Read the story, highlight all the words you understand and circle the proper nouns.

The legend of King Arthur

In England, in the 5th century, there was a king called Uther Pendragon. When he died, England was left without a king. To choose the new King of England, Merlin the Wizard placed a sword in a stone. These words were written on it. "He who pulls the sword out of this stone is the true King of Britain". Many men tried to draw the sword out, but they all failed. Arthur, Uther's unknown son, succeeded: he became the King. Merlin the Wizard helped King Arthur to rule Britain. He took him to a magical lake. The Lady of the Lake gave Arthur a magic sword called "Excalibur". Arthur set up his royal palace at Camelot. When he married Guinevere, he received the Round Table as a dowry. There he sat with his knights – the most famous being Lancelot, Percival and Galahad. They were men of courage, honour and dignity. Thanks to their help, Arthur won many battles against the Saxons and the Romans and he expanded his empire. After the Romans' defeat, Arthur, Percival and Galahad undertook the Quest for the Holy Grail and they had to stay away from the kingdom for several years. On their return, Arthur learnt that his wife did not love him anymore. She was in love with Lancelot and she fled to France with him. Arthur was devastated by the treachery of his beloved wife and his favourite knight. He put his cousin Mordred in charge of the kingdom and left for France. Arthur was fighting Lancelot in France when Mordred rebelled. Mordred was not loyal. He wanted to take King Arthur's place. He wanted to be King of Britain! Arthur had to return to England immediately. He fought Mordred and killed him, but he died too.

Match the words with the pictures.

1. a king
2. a knight
3. The Holy Grail
4. a sword
5. The Round Table
6. a stone
7. a lake [leɪk]

Places mentioned in the text:

Who is who in the Legend of King Arthur? Write their names.

The King of Britain  Arthur's father  a famous wizard  Merlin's friend  Arthur's sword

Arthur's best friend  two other Knights of the Round Table  Arthur's wife  Arthur's cousin

Arthur's enemies

Number the pictures in the order of the story.

[-kˈskæləʊ] ____________
[-ˈɡwɪnɪər] ____________
[-ˈæθə] ____________
[-mɔːˌlɪn] ____________
[-ˈlænsəˌlɑːt] ____________
[ðəˈleɪdiəvðəleɪk]
How to become a Knight

At the age of about seven, a boy of noble birth was sent away to another nobleman's household to become a page. A page learned courtly manners, horse riding and how to fight.

When about 14, a page became a squire, apprenticed to a particular knight. A squire was trained to use weapons. He also looked after his master's armour and horses, served his lord and assisted him in battle.

A successful squire became a knight when he was 21 years old at a ceremony called dubbing.

Song → Lily Allen "I'm a Knight"

I'm a knight on my way to a journey. My squire helps carry things for the journey. He tends to all my needs and takes care of my steed. In turn I train him in the act of chivalry.

We arrive and I display my coat of arms. I get a favour from a lady full of charm. A wandering minstrel is strumming on his lyre. My armour's heavy and I'm starting to perspire. My gauntlet grasps the reigns covered in mesh of chains.

I wield a deadly lance, one word from the herald and I'm poised to advance. My visor's down and I'm ready for jousting.

Label the pictures with words from the song.

To please the crowd my opponent needs ousting. I don't know who he thinks he be, but he better thinks twice if he plans to unhorse me. Started life in the manor as a page, learning courtly ways till I became of age.

After I squired for a knight I called my lord. At my accolade he dubbed me with the flat side of his sword. After the tournament it's to the banquet hall. Ale will be flowing, there'll be dancing at the ball. Up in the galleries the ladies cheer us on. And wonder who will show most prowess. Who will be their champion?

Chivalry

Knights believed in the Code of Chivalry. Tick what they promised to do.

- To defend the weak and defenceless.
- To be courteous to ladies.
- To build churches.
- To be loyal to their Lord and to the King.
- To traffic with traitors.
- To live by honour and for glory.
- To attack Britain.
- To be brave in battle.
- To lose tournaments.
- To defend castles.
The curtain wall surrounded the castle buildings like a strong shield. The top of the castle walls were the battlements, a protective, tooth-shaped parapet often with a wall walk behind it for the soldiers to stand on. The defenders could fire missiles through crenels. The merlons helped to shelter the defenders during an enemy attack. Drawbridges could be pulled up, preventing access across moats. Attackers were easy to shoot while swimming or rowing across the moat filled with water. A spiked wooden or metal barrier, called portcullis, helped protect the doors from fire and battering. It was harder for attackers to make round towers collapse. Arrow slits provided a safer means of firing arrows on the attackers of the castle. The keep (also known as the dungeon) was the main tower and a final defensive refuge.

A Crossword Puzzle

Across →
3. Carried in the hand for protection.
4. The site of King Arthur's court.
8. A long spear used in jousts.
9. It protected the knight's head.
12. It protected the knight's body.
13. A young noble boy serving a knight.
15. Medieval love.
16. The shape of a mystical table.
17. A medieval musical instrument.

Down ↓
1. A famous wizard in Arthurian legend.
2. A young man training to become a knight.
5. The quest in Arthurian legend.
6. A medieval code.
10. A medieval musician and singer.
11. A mock battle between knights.
14. A knight's weapon worn on his left side.

Match the words with the pictures.

Medieval Knights
1. armour
2. sword
3. shield
4. coat of mail
5. helmet

Medieval weapons
1. arrows
2. bow
3. crossbow
4. halberd
5. mace
6. dagger
7. battle axe
8. flail
9. spear
10. warhammer
Who is who in the Legend of King Arthur? Write their names.

The King of Britain  Arthur's father  a famous wizard  Arthur's sword

Arthur  Uther  Merlin  The Lady of the Lake

Arthur's best friend  two other Knights of the Round Table  Arthur's wife

Lancelot  Percival and Galahad  Guinevere

Arthur's enemies  the Saxons  the Romans

Excalibur  Guinevere  Arthur

Merlin  Lancelot

Mordred  Arthur's cousin

Write the words.

Excalibur  Guinevere  Arthur  Merlin  Lancelot  The Lady of the Lake
- Training in the art of chivalry.
- Carrying the knight's armor, shield or sword.
- Serving the knight's meal.
- Taking care of the knight's horses.
- Learning Courtly Love

- Defend the weak and defenceless.
- Be courteous to ladies.
- Build churches.
- Be loyal to their Lord and to the King.
- Traffic with traitors.

- Carry the knight's flag.
- Assisting the knight on the battlefield.
- Accompanying the knight to tournaments.
- Dressing the knight in his armor.
- Ensuring the armor and weapons were in good working condition.

- Live by honour and for glory
- Attack Britain.
- Be brave in battle.
- Lose tournaments.
- Defend castles.