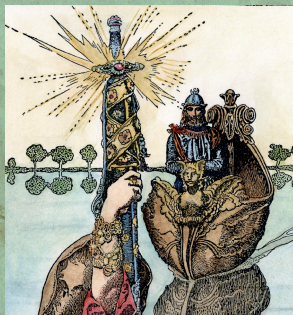


# Contents

About the Author	6
About the Book	7
<b>FACT FILE</b> Howard Pyle	8
Characters	10
Before Reading	12
1 King Uther Pendragon	17
2 The sword in the stone	21
3 Arthur becomes king	23
4 The Black Knight	27
5 Excalibur	31
6 Lady Guinevere	33
7 The Round Table	37
8 Morgana and Vivien	41
9 Sir Lancelot of the Lake	45
10 The Beast of Corbin	48
11 Lady Elaine	53
12 Sir Lancelot marries	55
13 Sir Gawaine	57
14 Sir Galahad and the Holy Grail	60
15 Avalon	64
After Reading	69

# HOWARD PYLE

## THE MAN BEHIND THE LEGEND



### Excalibur

In Pyle's version of the story, Arthur receives the magical sword Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake, while in other versions, Excalibur is the sword that Arthur takes out of the stone.

The book you are about to read by Howard Pyle is one of many books that tell the story of King Arthur - one of the most popular\* kings in literature. However, Pyle's version of the legend is the most popular. Let's see why...

## The Story

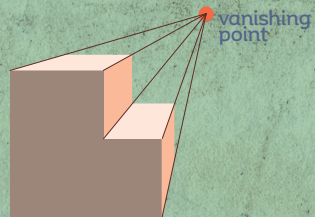
Pyle tells the story of Arthur from his birth to his death. He introduces us to a lot of famous characters such as *Merlin*, *Lancelot* and *Guinevere*. His story is full of adventure and he uses his imagination to add new detail and excitement. Yet his fascination with adventures is just one reason for the success of Pyle's version. As well as the stories, it is the beauty of Pyle's illustrations that captures and stimulates the imagination of the readers. Influenced by the German painter *Albrecht Dürer*, Pyle gives visible form to the special atmosphere of that glorious age of adventure, bravery and honour.

## The Illustrations

What makes Pyle's drawings so special? The first thing is the *dynamic* perspective used by the illustrator. It really makes readers feel like they are taking part in the scene. The second is the amazing *details* in the images. The clothes of the king and his knights, the *tapestries* hanging on the walls of Arthur's castle, the castles in the background in many scenes, are all incredibly rich in details.

### Perspective

Perspective drawings make scenes more realistic as they appear to get smaller as they get further away. All the lines in the drawing meet in one or two vanishing points.



The fascination with King Arthur and his legends is still strong today. His story is loved all over the world and still inspires artists, illustrators and filmmakers. There are many examples of the influence of Pyle's illustrations in the creation of popular characters.

### GLOSSARY

- **captures:** catches
- **characters:** people in a story
- **dynamic:** full of life; moving
- **fascination:** interest
- **introduces:** (here) tells for the first time
- **popular:** liked
- **stimulates:** makes interesting
- **tapestries:** cloth paintings
- **visible:** that you can see

# King Arthur



*Lady Guinevere*

*King Arthur*

*Uther Pendragon*

*Merlin*



*Morgana*



*Vivien*



*Nymue*



*Sir Lancelot*

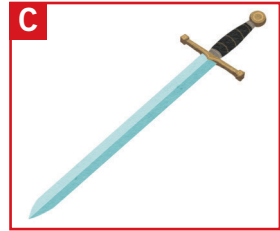
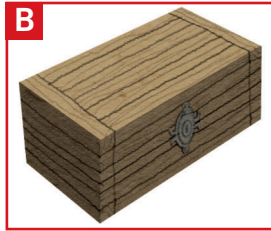
*Lady Elaine*

*Sir Galahad*

# BEFORE READING

## 1 Match the words to the pictures.

sword stone shield armour ring wooden chest



## 2 Complete the sentences with the words from Exercise 1.

- a** Vivien gives Merlin a ..... and he puts it on his finger.
- b** Arthur has a ..... called Excalibur.
- c** Arthur pulls a sword from a big ..... . Only Arthur can do this.
- d** Arthur keeps his sword, Excalibur, in a big ..... . Only Arthur can open it.
- e** Knights wear ..... on their bodies when they fight.
- f** Knights hold a sword and a ..... in their hands when they fight.



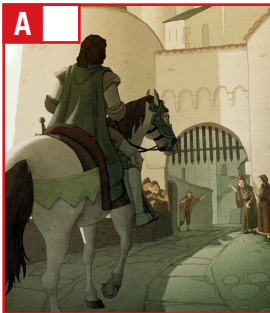
### 3 Match the places to the definitions.

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a <input type="checkbox"/> forest    | 1 large place where people live     |
| b <input type="checkbox"/> lake      | 2 large building where a king lives |
| c <input type="checkbox"/> castle    | 3 large amount of water that moves  |
| d <input type="checkbox"/> town      | 4 large area of water               |
| e <input type="checkbox"/> river     | 5 large group of trees              |
| f <input type="checkbox"/> cathedral | 6 large church                      |


### 4 Complete the sentences with the words from Exercise 3.

- a In the middle of the ..... , a silver hand is coming out of the water. And in the hand, there is a sword.
- b At midday everyone goes to the ..... . There, the Archbishop marries Arthur and Lady Guinevere.
- c After Arthur marries Lady Guinevere they live in a ..... called Camelot.
- d For many years, Sir Lancelot lives in the ..... . He eats fruit from the trees and he drinks water from the ..... . At night he sleeps under trees.
- e Sir Lancelot can see Corbin on a hill. He rides into the centre of the ..... .

