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Dan Kwartler: The myth of Gawain and the Green Knight | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_kwartler_the_myth_of_gawain_and_the_green_knight

Advanced Words Only

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Session 1: Word List

Arthurian

adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him

(1) the **Arthurian** cycle, (2) **Arthurian** romances

The **Arthurian** legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.

sorcery

n. the use of magic, often associated with evil or supernatural powers; witchcraft

synonym: magic, witchcraft, enchantment

(1) mystical **sorcery**, (2) dark **sorcery**

He claimed that he could perform **sorcery** and cast spells.

revelry

n. lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment

synonym: festivity, merrymaking, celebration

(1) **revelry** in the streets, (2) festival **revelry**

The street was filled with **revelry** on New Year's Eve.

towering

adj. very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature

synonym: lofty, tall, excessive

(1) **towering** trees, (2) **towering** mountain

The **towering** skyscraper blocked out the sun on the street below.

emerald

adj. having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone

synonym : green, verdant, jade

(1) an **emerald** gem, (2) **emerald** ring

The **emerald** green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.

steed

n. a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

synonym : horse, mount, charger

(1) a matchless **steed**, (2) black **steed**

The knight rode his trusty **steed** into battle.

bellow

v. to shout or call out loudly and forcefully; to emit a deep, loud roar or sound; (noun) the deep roar or sound

synonym : shout, yell, roar

(1) **bellow** out a song, (2) **bellow** at him far away

The coach **bellowed** at the players to run faster during practice.

ax

n. a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials

synonym : hatchet, chopper, tomahawk

(1) chop wood with an **ax**, (2) an **ax** in the toolbox

He used an **ax** to chop the firewood for the campfire.

baffle

v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

synonym : perplex, astound, hinder

(1) **baffle** his plan, (2) **baffle** outside noises

The paradox **baffled** most philosophers.

hesitant

adj. unsure or uncertain about what to do or how to act; reluctant or unwilling to take action or make a decision

synonym : indecisive, uncertain, reluctant

(1) **hesitant** response, (2) **hesitant** to take action
She was **hesitant** to speak in public but eventually overcame her fear.

nephew

n. a son of your brother or sister

(1) three-year-old **nephew**, (2) nieces and **nephews**
My **nephew** is eight months old and still being breastfed.

behead

v. to cut off the head of a person or animal

synonym: decapitate, execute, chop off

(1) **behead** a prisoner, (2) **behead** several hostages
The king ordered the executioner to **behead** the traitor.

sever

v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly

synonym: cut apart, separate, detach

(1) **sever** a rope, (2) **sever** a positive relationship
He **severed** a branch from a tree quickly.

determinant

n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result

synonym: cause, factor, element

(1) environmental **determinant**, (2) a **determinant** of crop yields

One **determinant** of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

shimmer

v. to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten

synonym: gleam, glimmer, flash

(1) **shimmer** with tears, (2) **shimmer** in the moonlight
The sunlight made the water in the pool **shimmer** like diamonds.

implore

v. to beg earnestly or desperately; to plead urgently for assistance or mercy

synonym: beg, beseech, plead

(1) **implore** forgiveness, (2) **implore** assistance

I **implore** you to reconsider your decision before it's too late.

spoil

v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

synonym: rot, decay, deteriorate

(1) **spoil** a person's sport, (2) **spoil** the surprise

If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will **spoil**.

perplexity

n. confusion, doubt; state of being puzzled

synonym: confusion, bewilderment, uncertainty

(1) a **perplexity** issue, (2) resolve **perplexity**

The **perplexity** of the situation left everyone at a loss for words.

seduce

v. to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship

synonym: tempt, lure, entice

(1) **seduce** him into crime, (2) **seduce** her mind

He tried to **seduce** her with his charm and good looks.

rebuff

v. to reject or criticize sharply; to snub, repel, or dismiss rudely

synonym: reject, decline, repel

(1) **rebuff** an offer, (2) **rebuff** the attack

She tried to flirt with him but was **rebuffed** with a cold shoulder.

offend

v. to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed

synonym: insult, hurt, anger

(1) **offend** his sensibilities, (2) **offend** a customer

His rude comments **offended** many people at the party.

slay

v. to kill violently, especially with a weapon

synonym: kill, murder, eliminate

(1) **slay** a dragon, (2) **slay** civilians

The singer **slayed** the audience with her powerful voice and amazing performance.

