

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 . . . (Word count 1,140)



- ◀ STAGE 6
- ◀ STAGE 5
- ◀ STAGE 4
- ◀ STAGE 3
- ◀ STAGE 2
- ◀ STAGE 1
- ◀ **STARTER**



Cover image by Johan Wingborg/Bildhuset AB
courtesy of photolibary.com

STARTER 250 Headwords

THE OXFORD BOOKWORMS LIBRARY: GET MORE FROM YOUR READING

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

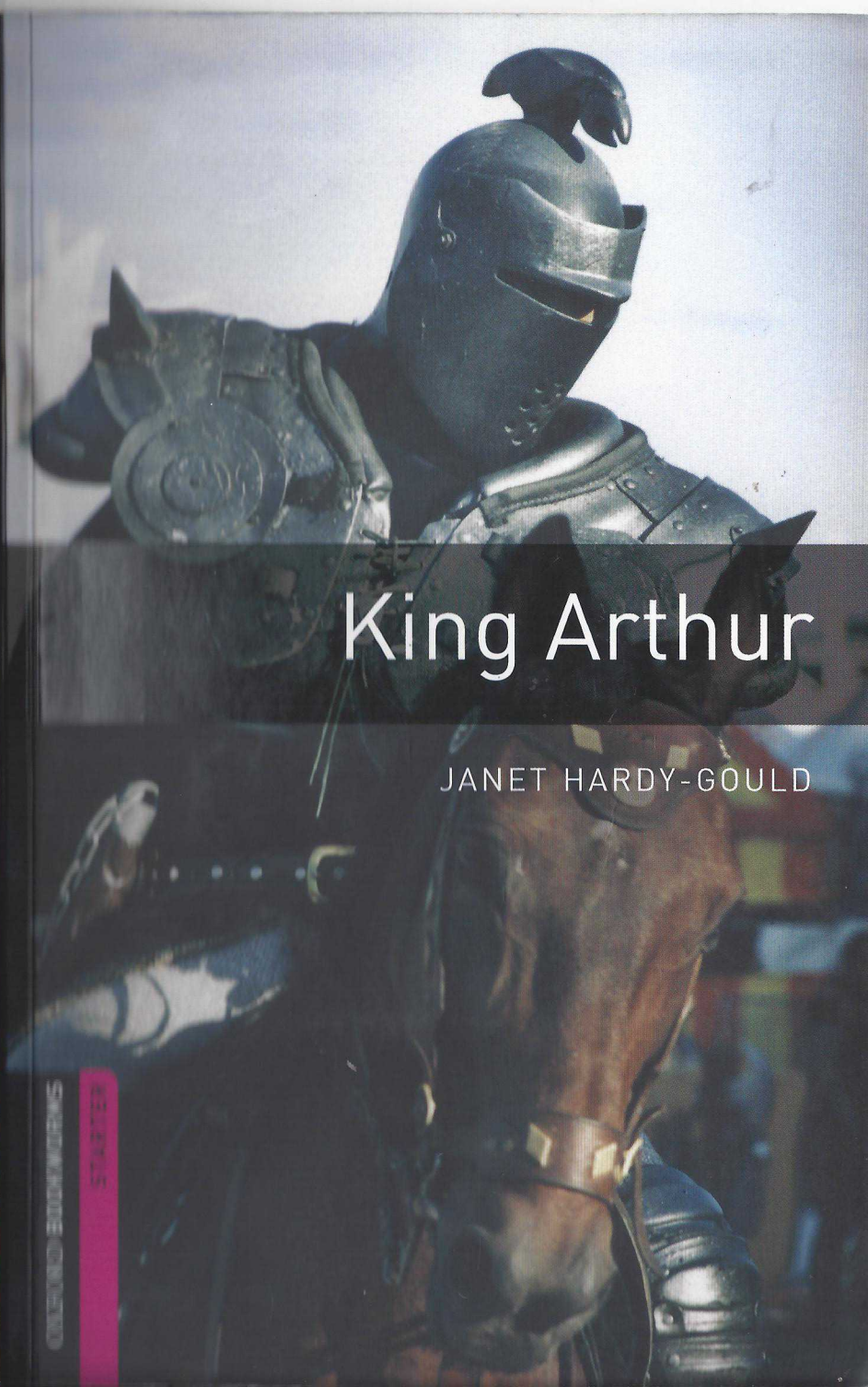
www.oup.com/elt

CEF
B1
A2
A1

OXFORD ENGLISH
ISBN 978-0-19-423414-6



STARTER
OXFORD BOOKWORMS



King Arthur

JANET HARDY-GOULD

STARTER
OXFORD BOOKWORMS

KING ARTHUR

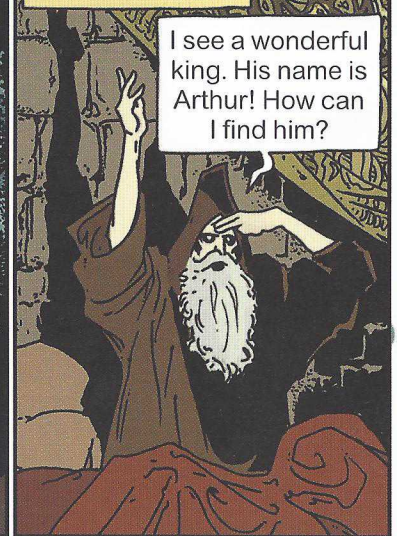
It is the year 650 in England. There is no king and people are fighting.

One night Merlin the magician has a dream ...



