

fruit pickers, and laborers_____ on farms and ranches_____. These were the people he

had mingled with when he had worked summer jobs during his high_____ school_____

days, or when he had worked on ranches, farms, etc. to find ways to pay for his college education.

Steinbeck was also a scholar of Anglo-Saxon_____ literature, including *Beowulf*_____.

The Anglo-Saxon “comitatus_____” clearly influenced some of his writing. The essential

belief of the comitatus is that everyone protects the king_____ at all costs_____, even if it

means a warrior has to give up his own_____ life_____. If a king is killed, his warriors must

avenge his death, or they can no longer serve as warriors for the next king. Steinbeck was also

also fascinated with Arthurian_____ legends, especially Sir Thomas Malory’s

*Le Morte d’Arthur*_____. Steinbeck’s interest in the comitatus and the Arthurian

legends would become apparent later in works including *Of Mice and Men*_____.

George, the novel’s protagonist_____, is “a type of knight errant,” a poor man’s

Galahad_____, who journeys abroad with his vassal_____, Lennie, a simple_____ -

minded_____ giant_____.” The two share a common dream of a little spread or

garden - a Camelot_____. The loyalty these two share is a cross between the Comitatus_____

in *Beowulf* and the chivalric_____ fealty seen in the tales of King_____ Arthur_____

and his knights.

In 1925, Steinbeck went to New_____ York_____, trying to establish himself as a freelance writer. He was fired from one newspaper because his writing was “too