boar

n. a wild pig, especially a male with tusks

synonym: wild pig, sow, hog

(1) wild **boar**, (2) **boar's** head

The hunter tracked the **boar** through the forest for a good shot.

sash

n. a long strip of fabric worn over one shoulder or around the waist; a framework that holds the panes of a window in the window frame

synonym: belt, band, ribbon

(1) untie the **sash** of my robe, (2) **sash** windows

The military officer wore a **sash** as part of his dress uniform.

enchant

v. to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone

synonym: charm, captivate, bewitch

(1) **enchant** the audience, (2) **enchant** the crowd

The fairy's spell **enchanted** the prince, making him fall asleep for 100 years.

mound

n. a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap

synonym: hill, knoll, rise

(1) **mound** of dirt, (2) burial **mound**

The team discovered a hidden **mound** in the desert.

ominous

adj. giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding

synonym: foreboding, portentous, ominous

(1) an **ominous** silence, (2) **ominous** sign

The **ominous** clouds in the sky foretold of an approaching storm.

stoicism

n. a philosophy that emphasizes the acceptance of the present moment and the natural course of events, and the rejection of excessive emotion

synonym : mental toughness, calmness, acceptance

(1) **stoicism** philosophy, (2) veneer of **stoicism**

He practiced **stoicism** in the face of adversity.

inflict

v. to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something

synonym : impose, levy, administer

(1) **inflict** a heavier tax, (2) **inflict** a hard blow

The storm **inflicted** significant damage on the town.

bewilder

v. to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception

synonym : perplex, confound, puzzle

(1) **bewilder** the reader, (2) **bewilder** scientists

The complex instructions on the assignment sheet **bewilder** most students.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

bravery

n. courage in the face of danger

synonym : courage, valor, heroism

(1) **bravery** against the enemy, (2) **bravery** under fire

His **bravery** in the face of danger saved the lives of his comrades.

conceal

v. to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered

synonym: hide, keep secret, camouflage

(1) **conceal** my identity, (2) **conceal** a close relationship

Despite the intense verbal abuse, she **concealed** her anger well.

sham

n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

synonym: bogus, counterfeit, fraudulent

(1) a **sham** battle, (2) turn out to be all **sham**

The data he prepared was completely **sham**.

absolve

v. (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

synonym: exempt, acquit, forgive

(1) **absolve** you from this responsibility, (2) **absolve** a person of a sin

The lender offered to **absolve** him of \$500 in debt on condition of work.

valor

n. courage or bravery, especially in the face of danger or adversity; heroic qualities or actions

synonym: bravery, courage, heroism

(1) **valor** in war, (2) show **valor**

The soldier was awarded a medal of **valor** for his heroic actions in combat.

Session 2: Spelling

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. burial mo__d | <i>n.</i> a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap |
| 2. a s__m battle | <i>n.</i> something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not |
| 3. in____t a heavier tax | <i>v.</i> to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something |
| 4. br____y against the enemy | <i>n.</i> courage in the face of danger |
| 5. be____d a prisoner | <i>v.</i> to cut off the head of a person or animal |
| 6. st____sm philosophy | <i>n.</i> a philosophy that emphasizes the acceptance of the present moment and the natural course of events, and the rejection of excessive emotion |
| 7. b__r's head | <i>n.</i> a wild pig, especially a male with tusks |
| 8. resolve per____ty | <i>n.</i> confusion, doubt; state of being puzzled |
| 9. a matchless st__d | <i>n.</i> a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle |
| 10. an om____s silence | <i>adj.</i> giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding |
| 11. be____er the reader | <i>v.</i> to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception |

ANSWERS: 1. mound, 2. sham, 3. inflict, 4. bravery, 5. behead, 6. stoicism, 7. boar, 8. perplexity, 9. steed, 10. ominous, 11. bewilder

12. nieces and ne___ws *n.* a son of your brother or sister
13. sp__l a person's sport *v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
14. low-r_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
15. s__y civilians *v.* to kill violently, especially with a weapon
16. turn out to be all s__m *n.* something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not
17. the Ar_____an cycle *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
18. r_v up the crowd *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
19. mo__d of dirt *n.* a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap
20. an em_____d gem *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
21. ba___e outside noises *v.* to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something

ANSWERS: 12. nephew, 13. spoil, 14. rev, 15. slay, 16. sham, 17. Arthurian, 18. rev, 19. mound, 20. emerald, 21. baffle