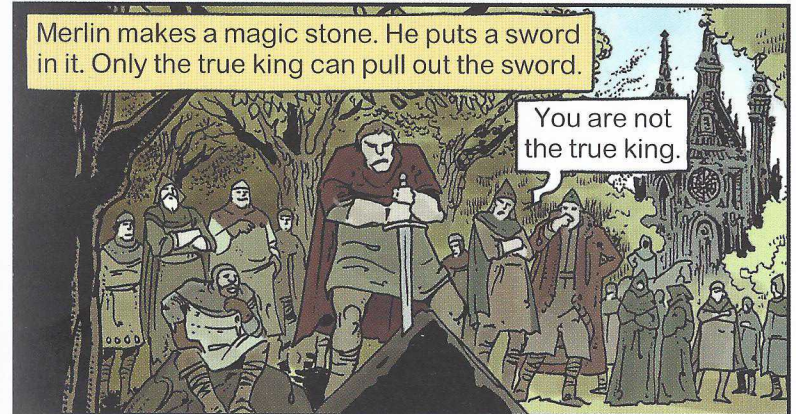
In the morning ...

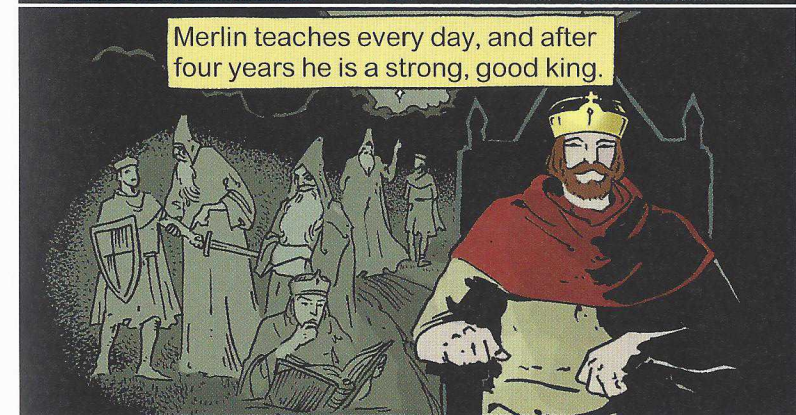
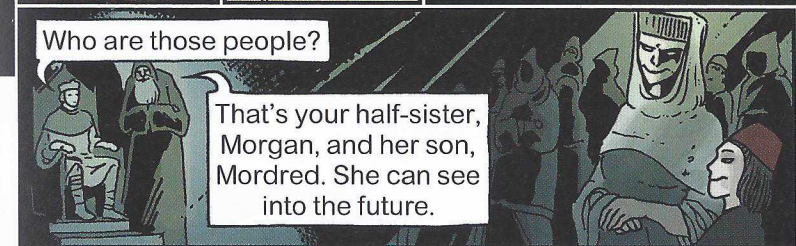
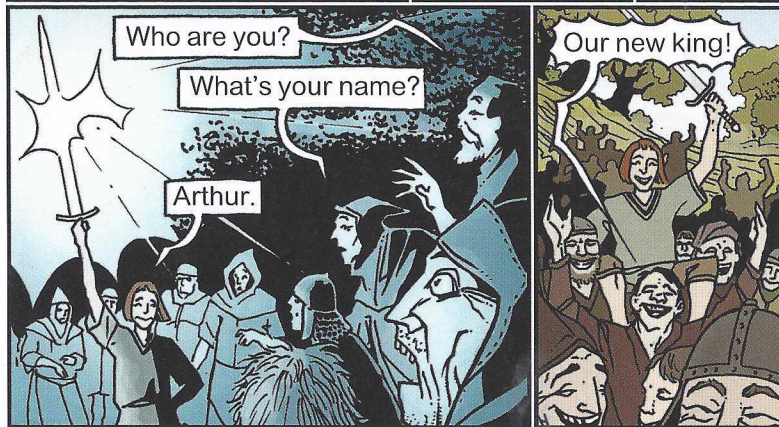
I see a wonderful king. His name is Arthur! How can I find him?

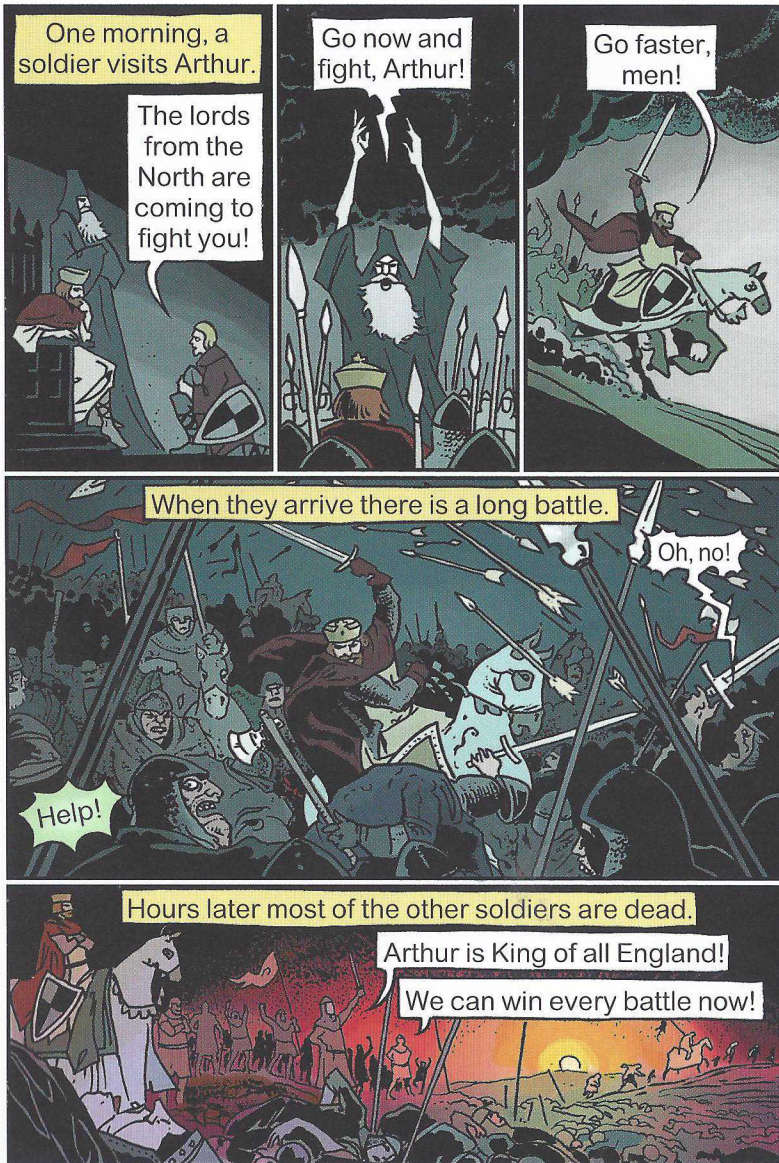


Merlin makes a magic stone. He puts a sword in it. Only the true king can pull out the sword.

