

MATERIALS FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING AT RUDOLF STEINER (WALDORF) SCHOOLS

King Arthur

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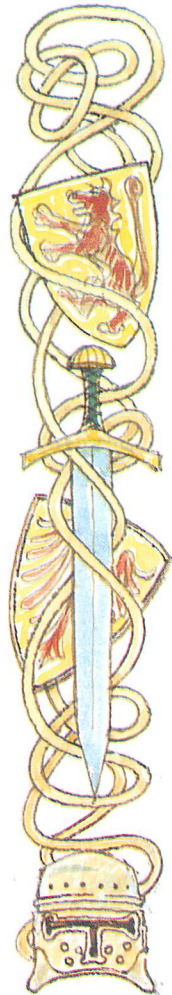
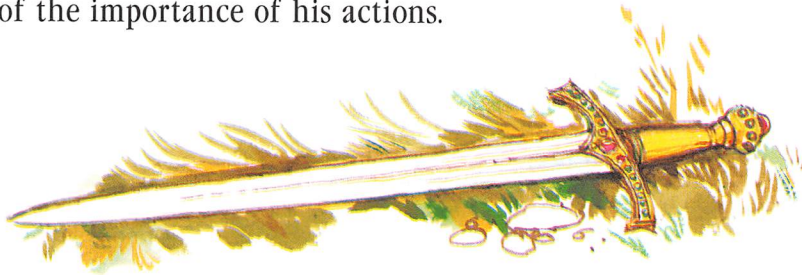
Edited by Christoph Jaffke in cooperation with the
Pädagogische Forschungsstelle beim Bund der Freien Waldorfschulen
Stuttgart 1997

