant apparition that closely resembles his pearl standing before him across an unfordable stretch of water the maiden reassures her father that she has been granted a home in heaven alongside christ at first overjoyed then incredulous at the maiden s exalted stature the dreamer is ultimately convinced of her providence by a series of tense sorrowful arguments as she much like dante s beatrice leads him through the throes of grief toward a vision of paradise and divine redemption at the brief teasing glimpse of the kingdom of heaven the dreamer rushes forward to join the maiden only to be struck awake his dream shattered and his irreplaceable pearl lost once more presented alongside the original text and overseen by renowned medievalist james simpson pearl is a spellbinding new translation of a classic medieval work remaining faithful to the intricate structure of the original armitage s virtuosic rendering of the lyrical dialogue between father and daughter arrives at the end only to echo the beginning the poem emerges as a circular and perfected whole much like the pearl itself one of our most ingenious interpreters of middle english armitage transforms this allegory of grief and consolation into a story that feels hauntingly immediate

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