

Behrman
English 2121
Paper One

As the star reporter for either *The Gloriana Gazette* (if writing about *The Faerie Queene*) or *The Camelot Courier* (if writing about *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*), you need to interview one of the characters found in either *The Faerie Queene* or *SGGK*. You may choose to interview a character immediately after an important event has occurred (for instance, you could interview Gawain after he lobs off the Green Knight's head). Alternatively, you may decide to do a more formal sit-down type of interview in which you discuss several key moments in their "lives" (e.g. important moments from the text – **focus on no more than three**). Through your probing questions, the character's answers, and your responses and follow-up questions to their answers, your readers will gain insight into the character being interviewed, the events he or she discusses, and the other characters involved in these events. Your interview, in essence, will offer a close reading of this character, the characters he or she mentions, and the events recounted. Try to weave some of the thematic elements into your essay. Make sure to be faithful to the events in the story and to the order in which they occur. For example, you would not want to claim that Una arrives at the Castle of Pride to see RCK partaking in the parade. However, you may wish to fill in missing moments in the work if warranted (For instance, you could ask Duessa what she thought when the RCK abruptly departed from Lucifera's castle, leaving her alone).

Begin your interview by setting the scene (example: "We are here with Morgan le Fay at Bertilak's manor" or "I met Archimago recently at his hermitage in the Wandering Wood...."). Be specific and accurate, taking care not to place your character in a place they could not possibly be at this moment in the work. Then, provide a transcript of your interview. You will include your questions, the interviewee's responses, and your comments or follow-up questions. You also might want to provide details about the interviewee's behavior during the interview (for example, "Bertilak's lady looked anxiously towards the bedroom door.") In these types of transcripts, the interviewer usually goes by the name of his or her paper, which you can abbreviate (e.g. *GG* for *Gloriana Gazette*). When you refer to a moment taken from the text, you should cite it parenthetically. When you do, provide fit.lines parenthetically (for *SGGK*) or Book.Canto.Stanza Number.lines (for *The Faerie Queene*). If you choose to focus on one scene (for example, RCK's encounter with Error), you may drop a footnote providing the relevant citation information instead of providing parenthetical citations. At times, you may wish to quote directly (a good paper will include at least one quote). Be sure to cite parenthetically when you quote directly. Since you are a professional writer, be sure to employ a lively style while adhering to grammatical conventions. Provide a title for your interview as well, which follows this format: TITLE: An interview with NAME OF CHARACTER. Example from a student paper: "Pride – The Deadliest Sin: An Interview with Lucifera"

Students should use MLA style documentation for their paper (double-spaced; Times New Roman 12 font; header and title on first page; last name and page number on subsequent pages; works cited for text used – see Purdue OWL or your comp handbook for how to cite a work in an anthology). **Word Count – 1,200-1,500 words (4-5 pages, excluding works cited).**

Additional Paper Hints

1. Make sure that you interview the character at a feasible time. If the character has died by the end of the work, you can't really interview him or her at that moment, unless you wish to pretend to interview the character in the afterlife!
2. Although you don't need to emulate the original author's style in your works, you might want to think about what words or themes are connected to your particular character and/or the event they're discussing and incorporate these into your analysis.
3. Remain faithful to the events and their chronology in the play or poem. You can, however, have a character muse about the future or discuss briefly the past (if the text warrants it). For example, you could ask Una about her first meeting with the RCK or vice versa, or you could ask her parents about how it felt to be holed up in their castle during the dragon's "reign." Additionally, you can add modern elements (cell phone use /snapchats), as long as you do so purposefully and remain faithful to the story itself.
4. It helps to pick an unusual character or scene. Try to avoid doing a scene you think or character you think that many of your peers will choose.
5. Have fun with your character -- do your best to indicate his or her personality by describing their dress, their behavior during the interview, their reactions to certain questions etc.

Paper Format:

- I. First part of paper will be a brief introduction.
- II. Main part of paper will be your transcript, which will constitute questions, answers and reporter's responses. For example:
GG: Question to Una
Una: Response
GG: Comments on response and follow up question
Una: Response

*Provide Fitt.lines or Book.canto.lines when you refer to moments in the text or when you quote works directly.

III. Concluding remarks about your interview.

IV. Work cited (for either *Faerie Queene* or *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight*).

Example for *Faerie Queene*:

Spenser, Edmund. *The Faerie Queene*. Book I. *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Renaissance and Early Seventeenth Century*. Vol.3. Ed. Joseph Black et al. 2nd ed. Toronto: Broadview. 194-277.

Good luck!