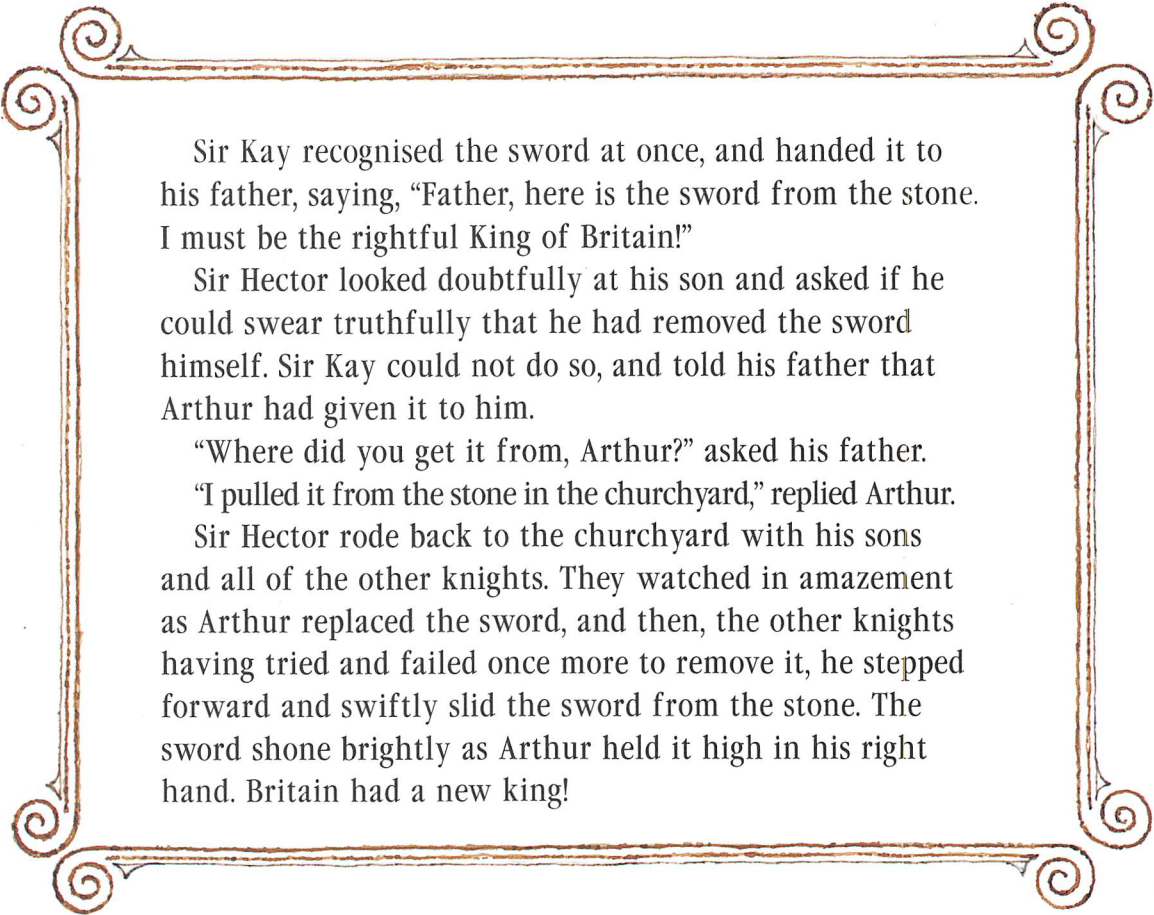
THE SWORD IN THE STONE

Many years ago, there lived a great and noble king named Uther Pendragon. He ruled Britain wisely and brought peace to the land, after many years of war and suffering. He was helped by an adviser called Merlin the Enchanter, who made powerful magic.

Uther married a beautiful widow, called Igraine, who already had three daughters. After some time, Igraine gave birth to the king's son. But sadly, the baby had no time to bring his parents happiness as, soon after he was born, Merlin came to the king with terrible news.

On the day of the tournament, knights came from far and wide. Amongst them was Sir Hector with his son, Sir Kay, and his adopted son, Arthur, who by now was eighteen years old. There was to be much swordplay and jousting that day, and on the way there, Sir Kay realised he had left his sword at home. Sir Arthur rode back to fetch it, but found the gates locked, and no one there. He remembered passing a churchyard where he had seen a sword stuck in a stone, and, not wanting to disappoint his brother, rode quickly to the churchyard. With little effort he pulled the sword smoothly from the stone. Arthur had not heard the stories about the sword, and was unaware of the importance of his actions.





Sir Kay recognised the sword at once, and handed it to his father, saying, "Father, here is the sword from the stone. I must be the rightful King of Britain!"

Sir Hector looked doubtfully at his son and asked if he could swear truthfully that he had removed the sword himself. Sir Kay could not do so, and told his father that Arthur had given it to him.

"Where did you get it from, Arthur?" asked his father.

"I pulled it from the stone in the churchyard," replied Arthur.

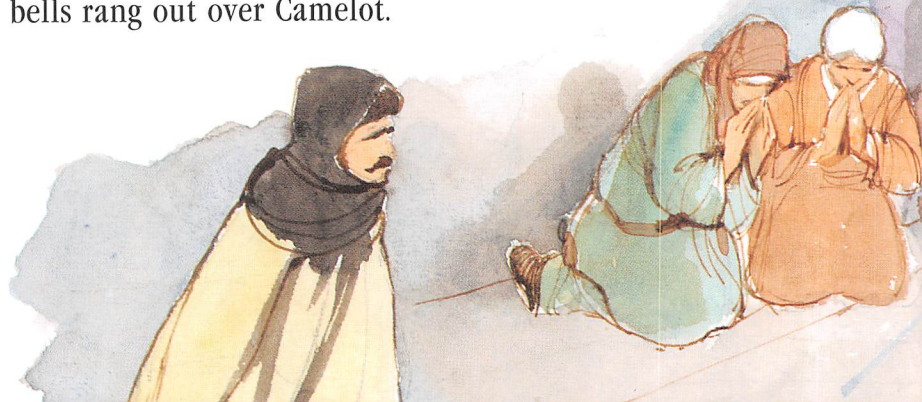
Sir Hector rode back to the churchyard with his sons and all of the other knights. They watched in amazement as Arthur replaced the sword, and then, the other knights having tried and failed once more to remove it, he stepped forward and swiftly slid the sword from the stone. The sword shone brightly as Arthur held it high in his right hand. Britain had a new king!