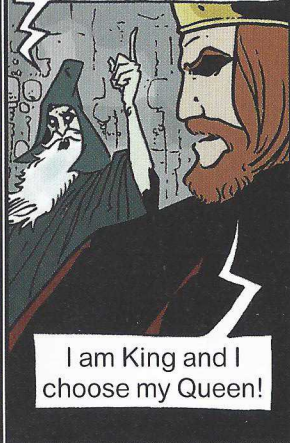
You are not the true king.



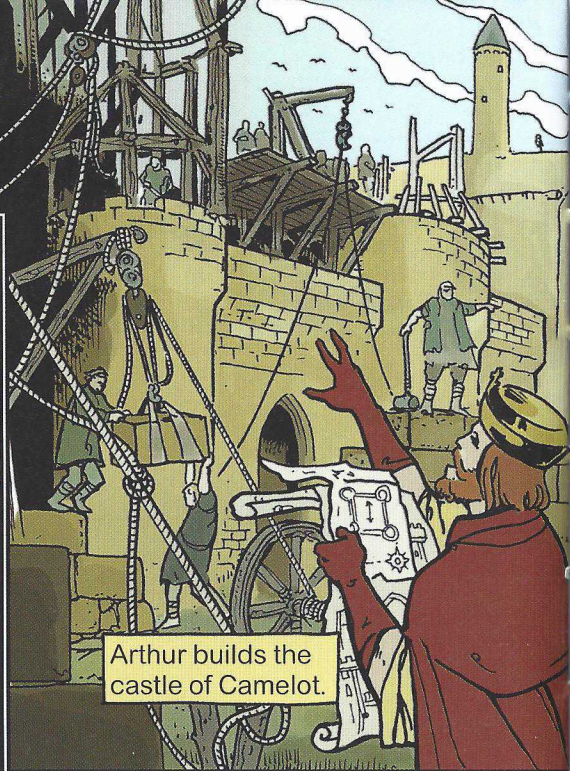




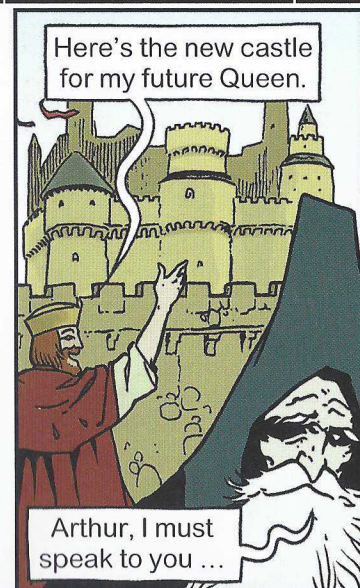
I see a dark future for you and Guinevere. Don't marry her!



I am King and I choose my Queen!

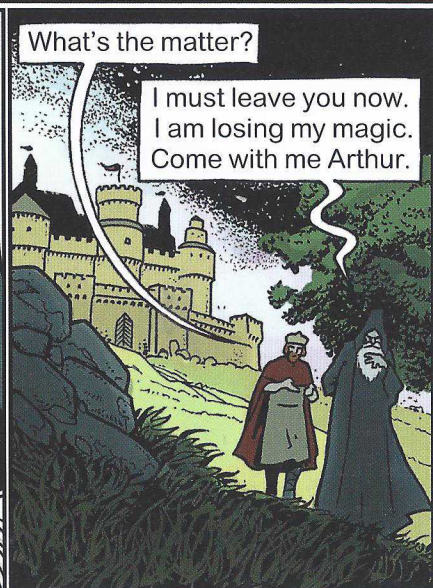


Arthur builds the castle of Camelot.



Here's the new castle for my future Queen.

Arthur, I must speak to you ...

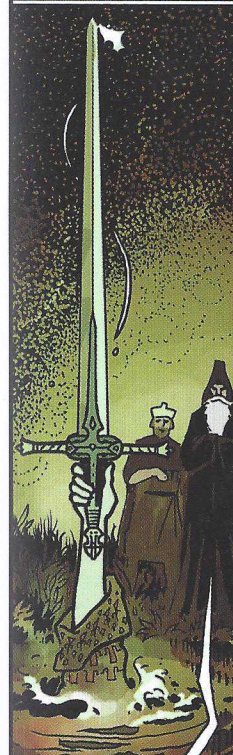


What's the matter?

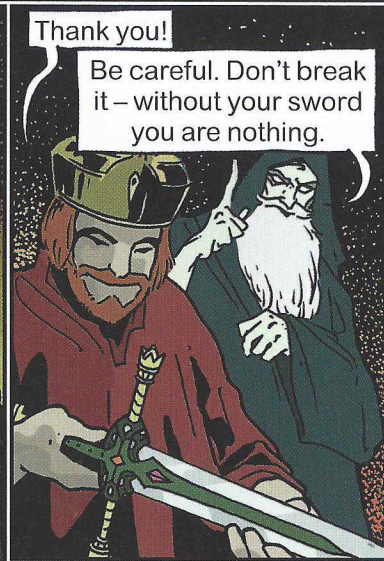
I must leave you now. I am losing my magic. Come with me Arthur.



Look into the water.



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



Thank you!

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



Goodbye, Arthur.



Three weeks later Arthur marries Guinevere.

