

Middle English Glossary: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

1. Behest

Command, request, or promise. Example: 'He followed his lord's behest.'

2. Boun

Good, excellent, or noble. Example: 'A boun knight.'

3. Coy

Shy or modest. Example: 'The lady looked coyly.'

4. Fain

Gladly, willingly. Example: 'I would fain accept your challenge.'

5. Gracious

Merciful or favorable. Example: 'A gracious king.'

6. Hight

Named or called. Example: 'He hight Sir Gawain.'

7. Largesse

Generosity, especially giving gifts. Example: 'He showed great largesse to the poor.'

8. Mickle

Great, much, or large. Example: 'He had mickle courage.'

9. Nathless

Nevertheless, nonetheless. Example: 'Nathless, he pressed onward.'

10. Quoth

Said (archaic past tense). Example: 'Quoth the knight, I will abide by my word.'

11. Yclept

Called, named. Example: 'A knight yclept Sir Gawain.'

12. Wight

Person, creature, or being. Example: 'A noble wight approached.'

13. Wont

Accustomed, used to, or habitual. Example: 'He was wont to ride at dawn.'

14. Sith / Sithe

Since, after, or then. Example: 'Sith that he had promised, he must go.'

15. Fro

From. Example: 'He rode fro the castle to the forest.'

16. Tide

Time or season. Example: 'In this tide of winter.'

17. Loath

Unwilling, reluctant. Example: 'He was loath to fight.'

18. Afore

Before. Example: 'As told afore.'

19. Thole

To endure or suffer. Example: 'He thole the harsh weather.'

20. Yarn

To speak or tell a tale. Example: 'He yarned of his deeds.'

21. Gramercy

Great thanks or surprise. Example: 'Gramercy for your kindness.'

22. Fettle

Condition, quality, or appearance. Example: 'His fettle was noble.'

23. Sorely

Seriously, severely. Example: 'He was sorely wounded.'

24. Hap

Chance or fortune. Example: 'By good hap he survived.'

25. Lofty

High, noble. Example: 'A lofty castle.'

26. Morrow

Morning or the next day. Example: 'On the morrow he departed.'

27. Yond / Yon

Over there. Example: 'Look yond at the forest.'

28. Mote

May or might (possibility). Example: 'He mote enter the hall.'

29. Wend

To go or travel. Example: 'He wended forth.'

30. Ween

To suppose or think. Example: 'He weened he was safe.'