

Project 3 - Recreating Camelot

Remember

1. Read the questions several times before reading your text. Make sure you understand them well.
 2. Highlight the questions when you need to quote from the text.
 3. Circle the questions in red when you need to answer in your own words. Make sure you find synonyms, other ways of justifying.
 4. Find out where the excerpt is from and find out the author.
 5. Read your text once completely. Then read it several times.
 6. Respect the order of each question.
 7. Start a sentence with a capital letter and punctuate.
 8. Go through your answers! Check your sentence is made of a subject, verb, complement. Check your plurals and subject-verb agreement.
 9. **You can do it ! Enjoy !**
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Answer each question below :

1. Identify the narrator of the story and the writer. /1
2. Who is the story intended for? Why ? /3
3. Where is the story told ? /1
4. Identify the people mentioned in the text. /2
5. Who do you think Patrick is ? Justify with elements from the text. /2
6. How is the story told ? Linear, chronological or through flashbacks ? What does it underline? /2
7. What is the significance of the red roses for Jackie ? /2
8. Summarise in your own words the story of the St. Christopher medal. /3
9. What does the eternal flame in Arlington represent for Jackie ? /1
10. Explain what she gave her husband in the hospital and why. /2
11. The following sentences underline the end of what for Jackie ? /1
12. What is the difference between Jackie's and Jack's views of history and how is this linked to Camelot ? /4 (LV1 ONLY)
13. Find elements of the article that illustrate the three aspects of Jackie's personality discussed previously and support your choices. /3

The Kennedy Dynasty

For President Kennedy: An Epilogue

Theodore H. White, in Life Magazine (December 6, 1963)

Hyannis Port, Massachusetts.

She remembers how hot the sun was in Dallas, and the crowds - greater and wilder than the crowds in Mexico or in Vienna. The sun was blinding, streaming down; yet she could not put on sunglasses for she had to wave to the crowd.

- 5 And up ahead she remembers seeing a tunnel around a turn and thinking that there would be a moment of coolness under the tunnel. There was the sound of motorcycles, as always in a parade, and the occasional backfire of a motorcycle. The sound of the shot came, at that moment, like the sound of a backfire, and she remembers Connally saying, "No, no, no, no, no..."

- 10 She remembers the roses. Three times that day in Texas they had been greeted with bouquets of yellow roses of Texas. Only, in Dallas they had given her red roses. She remembers thinking, how funny - red roses for me; and then the car was full of blood and red roses.

Much later, accompanying the body from the Dallas hospital to the airport, she was alone with Clint Hill - the first Secret Service man to come to their rescue - and with Dr. Burkley, the White House physician. Burkley gave her two roses that had slipped under the President's shirt when he fell, his head in her lap.

- 15 All through the night they tried to separate him from her, to sedate her, and take care of her - and she would not let them. She wanted to be with him. She remembered that Jack had said of his father, when his father suffered the stroke, that he could not live like that. Don't let that happen to me, he had said, when I have to go.

Now, in her hand she was holding a gold St. Christopher's medal.

- 20 She had given him a St. Christopher's medal when they were married; but when Patrick died this summer, they had wanted to put something in the coffin with Patrick that was from them both and so he had put in the St. Christopher's medal.

Then he had asked her to give him a new one to mark their 10th wedding anniversary, a month after Patrick's death.

- 25 He was carrying it when he died, and she had found it. But it belonged to him - so she would not put that in the coffin with him. She wanted to give him something that was hers, something that she loved. So she had slipped off her wedding ring and put it on his finger. When she came out of the room in the hospital in Dallas, she asked: "Do you think it was right? Now I have nothing left." And Kenny O'Donnell said, "You leave it where it is."

- 30 That was at 1:30 p.m. in Texas.

But then, at Bethesda Hospital in Maryland, at three a.m. the next morning, Kenny slipped into the chamber where the body lay and brought her back the ring, which, as she talked now, she twisted.