22. wild b__r *n.* a wild pig, especially a male with tusks
23. ab____e a person of a sin *v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something
24. a per_____ty issue *n.* confusion, doubt; state of being puzzled
25. em____d ring *adj.* having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
26. he_____nt to take action *adj.* unsure or uncertain about what to do or how to act; reluctant or unwilling to take action or make a decision
27. sh_____r in the moonlight *v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten
28. s__y a dragon *v.* to kill violently, especially with a weapon
29. to_____ng trees *adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature
30. festival re_____y *n.* lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment
31. re_____y in the streets *n.* lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment
32. ab____e you from this responsibility *v.* (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

ANSWERS: 22. boar, 23. absolve, 24. perplexity, 25. emerald, 26. hesitant, 27. shimmer, 28. slay, 29. towering, 30. revelry, 31. revelry, 32. absolve

33. chop wood with an ax *n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
34. se___e her mind *v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship
35. Ar_____an romances *adj.* relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
36. se___e him into crime *v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship
37. br_____y under fire *n.* courage in the face of danger
38. se__r a positive relationship *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
39. co_____l a close relationship *v.* to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
40. an ax in the toolbox *n.* a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials
41. en_____t the crowd *v.* to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone
42. untie the s__h of my robe *n.* a long strip of fabric worn over one shoulder or around the waist; a framework that holds the panes of a window in the window frame
43. im_____e forgiveness *v.* to beg earnestly or desperately; to plead urgently for assistance or mercy

ANSWERS: 33. ax, 34. seduce, 35. Arthurian, 36. seduce, 37. bravery, 38. sever, 39. conceal, 40. ax, 41. enchant, 42. sash, 43. implore

44. be___w out a song *v.* to shout or call out loudly and forcefully; to emit a deep, loud roar or sound; (noun) the deep roar or sound
45. veneer of st_____sm *n.* a philosophy that emphasizes the acceptance of the present moment and the natural course of events, and the rejection of excessive emotion
46. dark so_____y *n.* the use of magic, often associated with evil or supernatural powers; witchcraft
47. va__r in war *n.* courage or bravery, especially in the face of danger or adversity; heroic qualities or actions
48. a det_____nt of crop yields *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
49. se__r a rope *v.* to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
50. he_____nt response *adj.* unsure or uncertain about what to do or how to act; reluctant or unwilling to take action or make a decision
51. s__h windows *n.* a long strip of fabric worn over one shoulder or around the waist; a framework that holds the panes of a window in the window frame
52. black st__d *n.* a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle
53. be___w at him far away *v.* to shout or call out loudly and forcefully; to emit a deep, loud roar or sound; (noun) the deep roar or sound

ANSWERS: 44. bellow, 45. stoicism, 46. sorcery, 47. valor, 48. determinant, 49. sever, 50. hesitant, 51. sash, 52. steed, 53. bellow

54. sh____r with tears *v.* to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten
55. to____ng mountain *adj.* very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature
56. three-year-old ne____w *n.* a son of your brother or sister
57. re____f an offer *v.* to reject or criticize sharply; to snub, repel, or dismiss rudely
58. sp__l the surprise *v.* to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad
59. co____l my identity *v.* to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered
60. be____er scientists *v.* to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception
61. re____f the attack *v.* to reject or criticize sharply; to snub, repel, or dismiss rudely
62. environmental det____nt *n.* a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
63. in____t a hard blow *v.* to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something
64. show va__r *n.* courage or bravery, especially in the face of danger or adversity; heroic qualities or actions

ANSWERS: 54. shimmer, 55. towering, 56. nephew, 57. rebuff, 58. spoil, 59. conceal, 60. bewilder, 61. rebuff, 62. determinant, 63. inflict, 64. valor

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He used an ___ to chop the firewood for the campfire.
n. a tool with a metal blade that is usually attached to a wooden handle and is used for chopping wood or other materials

2. She tried to flirt with him but was _____ with a cold shoulder.
v. to reject or criticize sharply; to snub, repel, or dismiss rudely

3. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

4. His _____ in the face of danger saved the lives of his comrades.
n. courage in the face of danger

5. The lender offered to _____ him of \$500 in debt on condition of work.
v. (especially in religion or law) to declare someone free from guilt, punishment, or responsible for something

6. The knight rode his trusty _____ into battle.
n. a horse, especially a riding horse or one used in battle

7. The street was filled with _____ on New Year's Eve.
n. lively and noisy festivities, typically involving drinking, dancing, and general merrymaking; a celebration marked by indulgence and enjoyment