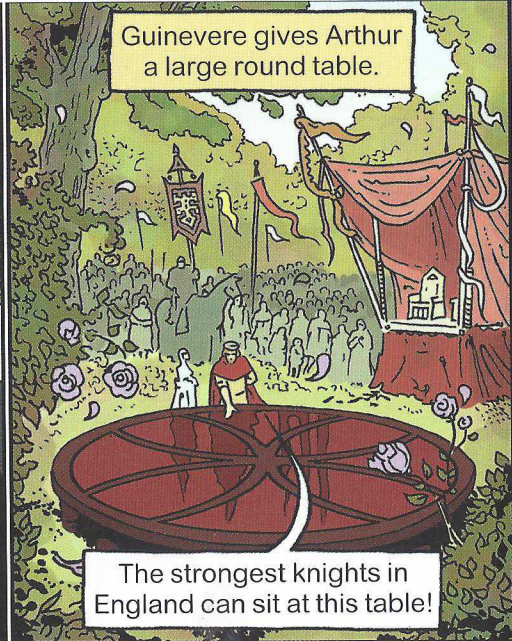
Good luck!

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



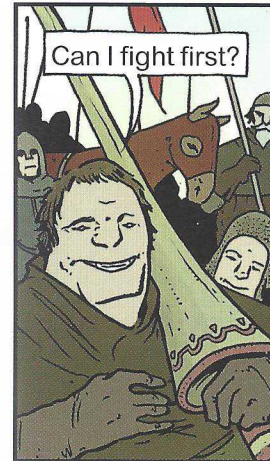
I see an unhappy future for Arthur and Guinevere!

Guinevere gives Arthur a large round table.

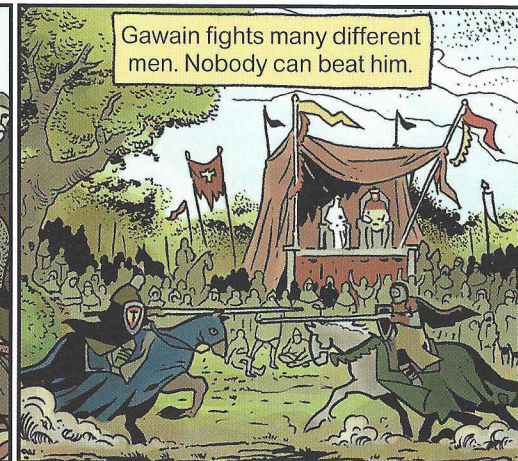


The strongest knights in England can sit at this table!

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



Can I fight first?

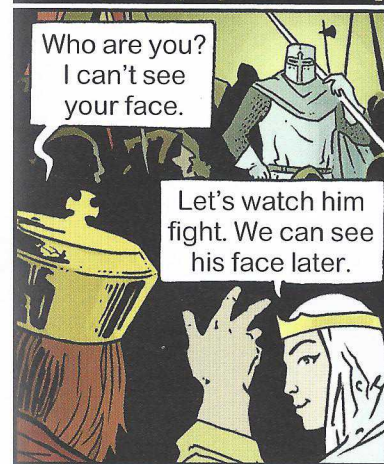


Gawain fights many different men. Nobody can beat him.



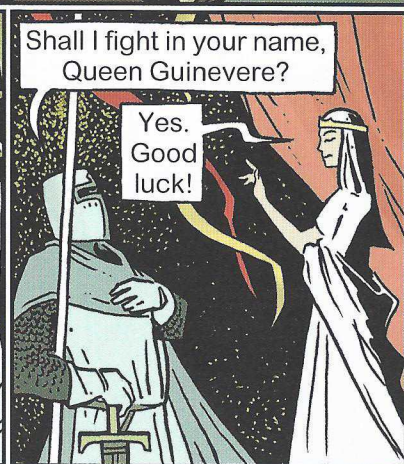
Is Gawain the strongest knight in England?

No, I am!



Who are you? I can't see your face.

Let's watch him fight. We can see his face later.



Shall I fight in your name, Queen Guinevere?

Yes. Good luck!



Come on, Gawain!

Oh dear!

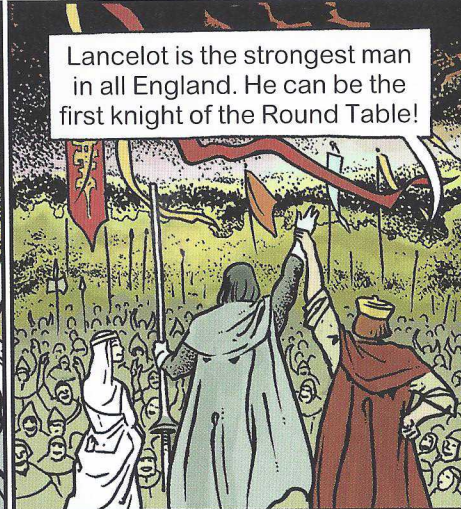


Oh no!



What's your name?

Lancelot.



Lancelot is the strongest man in all England. He can be the first knight of the Round Table!



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.

