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KING ARTHUR



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JANET HARDY-GOULD
ILLUSTRATIONS: AXEL RATOR

KING ARTHUR

It is the year 650 in England. There is no king and people are fighting.

One night Merlin the magician has a dream ...



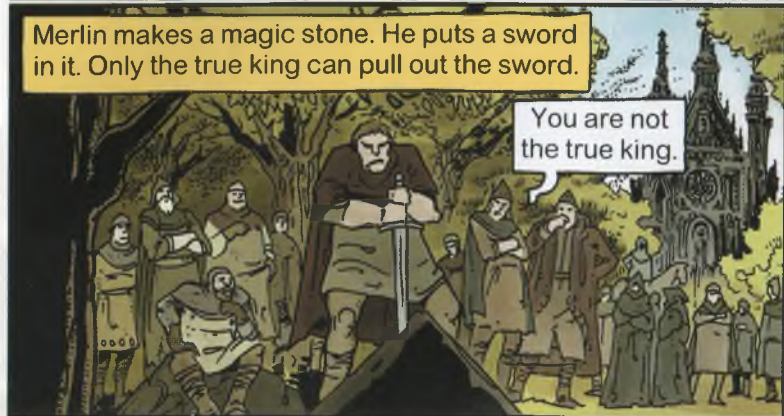
In the morning ...

I see a wonderful king. His name is Arthur! How can I find him?



Merlin makes a magic stone. He puts a sword in it. Only the true king can pull out the sword.

You are not the true king.





Suddenly ...



Who are you?



Don't be afraid, Arthur! My name is Merlin. With my help you can be king.

The next day many important people come to see Arthur.



He's very young!

Who are those people?



That's your half-sister, Morgan, and her son, Mordred. She can see into the future.



Merlin teaches every day, and after four years he is a strong, good king.



One morning, a soldier visits Arthur.

The lords from the North are coming to fight you!

Go now and fight, Arthur!

Go faster, men!

When they arrive there is a long battle.

Oh, no!

Help!

Hours later most of the other soldiers are dead.

Arthur is King of all England!

We can win every battle now!



I see a dark future for
you and Guinevere.
Don't marry her!



I am King and I
choose my Queen!

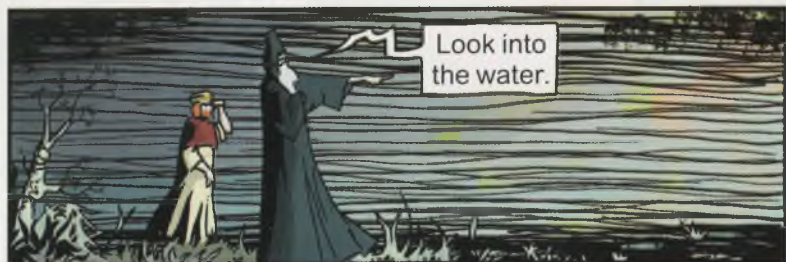
Arthur builds the
castle of Camelot.

Here's the new castle
for my future Queen.

Arthur, I must
speak to you ...

What's the matter?

I must leave you now.
I am losing my magic.
Come with me Arthur.



Thank you!

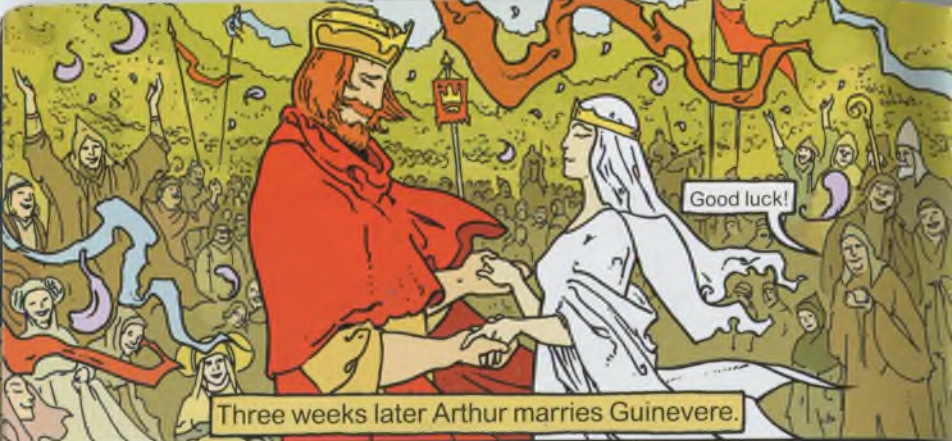
Be careful. Don't break it – without your sword you are nothing.



Goodbye, Arthur.

Take the magic sword. You need this for your battles.





