



Activity 3

Stephen of Fougères, *Le Livre des Manières* (12th century)

Knighthood was once a high order,
but it is now no more than **debauchery**.
Knights love dancing and diversions rather too much
and know nothing of responsibility.

Born of a free father and a free mother,
a man is invested as a knight
To pursue a strenuous life, so he should be sensible,
and should not be **corrupt** and full of **vice**.

He should be sensibly **prudent** and tough
and of **honest** conduct.
He should bear himself **courteously**
towards the Church and all folk.

The knight should keep frequently in mind,
that he should spend his days of vigour in **loyal** service
more so than any monk in his community.
He takes up the sword in such a spirit

That he should neither commit a crime nor lie,
nor either should he contemplate **deceit**;
He should assist Holy Church and should attend it
and live only on what is his rightful estate.

Ramon Llull, *The Book of the Order of Chivalry* (13th century)

It is the **office** of the knight to **uphold** and **defend** the Holy Catholic Faith. God grants
honour in this world and the next to those knights who are the upholders and defenders of
the office of God and of the faith through which we shall be saved.

It is the office of the knight to support and defend his **temporal lord**, for neither a king, a
prince, nor any high baron could uphold justice among his people without aid. **Justice** must
be upheld by the knights.

Riding a horse, taking part in tournaments, fencing, and other things similar to these are the
office of a knight, for by all these things knights are trained for **feats of arms** and for
upholding the Order of Chivalry.

Just as all of these aforesaid practices pertain to the knight with respect to the body so
justice, wisdom, charity, loyalty, truth, humility, fortitude, hope and prowess, and the other
virtues similar to these, pertain to the knight with respect to the soul.

It is the office of the knight to support widows, orphans and the helpless. It is the office of
the knight to own a castle and horse in order to guard the highways and defend the
peasants.