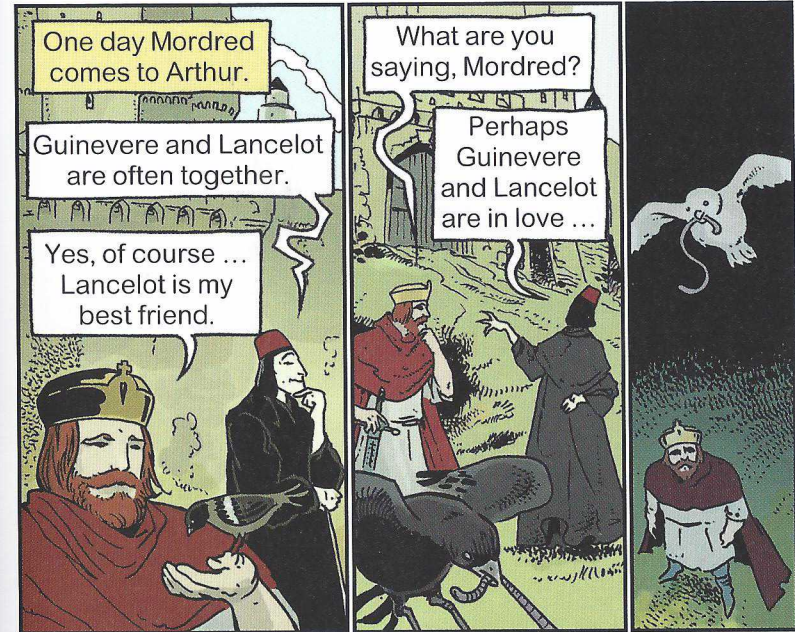
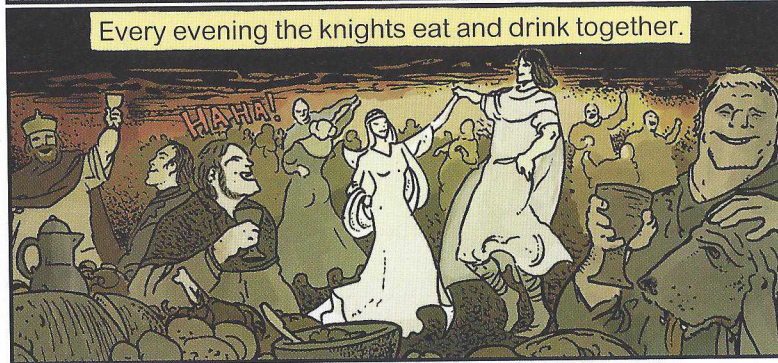
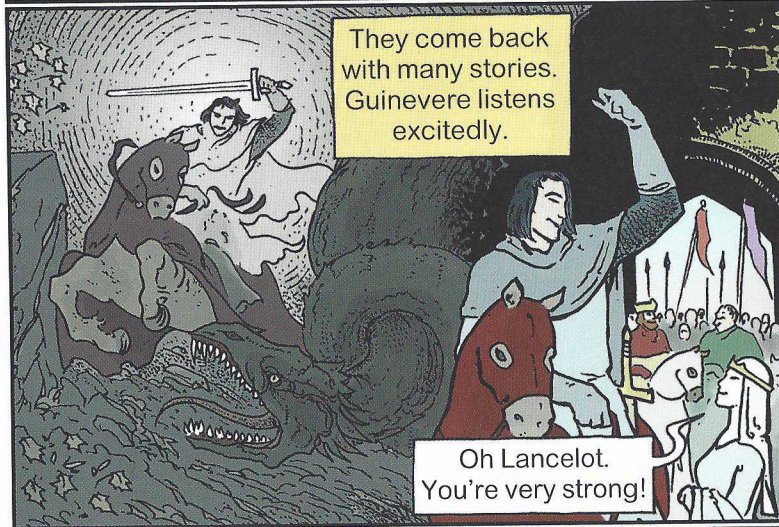
We have a strong king at last! There is no more fighting.



Guinevere and Lancelot often go riding together.

Look at these beautiful flowers.







Lancelot rides away quickly with some knights.

Guinevere is very unhappy.

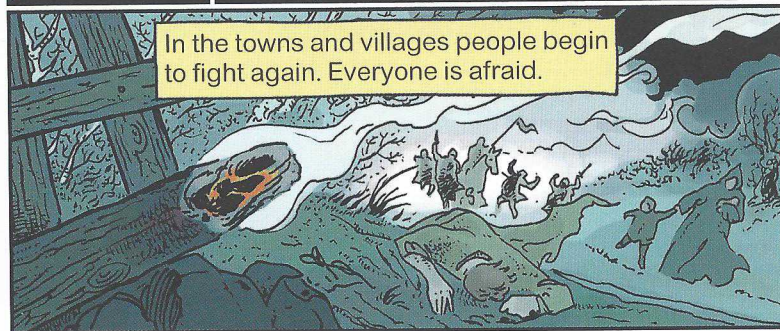


And now Arthur does not look after his country.

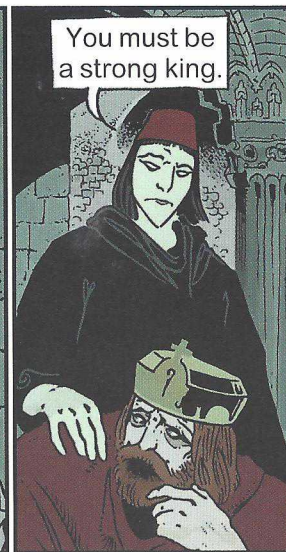


The magic of the Round Table is dead!

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



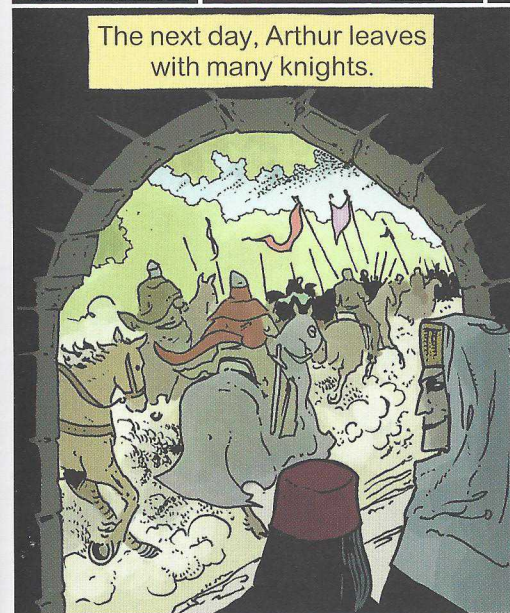
You must be a strong king.



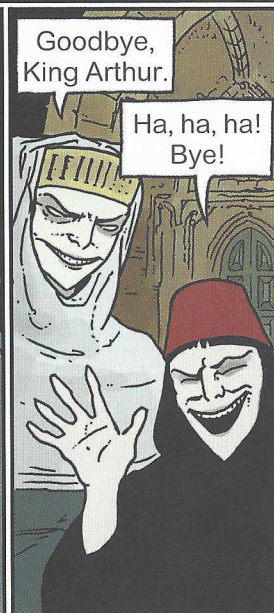
Find Lancelot and fight him!



