

The Passing of Arthur: meta-journaling using the 3-levels of thought strategy

First tier:

Read the following verses from page 243 (from “The Passing of Arthur”):

“Ill doom is mine
To war against my people and my knights.
The king who fights his people fights himself.
And they my knights who loved me once, the stroke
That strikes them dead is as my death to me.”

Questions to consider as you journal using inferential and applied thinking:
What is the conflict Arthur is alluding to? Is there another character in history or from literature who faced a similar conflict?

Read the following verses from page 245:

Then spake the bold Sir Bedivere: “My King!
King everywhere! and so the dead have kings,
There also will I worship thee as king.
Yet still thy life is whole, and still I live
Who love thee; but who hates thee, he that brought
The heathen back among us, yonder stands,
Mordred, unharm’d the traitor of thine house.”

Then spake the King: “My house hath been my doom.
But call not thou this traitor of my house
Who hath but dwelt beneath one roof with me.
My house are rather they who sware my vows,
Yea, even while they brake them, own’d me king.”

In your response consider the implications of Arthur’s references to “my house”, and broken vows. Are there lessons about human nature in these lines? If so, what are they?

continued below

Second tier:

Select one of the following characters: Arthur, Bedivere, or Modred.

Describe his role in this scene. (what is he doing?)

Thoughts on his motives? (what might he be thinking?)

Use a character or situation from another source (literature/real life experience, etc.) that is or may be analogous to what you find in this chapter of Idylls. (what is universal about this? How does this provide insight into human nature?)

Quote specific lines from this reading to provide supporting details.

Third tier:

Using another source from literature that you find analogous to “The Passing of Arthur”, write a brief essay with specific examples demonstrating similarities. Your comparisons should address the following: theme, characters, events, and relationships.