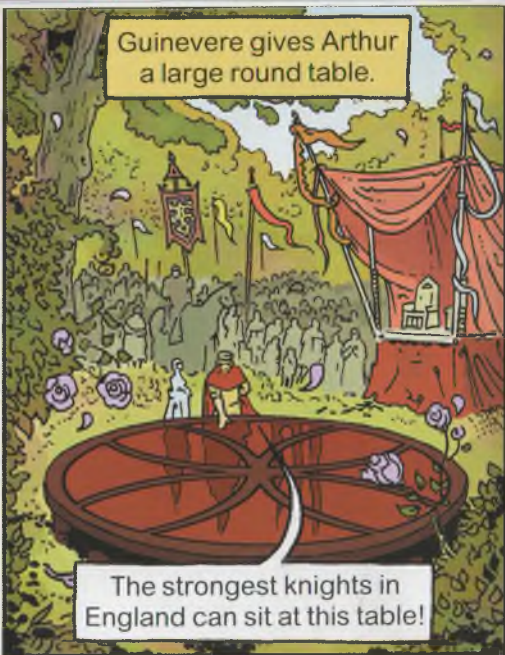
Three weeks later Arthur marries Guinevere.

Two people stand alone ... Morgan and her son, Mordred.



I see an unhappy future for Arthur and Guinevere!

Guinevere gives Arthur a large round table.



The strongest knights in England can sit at this table!

I want to find the best knights in the country. Let's have a competition today!









Arthur and Guinevere are very happy together.

You're our best friend, Lancelot.

Soon, knights come from all over the country. They sit at the Round Table.



And in the villages ...

King Arthur, thank you! We have lots of food to eat.

We have a strong king at last! There is no more fighting.

Guinevere and Lancelot often go riding together.



Look at these beautiful flowers.

One night,
Morgan
and
Mordred
arrive at
Camelot.



Where is
King Arthur?

Hello Morgan!
Come in. Would
you like to stay?



Yes.

Morgan and Mordred stay for
weeks ... They are very friendly
to Guinevere and Arthur.

What a beautiful castle!



Thank
you.

But later ...

When I look into
the future I see
King Arthur is
dead. You must
be king, my son!



Yes, mother.

One morning Arthur visits Morgan.

Guinevere and I have no son or daughter. Mordred can be king when I die.



Thank you, dear brother. But you are very young ...



Be careful, Arthur. Mordred is a bad man.



Arthur tells Guinevere about the dream.

Don't worry. It's only a dream. Morgan and Mordred are nice people.



I can see into the future. There is no Arthur, no castle, and you are king!





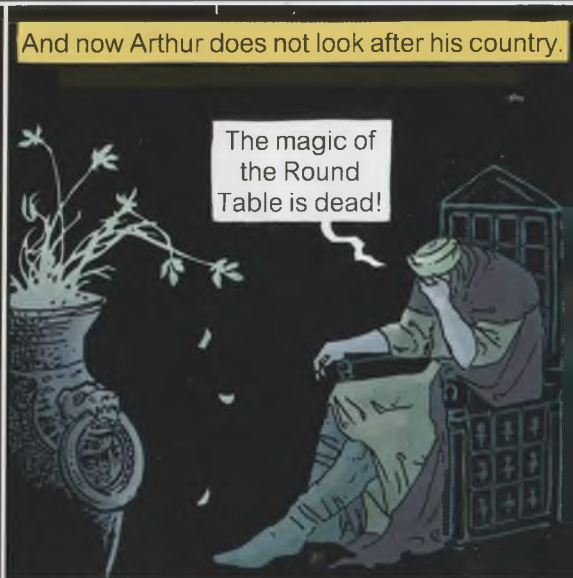




Lancelot rides away quickly with some knights.



Guinevere is very unhappy.



And now Arthur does not look after his country.

The magic of the Round Table is dead!



In the towns and villages people begin to fight again. Everyone is afraid.



A week later, Arthur and his knights find Lancelot.

Let's fight now!
Are you ready?

But I don't want
to fight my best
friend. Let's talk.

No. There's
no more time.

Just then, a
soldier arrives
from Camelot.

Mordred is now king!
Everybody thinks you
are dead, and the
queen is in prison.

Let's forget our fight!
Help me, Lancelot.

Arthur and his knights quickly ride back to Camelot.



Let's find Mordred and kill him!



Mordred's in the next village.

We need to sleep. Let's find him tomorrow.



Do not fight Mordred tomorrow. Lancelot is coming with many soldiers. Wait for him.



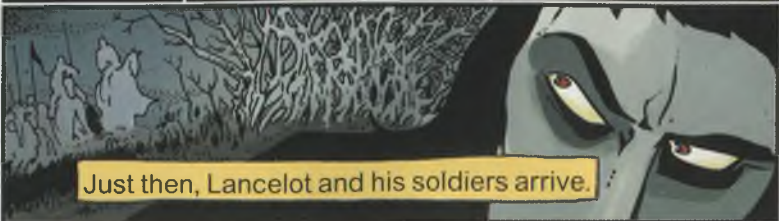
Shall we fight Mordred today?