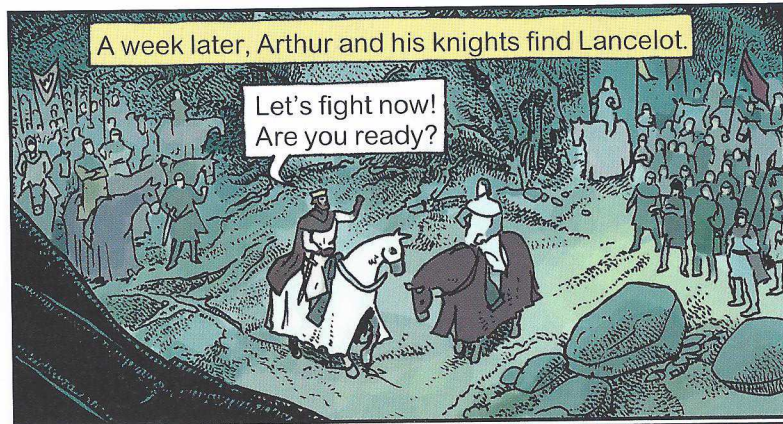
The next day, Arthur leaves with many knights.



Goodbye, King Arthur.



Ha, ha, ha! Bye!



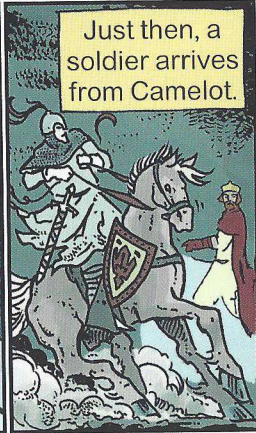
A week later, Arthur and his knights find Lancelot.

Let's fight now!
Are you ready?

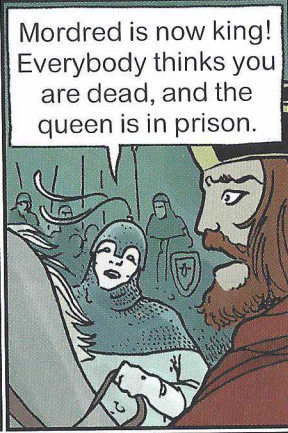


But I don't want
to fight my best
friend. Let's talk.

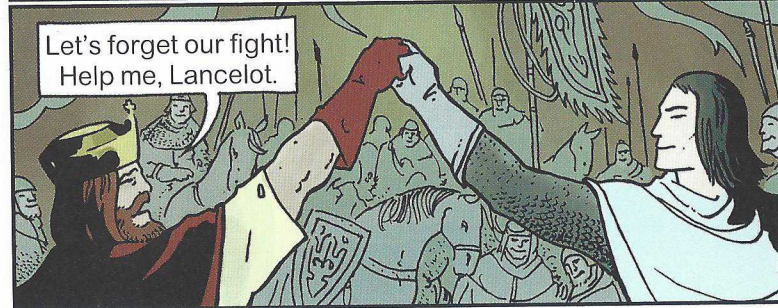
No. There's
no more time.



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.

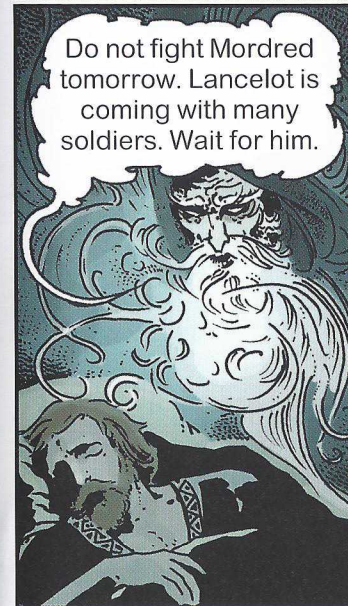


Let's find
Mordred
and kill him!

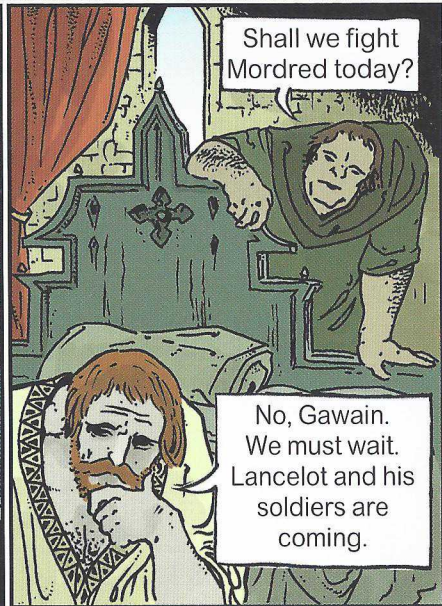


Mordred's in
the next village.

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?

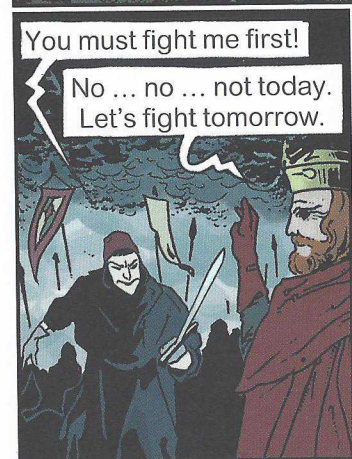
No, Gawain.
We must wait.
Lancelot and his
soldiers are
coming.



Arthur and his men meet Mordred.

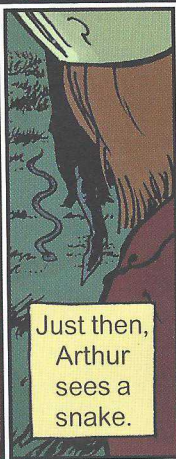
Hello, old man! Do you want to give me your crown?

You traitor! Where is my wife? I must see her.



You must fight me first!