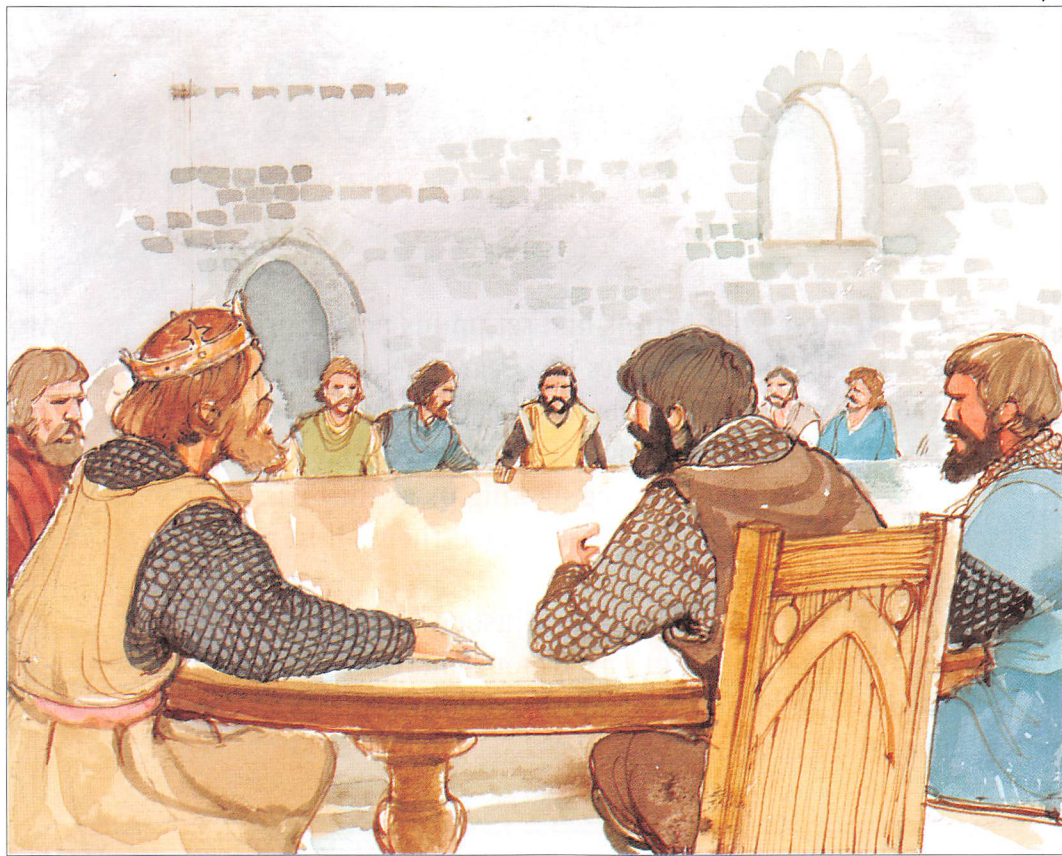




King Arthur was overjoyed and made arrangements for the wedding to take place as soon as possible. He also asked Merlin to choose fifty worthy knights to fill the remaining seats at the Round Table. In a short time, Merlin had gathered forty-six of the bravest and most noble knights in the kingdom at King Arthur's court.

The wedding day soon arrived, and the Archbishop of Canterbury went to Camelot to marry King Arthur and Lady Guinevere at St Stephen's Church. All the people of the kingdom were invited to join the celebration and, at the end of the solemn service, they cheered as the bells rang out over Camelot.



