**Middle Ages: Chivalry & Courtly Love**

**Chivalry**

The Knight's Code of Chivalry was a moral system that stated all knights should protect others who cannot protect themselves, such as widows, children, and elders. All knights needed to have the strength and skills to fight wars in the Middle Ages. Knights not only had to be strong but they were also extremely disciplined and were expected to use their power to protect the weak and defenseless. Knights vowed to be loyal, generous, and "of noble bearing". Knights were required to tell the truth at all times and always respect the honour of women. Knights not only vowed to protect the weak but also vowed to guard the honor of all fellow knights. They always had to obey those who were placed in authority and were never allowed to refuse a challenge from an equal. Knights lived by honor and for glory. Knights were to fear God and maintain His Church. Knights always kept their faith and never turned their back on a foe. They persevered to the end in any enterprise begun. Essentially, a chivalric knight is a Christian military soldier. "Certain law" stated a man must be a baptized Christian in order to become a knight.

**Courtly Love**The romance of Courtly Love practiced during the Middle Ages was combined with the Code of Chivalry. There were strict rules of courtly love and the art of courtly love was practiced by the members of the courts across Europe during the Middle Ages. The romance, rules and art of courtly love allowed knights and ladies to show their admiration regardless of their marital state. It was a common occurrence for a married lady to give a token to a knight of her choice to be worn during a Medieval tournament. There were rules which governed courtly love but sometimes the parties, who started their relationship with such elements of courtly love,   would become deeply involved.

**The Rules of Courtly Love**The violence and wars of the Middle Ages were tempered by the Rules of Courtly Love. The following rules and elements of Courtly Love during the Middle Ages were written by the 12th Century Frenchman, Andreas Capellanus:

* Marriage is no real excuse for not loving
* He who is not jealous, cannot love
* No one can be bound by a double love
* It is well known that love is always increasing or decreasing
* That which a lover takes against the will of his beloved has no relish
* Boys do not love until they arrive at the age of maturity
* When one lover dies, a widowhood of two years is required of the survivor
* No one should be deprived of love without the very best of reasons
* No one can love unless he is impelled by the persuasion of love
* Love is always a stranger in the home of avarice
* It is not proper to love any woman whom one would be ashamed to seek to marry
* A true lover does not desire to embrace in love anyone except his beloved
* When made public love rarely endures
* The easy attainment of love makes it of little value; difficulty of attainment makes it prized
* Every lover regularly turns pale in the presence of his beloved
* When a lover suddenly catches sight of his beloved, his heart palpitates
* A new love puts to flight an old one
* Good character alone makes any man worthy of love
* If love diminishes, it quickly fails and rarely revives
* A man in love is always apprehensive
* Real jealousy always increases the feeling of love
* Jealousy, and therefore love, are increased when one suspects his beloved
* He whom the thought of love vexes eats and sleeps very little
* Every act of a lover ends in the thought of his beloved
* A true lover considers nothing good except what he thinks will please his beloved
* Love can deny nothing to love
* A lover can never have enough of the solaces of his beloved
* A slight presumption causes a lover to suspect his beloved
* A man who is vexed by too much passion usually does not love
* A true lover is constantly and without intermission possessed by the thought of his beloved
* Nothing forbids one woman being loved by two men or one man by two women

**Name/Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions:** *Use the rules of courtly love to help you answer the questions below.*

**According to the rules, one’s quest for love should be arduous. What rules confirm this notion?**

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**Pick three rules that you most agree with and explain why they would still apply in your world today?**

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**Pick three that you find absurd and/or problematic. Explain.**

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**Are there any rules that contradict each other? If so, which ones?**

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**What do the rules of courtly love infer about the overall value of marriage during the Middle Ages?**

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