### 5 Match three sentences from Exercise 4 to the pictures.



## 1 King Uther Pendragon

 King Uther Pendragon is a strong and wise king. He is king of all of Britain, but he is not alone.

Two men stand next to him. The first is Merlin, a great sorcerer. The second is Sir Ulfius, a great knight. Sir Ulfius uses a sword to fight battles; Merlin uses magic to fight evil.

Many years pass, and Uther Pendragon marries the beautiful Lady Igraine. Lady Igraine's first husband is dead. She has two daughters. One of her daughters is Margaise. The other is Morgana Le Fay, a sorceress. Uther Pendragon does not know it, but Morgana Le Fay has a black heart.

Soon, Uther Pendragon and Lady Igraine have a son. The child is strong. And the king is pleased. Uther Pendragon and Merlin visit the baby boy. The king smiles at the sleeping child. Then he looks at Merlin. Merlin's hair is long and his beard is grey. His green eyes can see the future. Merlin is not smiling.

'What is wrong?' asks Uther Pendragon.

'We are living in dangerous times,' says Merlin. 'I see death.'

'What do you see? Tell me,' says the king.

'I see sickness and I see your death. I also see your enemies. They are coming here. They want to kill your son,' Merlin answers.

### GLOSSARY

---

- **battles:** fighting between two big groups
- **dangerous:** when something can hurt or kill someone
- **enemies:** opposite of friends
- **evil:** force that causes bad things to happen
- **sickness:** illness
- **wise:** knowing the right thing to do



Uther Pendragon's heart is heavy. Merlin is never wrong. 'What can I do?' the king asks. 'How can I save my son?' 'Give the boy to me,' says Merlin.

Uther Pendragon has no choice. That night, under a dark sky, he gives his baby son to Merlin. Merlin takes the child to a secret place.

Uther Pendragon never sees his son again. The king is soon dead and his people are full of sadness. But when Uther Pendragon's enemies come to his castle, they cannot find his son. No one knows about Merlin's secret place.

The baby boy is safe.



Eighteen years pass. Evil men make Britain a sad and dangerous place.

Then one day, the Archbishop calls Merlin to his cathedral.

‘The kingdom is sick,’ says the Archbishop. ‘You are wise, Merlin. Help us. Find us a king.’

Merlin looks at the Archbishop and smiles. ‘There is one true king. He is alive and well – and he is Uther Pendragon’s son.’

The Archbishop is amazed. ‘Where is he?’ he asks. ‘How can we find him? How can we find the true king? How can we find Uther Pendragon’s son?’

Again, Merlin smiles. ‘I can find him,’ he says.

‘How?’ asks the Archbishop.


‘With the sword in the stone,’ says Merlin.



## MAGIC

Merlin can do magic.

What other stories talk about magic?

 Tell a friend.

### GLOSSARY

---

- **alive:** not dead
- **amazed:** surprised
- **Archbishop:** important priest
- **cathedral:** big church
- **kingdom:** place where a king rules
- **secret:** unknown fact or thing
- **stone:** 

## AFTER READING VOCABULARY

---

1  Three words are related to each other, but one is not. Which one? Find the odd one out. Explain why to a partner.

- |   |            |          |          |         |
|---|------------|----------|----------|---------|
| a | EVIL       | SICKNESS | KINGDOM  | MADNESS |
| b | ISLE       | SHIELD   | HELMET   | ARMOUR  |
| c | POTION     | NYMUE    | HERBS    | WAND    |
| d | BRAVE      | GRASS    | TRUE     | WISE    |
| e | DWARF      | SERVANT  | AVALON   | MASTER  |
| f | SECRET     | PROMISE  | RELATIVE | TRUST   |
| g | CLOAK      | VEIL     | RIBBON   | TABLE   |
| h | TOURNAMENT | FEAST    | JOURNEY  | HEAVEN  |
| i | THRONE     | UTHER    | KINGDOM  | COURT   |
| j | REST       | KNIGHT   | RELATIVE | ENEMY   |

2 Now write down the initial letters of all the odd words in Exercise 1.

-----

3 All the following sentences contain one mistake. Circle it and then write the correct sentences.

- a King Arthur is not alone. Two men stands next to him.  
.....
- b Uther Pendragon does not know it, but Morgana has some black heart.  
.....
- c Merlin's hair are long and his beard is grey.  
.....
- d When Sir Lancelot's madness end, he leaves the forest.  
.....

### **K** A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

**1** Read the following sentences and choose the best word (A, B, or C) for each space.

- 1 King Arthur's time is one ..... the most exciting periods of British history.  
A with                      B for                      C of
- 2 Merlin decides to take away the heir ..... the throne.  
A to                      B of                      C from
- 3 Arthur gathers the best knights ..... the kingdom around him.  
A in                      B from                      C by
- 4 Merlin makes a round table ..... the knights.  
A with                      B to                      C for
- 5 The adventures of the Knights of the Round Table are tales ..... bravery.  
A of                      B for                      C with
- 6 Only the next king of Britain can pull the sword ..... of the stone.  
A into                      B from                      C out
- 7 Many of the stories ..... Arthur are actually folk tales.  
A about                      B for                      C by
- 8 Some of Arthur's knights are as famous ..... the King himself.  
A like                      B about                      C as
- 9 Arthur's legend is also popular ..... Eastern Europe and the Middle East.  
A at                      B in                      C to

### **K** A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 6

**2** You want to go to the cinema with your American friend, Lance. Write an email to Lance using about 25 words.

**In your email:**

- ask Lance **to go to the cinema** with you
- say **what** you want to see
- say **when** the film is on