

## The Legacy of Medieval Romance

Firmly embedded in the tradition of Arthurian romance is the code of chivalry prescribed for all knights. Along with the traits of bravery, courtesy, and personal honor, this code of conduct required that men behave gallantly toward women. It is this treatment of women that, even today, is most often associated with mention of the chivalric code.

### Writing to Persuade

Re-examine the selections on pages 226–257 for examples of chivalric behavior, but look for more than just gallantry toward women. Find examples of knights displaying the other ideals of chivalry you've learned about: loyalty, modesty, faith, honor, bravery, and courtesy. Use these examples to write an essay persuading a contemporary audience—your peers, parents, and teachers—that chivalry is or is not an outmoded virtue in the 21st century.

#### Consider

- which details from the selections will provide you with the best support for your argument
- what language will best persuade your audience
- how to organize your writing to prove your argument clearly and logically

### Extension

#### SPEAKING & LISTENING

Divide into teams to debate this statement: *Chivalry is dead.* You may use your persuasive essays as a jumping-off point, but with your team members find additional examples from today's world to prove that chivalry is alive and well or has withered and died in the face of our modern sensibilities and values.



LA.112.4.3.1

*The Holy Grail Appears to the Knights of the Round Table (1450).*