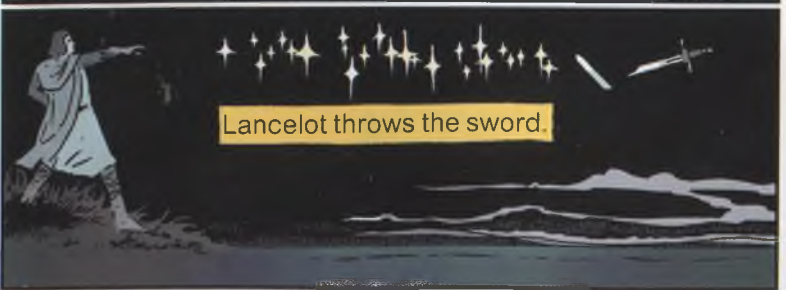
No, Gawain. We must wait. Lancelot and his soldiers are coming.













ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

1 Look at the picture on the cover of the book. Now answer these questions.

1 Where do you think the story happens?

a Japan.

b England.

c Spain.

d Australia.

2 When do you think the story happens?

a Ten years ago.

b Fifty years ago.

c A hundred years ago.

d Over a thousand years ago.

2 Read the back cover of the book. Which of these words do you think are in the story? Put a tick next to them. Perhaps not all of them are in the story. Why not?

horse

soldier

gun

car

pop star

castle

bicycle

queen

supermarket

ride

marry

America

drive

sword

village

ACTIVITIES

*While Reading***1 Read pages 1–4, then answer these questions.**

Who . . .

- 1 puts the sword in the stone? Why?
- 2 pulls the sword out of the stone?
- 3 is Arthur's half-sister? What can she do?
- 4 wins the battle?

2 Read pages 5–7.

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Arthur and Guinevere talk for a long time. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Merlin wants Arthur to marry Guinevere. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Merlin builds a new castle. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Merlin shows Arthur a magic sword. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Read pages 8–11. Now answer these questions.

- 1 What does Guinevere give Arthur?
- 2 Who fights a lot of different men?
- 3 Who is the strongest knight in England?
- 4 Why are the people in the villages happy?

4 Read pages 12–15. Who says these words?

- 1 'You must be king, my son.'
- 2 'Be careful, Arthur. Mordred is a bad man.'
- 3 'Oh Lancelot. You're very strong!'
- 4 'Perhaps Guinevere and Lancelot are in love.'
- 5 'Leave Camelot now, before I kill you.'

5 Read pages 16–20.

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Guinevere is happy because Lancelot leaves Camelot. | T | F |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 In the villages the people start to fight. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Arthur fights a battle against Lancelot. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Mordred puts Guinevere in prison. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Arthur wants to fight Mordred on the next day. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6 Before you read pages 21–24, can you guess what happens?

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | YES | NO |
| 1 Arthur breaks his magic sword. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Arthur kills Mordred. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Mordred kills Arthur. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Lancelot arrives and kills Mordred. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Arthur is king of England again. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Arthur dies and Merlin takes him away. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Guinevere marries Lancelot. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

ACTIVITIES

*After Reading***1 Put these nine sentences in the right order.**

- a Lancelot leaves Camelot.
- b Lancelot is the first knight of the Round Table.
- c Arthur pulls the sword out of the stone.
- d Arthur wants to fight a battle against Lancelot.
- e Merlin makes a magic stone and puts a sword in it.
- f Mordred hits Arthur with a sword.
- g Morgan and Mordred arrive one night at Camelot.
- h Arthur leaves in a boat with Merlin.
- i Arthur marries Guinevere.

2 Who says this? Who do they say it to?

- 1 'Don't be afraid! With my help you can be king.'
says this to
- 2 'Shall I fight in your name?' says this to
- 3 'Guinevere and Lancelot are often together.' says
this to
- 4 'No ... no ... not today. Let's fight tomorrow.'
says this to
- 5 'Find Guinevere and look after her.' says this to
.....

3 Look at each picture, then answer the questions after it.



1 Who is this?
What is he doing?



2 What is this?
Who builds it?



3 Who is this?



4 Who is this?



5 Who is this?
Why is she crying?



6 Who are these people?
What happens next?



7 Who is this? What happens next?

Glossary

- beat** win a fight against a person
- break** make something go into smaller pieces
- choose** take the thing or person that you like the best
- competition** a game that people try to win
- crown** a special thing that a king wears on his head
- dream** pictures inside your head when you sleep
- future** (*adj*) of the time that happens sometime after today
- future** (*n*) the time that happens sometime after today
- king** the most important man in the country
- knight** a soldier with a horse, in the time of King Arthur
- look after** take care of somebody
- lord** a very important man with a lot of land and money
- magic** (*n*) a special power that can make wonderful or strange things happen
- magician** somebody who makes strange things happen
- marry** take somebody as your husband or wife
- the North** the direction on your left when you watch the sun come up in the morning
- prison** a place where bad people are locked up
- pull** move something strongly towards you
- queen** the wife of a king
- soldier** a person in an army
- strong** (*adj*) having a powerful body
- throw** lift something up and send it quickly through the air
- traitor** someone who goes against his king or his country
- try** see if you can do something
- win** be the best in a game

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KING ARTHUR

It is the year 650 in England. There is war everywhere because the old king is dead and he has no son. Only when the new king comes can the fighting stop and the strange, magical story of King Arthur begin. But first, Merlin the ancient magician has to find a way of finding the next king . . .



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