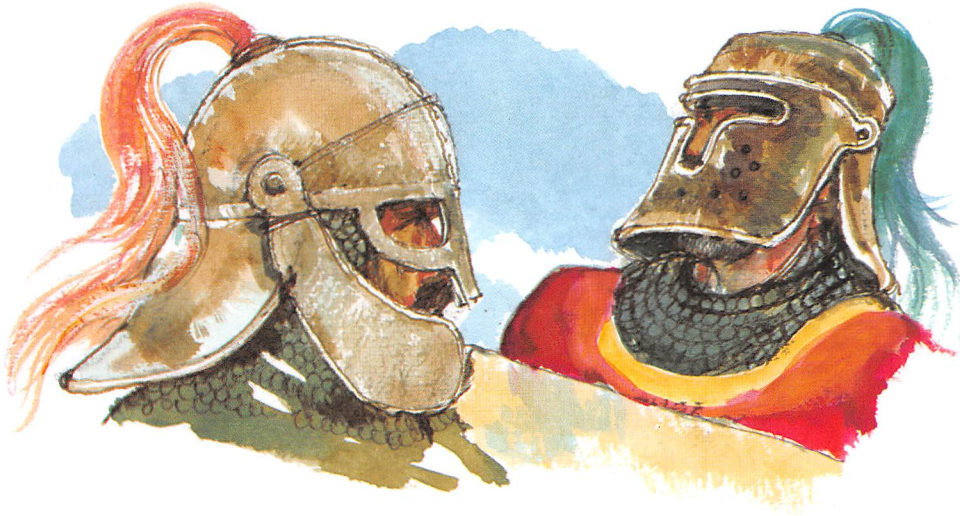


EXCALIBUR

Soon after King Arthur had set up his new court at Camelot, he heard tales of a fearsome knight who was living in the forest nearby. He was the one known as the Black Knight, and was one of the strongest men in the land. He had been challenging knights as they passed through the forest and had defeated them all in battle — some had even been killed!

King Arthur decided to seek justice for the knights of his court, so he put on his armour and rode into the forest. With him he took Merlin, who was the wisest enchanter in all the land.

Out on the field, Sir Kay was the first to face him, determined to show that the strange knight was unworthy of such royal attention. “Here is your chance to prove yourself, knight with no name,” he taunted. “Let us see what you are worth!”





Taking up their lances, the two knights rushed at each other, their horses' hooves thundering across the field. Skilfully, the unnamed knight swerved out of the way as Sir Kay's lance came swiping towards him and, momentarily caught off balance, Sir Kay went tumbling to the ground.

at the bottom	<i>opp.</i> at the top	unten
among	in the middle of (a group)	mitten unter
traveller	person going to a (far away) place	Reisende(r)
journey	It's a long <i>journey</i> ; it's a long way to go.	Reise
path	way that s.o. goes or travels along	Weg; Pfad
nearby	<i>opp.</i> far away	in der Nähe
far and wide	everywhere; all sorts of places	weit und breit
towards	He came <i>towards</i> me.	auf ... zu
forest	a lot of trees all standing together	großer Wald
clearing	place in a forest where there are no trees	Lichtung
lake	water with land all round it	(der) See
shore	the edge (=Rand) of a lake or sea	Ufer
to approach	to come near	s. nähern
to arrive (at)	to come to: We <i>arrive</i> at school at eight o'clock.	ankommen
to leave	to go away (from)	verlassen, weggehen
to slip away	to go away quietly	s. davonstehlen
to hide	to put sth. where it can't be seen	verbergen, verstecken
to remain	to stay	(ver)bleiben
to return	to come (go) back	zurückkehren
to cover	to put sth. over: She <i>covered</i> her face with her hands.	zudecken
to pass	The train doesn't stop here; it <i>passes</i> through.	vorbeigehen an
to fetch	to go for (sth.) and bring (it) back	holen
to replace	to put (sth.) back (where it came from)	zurücklegen, -tun
to remove	to take away (to take off/ to take out)	wegnehmen, entfernen
to turn	to move round: I <i>turned</i> and went back to my place.	s. wenden, drehen
to rush at	to go quickly (towards)	auf ... losstürzen
to collide	to come together with a bang	zusammenstoßen
to pull	<i>opp.</i> to push	ziehen, zerren
to hand sth. to	to give sth. to s.o.	jmd. etw. reichen
to take one's place	to sit down on one's chair	seinen Platz einnehmen