On her little finger was the other ring: a slim, gold circlet with green emerald chips - the one he had given her in memory of Patrick.

- 35 There was a thought too, that was always with her. "When Jack quoted something, it was usually classical," she said, "but I'm so ashamed of myself - all I could keep thinking of is this line from a musical comedy.

The Kennedy Dynasty

For President Kennedy: An Epilogue

Theodore H. White, in Life Magazine (December 6, 1963)

40 "At night, before we'd go to sleep, Jack liked to play some records; and the song he loved most came at the very end of this record. The lines he loved to hear were: *Don't let it be forgot/that once there was a spot/for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot.*"

She wanted to make sure that the point came clear and went on: "There'll be great Presidents again - and the Johnsons are wonderful, they've been wonderful to me - but there'll never be another Camelot again.

45 "Once, the more I read of history, the more bitter I got. For a while I thought history was something that bitter old men wrote. But then I realized history made Jack what he was. You must think of him as this little boy, sick so much of the time, reading in bed, reading history, reading the Knights of the Round Table, reading Marlborough. For Jack, history was full of heroes. And if it made him this was - if it made him see the heroes - maybe other little boys will see. Men are such a combination of good and bad. Jack had this hero idea of history, the idealistic view."

50 But she came back to the idea that transfixed her: *Don't let it be forgot/that once there was a spot/for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot* and it will never be that way again.

55 As for herself? She was horrified by the stories that she might live abroad. "I'm never going to live in Europe. I'm not going to 'travel extensively abroad.' That's desecration. I'm going to live in the places I lived with Jack. In Georgetown, and with the Kennedys at the Cape. They're my family. I'm going to bring up my children. I want John to grow up to be a good boy."

60 As for the President's memorial, at first she remembered that in every speech in their last days in Texas, he had spoken of how in December this nation would loft the largest rocket booster yet into the sky, making us first in space. So she had wanted something of his there when it went up - perhaps only his initials painted on a tiny corner of the great Saturn, where no one need even notice it. But now Americans will seek the moon from Cape Kennedy. The new name, born of her frail hope, came as a surprise.

The only thing she knew she must have for him was the eternal flame over his grave at Arlington.

65 "Whenever you drive across the bridge from Washington into Virginia," she said, "you see the Lee mansion on the side of the hill in the distance. When Caroline was very little, the mansion was one of the first things she learned to recognize. Now, at night you can see his flame beneath the mansion for miles away."

She said it is time people paid attention to the new President and the new First Lady. But she does not want them to forget John F. Kennedy or read of him only in dusty or bitter histories:

For one brief shining moment there was Camelot.

Evaluation type Baccalauréat – Compréhension écrite

Barème et correction

1. Identify the narrator of the story and the writer. /1

Jackie Kennedy is the narrator of the story written by the journalist of Life Magazine, Theodore White.

2. Who is the story intended for ? Why ? /3

The story is intended for the American nation as a way for Jackie Kennedy to ensure that her husband's legacy will be remembered. This story is part of Jackie's effort to ensure the posterity of the Camelot/Kennedy White House myth.

3. Where is the story told ? /1

The story is told in the family compound in Hyannis.

4. Identify the people mentioned in the text. /2

Caroline, President Kennedy, the new President and First Lady, Patrick, Kenny O'Donnell, Clint Hill, Dr. Burkeley, Connally, Jack's father

5. Who do you think Patrick is ? Justify with elements from the text. /2

Patrick is probably a child she had with the President. (l.21)

6. How is the story told ? Linear, chronological or through flashbacks ? What does it underline ? /2

The story is told through flashbacks and underlines the confusion Jackie Kennedy is still going through. It highlights the high-emotional aspect of this interview and the trauma she had to go through. It also in some way helps establish the "timelessness", dreaminess of events, thereby reinforcing the myth.

