

## Don Quixote - Some Useful Terms

### Chapter One

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**Chivalry** - the sum of the ideal qualifications of a knight, including courtesy, generosity, valor, and dexterity in arms

**Amadis of Gaul** - Amadís was the most handsome, upright, and valiant of knights. The story of his incredible feats of arms, in which he is never defeated, was interwoven with that of his love for Oriana, daughter of Lisuarte, king of England; she was his constant inspiration, and eventually he won her in marriage.

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**Palmerin of England** - This is a romance of chivalry, after the style of 'Amadis of Gaul,' and in this class of literature regarded as second only to it in point of merit.

**El Cid** - El Cid displayed remarkable military ability in his conquest of Valencia, and after his death he became the subject of many legends, stories, and poems, including the 12th-century epic *El cantar de mio Cid* ("The Song of the Cid").

**Don Belianis** - Belianis of Greece is the hero of a Castilian [chivalric romance novel](#), following in the footsteps of the influential [Amadis de Gaula](#).

**Giant Morgante** - is an Italian [romantic epic](#) by [Luigi Pulci](#) which tells the story of [Orlando](#) and [Renaud de Montauban](#). The title character is a [giant](#) who becomes Orlando's loyal follower after the knight stops him from attacking the monastery of Chiaromonte and converts him to Christianity. After many strange adventures, Morgante is killed by a bite from a crab. Page 4

**Knights-Errant** - The adjective [errant](#) (meaning "wandering, roving") indicates how the [knight-errant](#) would wander the land in search of adventures to prove his chivalric virtues, either in knightly duels (*pas d'armes*) or in some other pursuit of courtly love.

**Rocinante** - Rocín in Spanish means a [work horse](#) or low-quality horse, but can also mean an illiterate or rough man. The name is a complex pun. In [Spanish](#), [ante](#) has several meanings and can function as a standalone word as well as a suffix. One meaning is "before" or "previously". Another is "in front of". As a suffix, -ante in Spanish is adverbial; rocinante refers to functioning as, or being, a rocín. "Rocinante", then, follows Cervantes' pattern using ambiguous, multivalent words, common throughout the novel.

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**Sallies** - to set out on a trip or excursion

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**Sage** - wise through reflection and experience

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**Castellan** - the governor or captain of a castellany and its castle. The word stems from the Latin *Castellanus*, derived from *castellum* "castle". Sometimes also known as a constable, governor of the castle district or captain, the Constable of the Tower of London is, in fact, a form of **castellan**.

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**Perfidious** - deliberately faithless; treacherous; deceitful:

**Ignominious** - degrading, disgraceful, dishonorable, shameful (deserving or causing public disgrace or shame)

Chapter 3

**Knights of the Cross** - The Knights of the Cross, also known as the Knights of the Sword, are a group of people who wield one of three holy swords, each forged with one of the nails from the Crucifixion of Christ.

**La Galatea by Cervantes** - *La Galatea* was [Miguel de Cervantes](#)' first book, published in 1585. Under the guise of pastoral characters, it is an examination of love and contains many allusions to contemporary literary figures. It enjoyed a modest success, but was not soon reprinted; its promised sequel was never published, and presumably never written.

**Necromancer Freston** - an imaginary character who Quixote imagines as the thief of his books and the enchanter of the windmills

**Golden Helmet of Mambrino** - Mambrino was a fictional [Moorish](#) king, celebrated in the romances of chivalry. According to legend, Mambrino possessed a helmet of pure gold that rendered its wearer invulnerable. Possession of the helmet was the ambition of all the paladins of [Charlemagne](#)

**Paladin** - a knight renowned for heroism and chivalry.