**Sir Gawain and the Green Knight comprehension – answers**

1. Why is the knight in the story called the Green Knight?

He was dressed all in green, had a green beard and rode a green horse.

1. Find and copy a phrase that tells us that King Arthur’s men were taken aback by the sight of the Green Knight.

The knights all gasped in astonishment OR The knights were dumbfounded (both answers are acceptable)

1. Why did King Arthur offer to accept the Green Knight’s challenge?

Because he was ashamed that none of his men had offered.

1. What word tells us that Arthur did not want Gawain to accept the challenge instead of him?

Reluctantly

1. Is the Green Knight scared of being hurt by Gawain? How do you know?

No, because:

* He smiles
* He willingly exposes his neck
* He says ‘it suits me well to take a blow from thee’
* It says he is ‘unconcerned’

1. Find the paragraph that starts ‘During the next three days’. How was Gawain feeling about what was awaiting him? How do you know?

* It says his ‘heart was heavy’ which tells us that he was concerned about what would happen to him.
* It also says that he ‘slept ill’ which suggests that he was anxious about what would happen the next day.
* He wrapped the scarf around his neck, which suggests that he wanted the protection that it would offer him.

1. In the same paragraph it says My knight, you must face many foes. What word most closely matches the meaning of the word foe?

Problems enemies dangers swords

1. What metaphor does the author use to describe the cave? What effect does this have?

The cave is described as being a mouth and having ‘sharp teeth’. This makes it seem dangerous, almost as if it might eat him and creates tension about what will happen when he goes inside.

1. How do we know that Gawain was nervous when he bent to receive the blow from the axe?

Because he flinched.

1. *He bid Gawain return to the castle to get better acquainted with his aunt*

What does the phrase ‘to get better acquainted with’ mean?

To get to know someone better.