

# Medieval Romances

## Practice

Romances are narratives based in fantasy that tell of strange, sometimes supernatural events in exotic settings. **Medieval romances** are adventure stories that feature kings, knights, and damsels in distress and tell of quests, battles, and doomed love. The best-remembered romances concern King Arthur and his knights. Medieval romances are characterized by themes of love and honor in a blend of realism and fantasy.

Read the passage, and then answer the questions.

Sir William was perhaps the greatest knight who ever lived. His courage, strength, and skill with arms made him a hero known throughout the land. This is the tale of how Sir William went on a quest to slay the great dragon—a beast most foul and evil that terrorized the land—to win the hand of a fair princess.

1. What clues indicate that this is the introduction to a medieval romance?

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2. What themes will this story most likely address?

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3. What aspects of this story seem realistic?

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4. What aspects of this story seem fantastic?

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