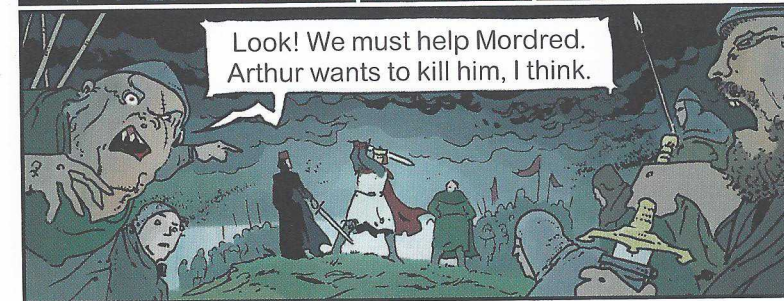
No ... no ... not today. Let's fight tomorrow.



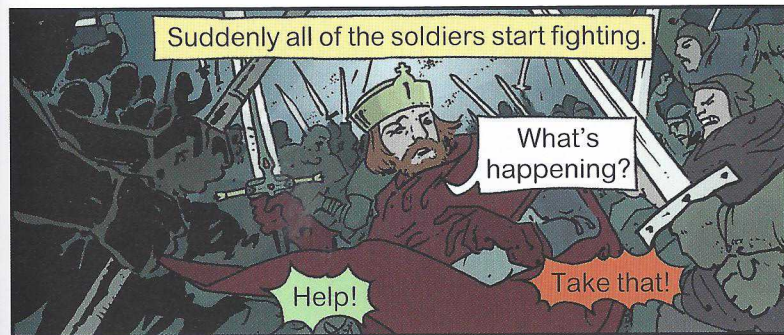
Just then, Arthur sees a snake.



Quick. Kill the snake!



Look! We must help Mordred. Arthur wants to kill him, I think.

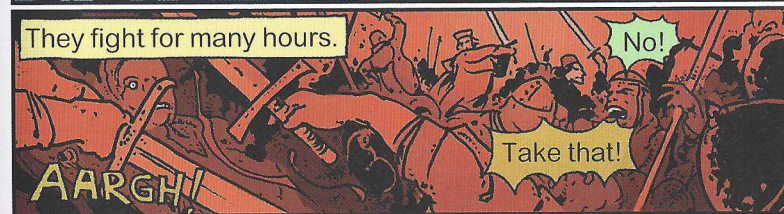


Suddenly all of the soldiers start fighting.

What's happening?

Help!

Take that!



They fight for many hours.

No!

Take that!

AARGH!

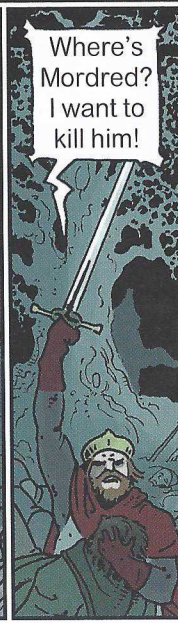


After three hours ...

My knights, my friends, my soldiers ... they are all dead!



Gawain ... my true friend.



Where's Mordred? I want to kill him!



Die, you traitor!



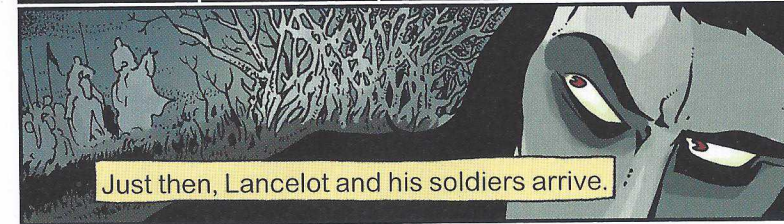
Ha, ha, ha!

Goodbye, Arthur!

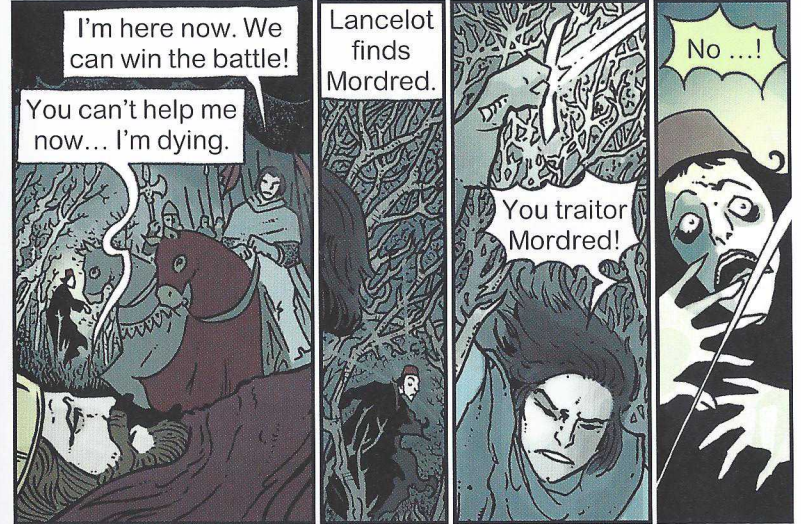
Help!

No! My sword ...

AARGH!



Just then, Lancelot and his soldiers arrive.



I'm here now. We can win the battle!

Lancelot finds Mordred.

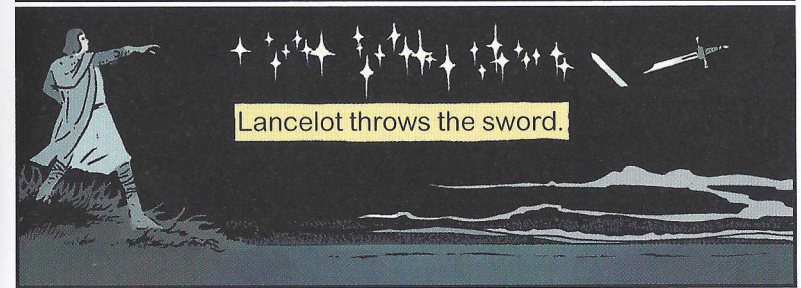
You can't help me now... I'm dying.

You traitor Mordred!