7. What is the significance of the red roses for Jackie ? /2

The red roses are a bad omen for Jackie. They foreshadow the tragic event as she is confusing the colour of the roses with her husband's blood.

8. Summarise in your own words the story of the St. Christopher medal. /3

Jackie gave her husband a medal at their wedding but they put the medal in their son's coffin when he passed away as they wanted him to have something that represented them both. On their 10th wedding anniversary, Jackie gave him a new medal as it was his wish to have another one. He had this medal with him in Dallas, the day he was assassinated and she found it. She kept it as it belonged to him and left her ring instead. She is holding that same medal during the interview with the journalist.

9. What does the eternal flame in Arlington represent for Jackie ? /1

The flame is another way for Jackie to ensure her husband's legacy and memory. It symbolises eternity and a place in history. For their daughter, it's a physical reminder of her father.

10. Explain what she gave her husband in the hospital and why. /2

She wanted to give him something that belonged to her so she removed her wedding ring and gave it to him. It is also a way for her to clearly put an end to her life as JFK's wife. She is not Mrs Kennedy anymore.

11. The following sentences underline the end of what for Jackie ? : /1

'I'm never going to live in Europe. I'm not going to travel extensively abroad.' That's desecration. I'm going to live in the places I lived with Jack'.

It is the end of her life as JFK's wife and therefore as First lady. With the death of JFK, she has lost her sense of identity, of who she is.

12. What is the difference between Jackie's and Jack's views of history and how is this linked to Camelot ? /4 (LV1 ONLY)

Evaluation type Baccalauréat – Compréhension écrite

She has a view of history as being bitter and written about by bitter old men, whereas Jack has a kind of naive, boyish view of history as being populated by heroes. History is full of action men. He believed people were capable of great deeds. Her view is more pessimistic. She tries to interpret his view of history and approximates it to fairy-tales and the romantic view of Camelot.

13. Find elements of the article that illustrate the three aspects of Jackie's personality discussed previously and support your choices. /3

L.67 Her husband cannot be forgotten, so this is part of Jackie creating a myth, using the Camelot myth to ensure his immortality.

L.38 She is creating the Camelot myth with this statement and she is using a personal story that is likely to relate to people to distort the myth and recreate it.

Her duty as First lady is seen in the first paragraph, l.4 'she had to wave to the crowd'.

L.33 Personal memories: Confused, the memory of the child she has lost comes back to her. She was holding the medal: desperate attempt to make sense, to overcome her grief/vulnerable Jackie.

Vocabulary sheet - Add new words and illustrate with a sentence.

To stream down	The sun was streaming down.		
To remember + ing	She remembers seeing a tunnel ahead of her.	She remembers Connally saying	
As always	As always in a parade		
backfire	It was like the sound of a backfire.		
A shot	The sound of the shot came at that moment.		
To be greeted with	The had greeted them with yellow roses		
Much later	Beaucoup plus tard	Much later, she realized what had happened.	
To accompany	Accompanying the body to the hospital...	Much later sitting in the ambulance, she asked the nurse about A. Lincoln.	
To come to the rescue	He was the first to come to the rescue.		
All through the night	Toute la nuit		
To sedate someone	They tried to sedate her.		
To suffer a stroke	He suffered a stroke when he was younger.		
To mark a wedding anniversary	She gave him another medal to mark their 10 th wedding anniversary.		
To slip off	She had slipped off her wedding ring.	To slip into	He had slipped into the chamber where the body lay.
To lie- lay – lain (intransitive)	Where the body lay. The man lies on the table.	To lay, laid, laid (transitive) To lay the table To lay eggs	He lays bricks. He is a bricklayer.
To keep +ing	All I could keep thinking of was....	To be ashamed of oneself	I was so ashamed of myself.
To get bitter	As I get older, I get bitter and bitter.		
To transfix – transfix=obsessed	She came back to that idea that transfixed her: don't let it be forgot...	In the distance	Dans le lointain