8. The data he prepared was completely _____.
n. something that is not as good or true as it seems to be and is intended to deceive people; a person who pretends to be something they are not

ANSWERS: 1. ax, 2. rebuffed, 3. rev, 4. bravery, 5. absolve, 6. steed, 7. revelry, 8. sham

9. He _____ a branch from a tree quickly.
v. to break or separate something by cutting, especially suddenly and forcibly
10. The king ordered the executioner to _____ the traitor.
v. to cut off the head of a person or animal
11. The _____ green dress caught everyone's eye at the party.
adj. having a deep, rich green color, like that of an emerald gemstone
12. The singer _____ the audience with her powerful voice and amazing performance.
v. to kill violently, especially with a weapon
13. The storm _____ significant damage on the town.
v. to cause harm, injury, or suffering to someone or something
14. The team discovered a hidden _____ in the desert.
n. a raised area of ground or dirt, often used for burial, construction, or as a fortification; a large, rounded pile or heap
15. The _____ skyscraper blocked out the sun on the street below.
adj. very tall or high, often to an impressive or intimidating degree; powerful or dominant in influence or stature
16. The fairy's spell _____ the prince, making him fall asleep for 100 years.
v. to cast a spell on; to fascinate or charm someone
17. If you leave the milk out of the refrigerator for too long, it will _____.
v. to ruin the taste, appearance, or quality of something; to become or cause something to become rotten or bad

ANSWERS: 9. severed, 10. behead, 11. emerald, 12. slayed, 13. inflicted, 14. mound, 15. towering, 16. enchanted, 17. spoil

18. He claimed that he could perform _____ and cast spells.
n. the use of magic, often associated with evil or supernatural powers; witchcraft
19. One _____ of success is having a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.
n. a factor, circumstance, or condition that contributes to the shaping, influencing, or determining of a particular outcome or result
20. The sunlight made the water in the pool _____ like diamonds.
v. to shine with a soft, flickering light; to reflect light in a wavering or twinkling way; to glimmer or glisten
21. The paradox _____ most philosophers.
v. to bewilder or perplex someone completely and to be unable to understand or explain something
22. My _____ is eight months old and still being breastfed.
n. a son of your brother or sister
23. The _____ legends of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table are popular literary motifs.
adj. relating to king Arthur and the tales and legends associated with him
24. The coach _____ at the players to run faster during practice.
v. to shout or call out loudly and forcefully; to emit a deep, loud roar or sound;
(noun) the deep roar or sound
25. The complex instructions on the assignment sheet _____ most students.
v. to confuse or puzzle someone; to cause someone to become lost or disoriented in thought or perception

ANSWERS: 18. sorcery, 19. determinant, 20. shimmer, 21. baffled, 22. nephew, 23. Arthurian, 24. bellowed, 25. bewilder

26. He practiced _____ in the face of adversity.
- n.* a philosophy that emphasizes the acceptance of the present moment and the natural course of events, and the rejection of excessive emotion
27. The _____ of the situation left everyone at a loss for words.
- n.* confusion, doubt; state of being puzzled
28. I _____ you to reconsider your decision before it's too late.
- v.* to beg earnestly or desperately; to plead urgently for assistance or mercy
29. She was _____ to speak in public but eventually overcame her fear.
- adj.* unsure or uncertain about what to do or how to act; reluctant or unwilling to take action or make a decision
30. The hunter tracked the _____ through the forest for a good shot.
- n.* a wild pig, especially a male with tusks
31. The military officer wore a _____ as part of his dress uniform.
- n.* a long strip of fabric worn over one shoulder or around the waist; a framework that holds the panes of a window in the window frame
32. The soldier was awarded a medal of _____ for his heroic actions in combat.
- n.* courage or bravery, especially in the face of danger or adversity; heroic qualities or actions
33. His rude comments _____ many people at the party.
- v.* to cause someone to feel upset, angry, or annoyed
34. He tried to _____ her with his charm and good looks.
- v.* to entice someone to engage in sexual behavior or to enter into a romantic relationship

ANSWERS: 26. stoicism, 27. perplexity, 28. implore, 29. hesitant, 30. boar, 31. sash, 32. valor, 33. offended, 34. seduce

35. The _____ clouds in the sky foretold of an approaching storm.

adj. giving the impression that something bad is going to happen; foreboding

36. Despite the intense verbal abuse, she _____ her anger well.

v. to prevent something from being seen, found, observed, or discovered

ANSWERS: 35. ominous, 36. concealed