Time (12 words)

already	When he came home, his son was <i>already</i> asleep.	schon, bereits
suddenly	quickly and when you don't expect it	plötzlich
at once	immediately: Come here <i>at once!</i>	sofort
after	Come home with me <i>after</i> school.	nach; nachdem
soon	shortly; in a short time	bald
as soon as possible	as quickly as it can happen: I must have the money <i>as soon as possible.</i>	möglichst bald
never	at no time; <i>opp.</i> always	nie, niemals
at last	in the end; finally	schließlich, endlich
... ago	I am eleven years old. A year <i>ago</i> I was ten.	vor ...
future	the time yet to come; <i>opp.</i> past	Zukunft
once more	again; another time	noch einmal
to continue	to go on (doing sth); <i>opp.</i> to stop (doing sth.)	(etw.) weitermachen

Useful Words (17 words)

to try	to do your best to do sth.	versuchen
to happen	to take place: The accident <i>happened</i> at two o'clock.	geschehen, passieren
to take place	to happen	stattfinden
to use	We <i>use</i> a knife to cut bread, meat etc.	benutzen, verwenden
to act	to do sth.: We must stop talking and <i>act</i> now!	handeln
to keep	<i>opp.</i> to give away	behalten
to offer	Can I <i>offer</i> you sth. to drink?	anbieten
to prove	to show that sth. is so	beweisen
reason	If you ask "why", you want to know the <i>reason</i> .	Grund
cause (of)	thing that makes sth. happen	Ursache
to make arrangements	to make plans; to prepare	Vorkehrungen treffen
to own	If you <i>own</i> sth., it is yours.	besitzen
possession	sth. that is yours	Besitz(tum)
equal	as big or as good as s.o. else	gleich(wertig)
empty	with no one or nothing in it; <i>opposite:</i> full	leer

4. Where did Merlin take the baby?
5. How long did the wars last after Uther had died?
6. What was Merlin's message to the lords, ladies and peasants?
7. What did the knights find outside the cathedral?
8. What was the message on the rock?
9. Who did Sir Hector bring with him to the tournament?
10. Why couldn't Arthur fetch Sir Kay's sword?
11. What did Sir Kay say to his father when he saw the wonderful sword?
12. Who had given Sir Kay the sword?
13. Where did Arthur replace the sword?
14. Who tried to pull the sword out but couldn't do it?
15. What did Arthur do now?

THE ROUND TABLE

Exercise 15 – What (*pages 14–16*)

1. What did King Arthur decide?
2. What did he ask Merlin for?
3. What did Merlin say a man in Arthur's position should have?
4. What did the kingdom need?
5. What did Merlin ask King Arthur?
6. What did Arthur tell Merlin?
7. What did King Leodegrance of Camelard own?
8. What did Arthur ask Merlin to do?
9. What was Arthur's wish?
10. What will King Leodegrance send Arthur?
11. What has space for one hundred and fifty knights?

Exercise 16 – Opposites (*pages 14–16*)

1. What is the opposite of *bad*?
2. What is the opposite of *an enemy*?
3. What is the opposite of *a woman*?

4. What is the opposite of *a husband*?
5. What is the opposite of *a king*?
6. What is the opposite of *to hate*?
7. What is the opposite of *a son*?
8. What is the opposite of *a mother*?
9. What is the opposite of *ugly*?
10. What is the opposite of *worst*?
11. What is the opposite of *cowardly*?
12. What is the opposite of *disappointed*?

Exercise 17 – Put into the Present Tense (page 16)

1. Guinevere was the most beautiful lady in the world.
2. Arthur asked Merlin to go to King Leodegrance.
3. Arthur wanted to marry Guinevere.
4. King Leodegrance was delighted.
5. Arthur was a noble and brave king.
6. Leodegrance was proud that King Arthur wished to marry his daughter.
7. He sent King Arthur a gift – the Round Table.

Exercise 18 – Who (pages 14–18)

1. Who decided he should marry?
2. Who asked Merlin for his advice?
3. Who agreed it was time for Arthur to marry?
4. Who should have a wife?
5. Who was Guinevere?
6. Who owned the Round Table?
7. Who gave King Leodegrance the Round Table?
8. Who is the most beautiful lady in the world?
9. Who was delighted?
10. Who wishes to marry King Leodegrance's daughter?
11. Who returned to the castle at Camelot?
12. Who was sent to serve King Arthur?