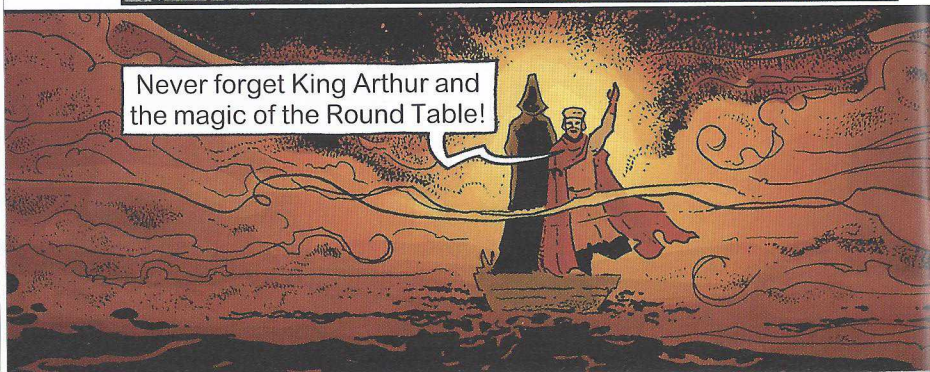
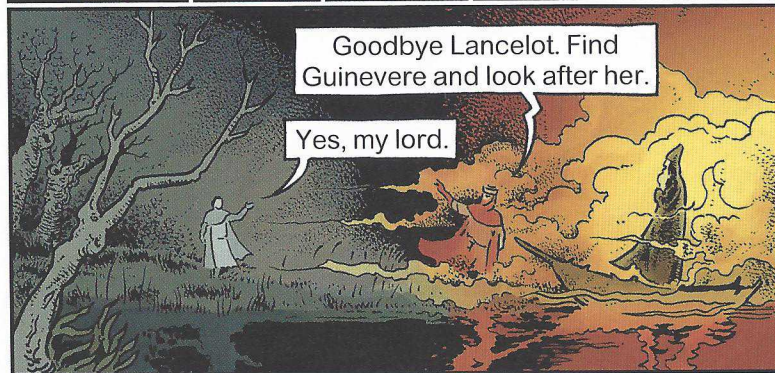
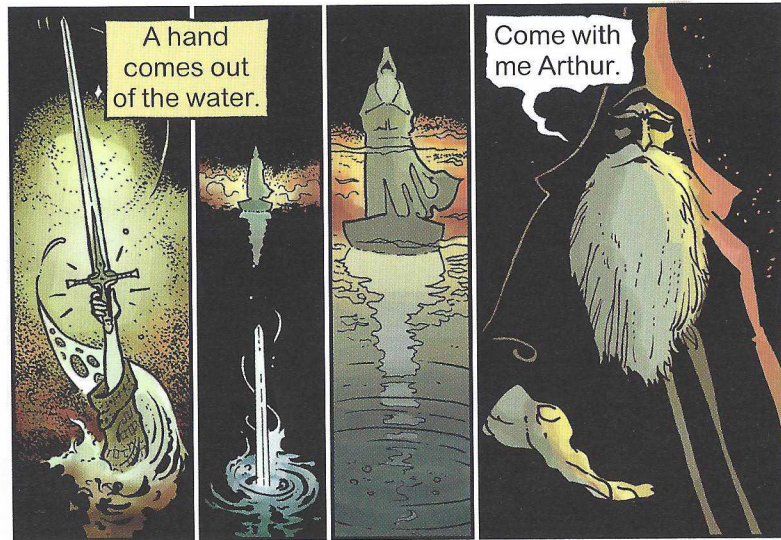
No ...!



Take my sword. Throw it into the water over there!



Lancelot throws the sword.



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

King Arthur

ACTIVITIES

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)?

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Guinevere is happy because Lancelot leaves Camelot. | <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.

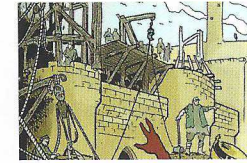
2 Who says this? Who do they say it to?

- 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?



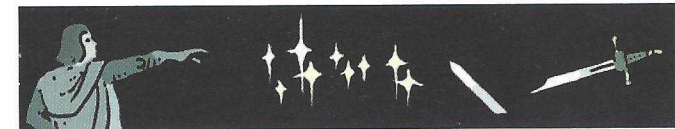
- 4 Who is this?



- 5 Who is this?
 Why is she crying?



- 6 Who are these people?
 What happens next?



- 7 Who is this? What happens next?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Janet Hardy-Gould is an experienced teacher and teacher trainer. She lives in Brighton, on the south coast of England, with her husband Geoff and two children, Gabriella and Joseph. She is interested in European history and wrote about Henry the Eighth, an important English King, in *Henry VIII and his Six Wives* (Stage 2, True Stories) for the Oxford Bookworms Library.

OXFORD BOOKWORMS LIBRARY

Classics • Crime & Mystery • Factfiles • Fantasy & Horror
Human Interest • Playscripts • Thriller & Adventure
True Stories • World Stories

The OXFORD BOOKWORMS LIBRARY provides enjoyable reading in English, with a wide range of classic and modern fiction, non-fiction, and plays. It includes original and adapted texts in seven carefully graded language stages, which take learners from beginner to advanced level. An overview is given on the next pages.

All Stage 1 titles are available as audio recordings, as well as over eighty other titles from Starter to Stage 6. All Starters and many titles at Stages 1 to 4 are specially recommended for younger learners. Every Bookworm is illustrated, and Starters and Factfiles have full-colour illustrations.

The OXFORD BOOKWORMS LIBRARY also offers extensive support. Each book contains an introduction to the story, notes about the author, a glossary, and activities. Additional resources include tests and worksheets, and answers for these and for the activities in the books. There is advice on running a class library, using audio recordings, and the many ways of using Oxford Bookworms in reading programmes. Resource materials are available on the website <www.oup.com/bookworms>.

The *Oxford Bookworms Collection* is a series for advanced learners. It consists of volumes of short stories by well-known authors, both classic and modern. Texts are not abridged or adapted in any way, but carefully selected to be accessible to the advanced student.

You can find details and a full list of titles in the *Oxford Bookworms Library Catalogue* and *Oxford English Language Teaching Catalogues*, and on the website <www.oup.com/bookworms>.