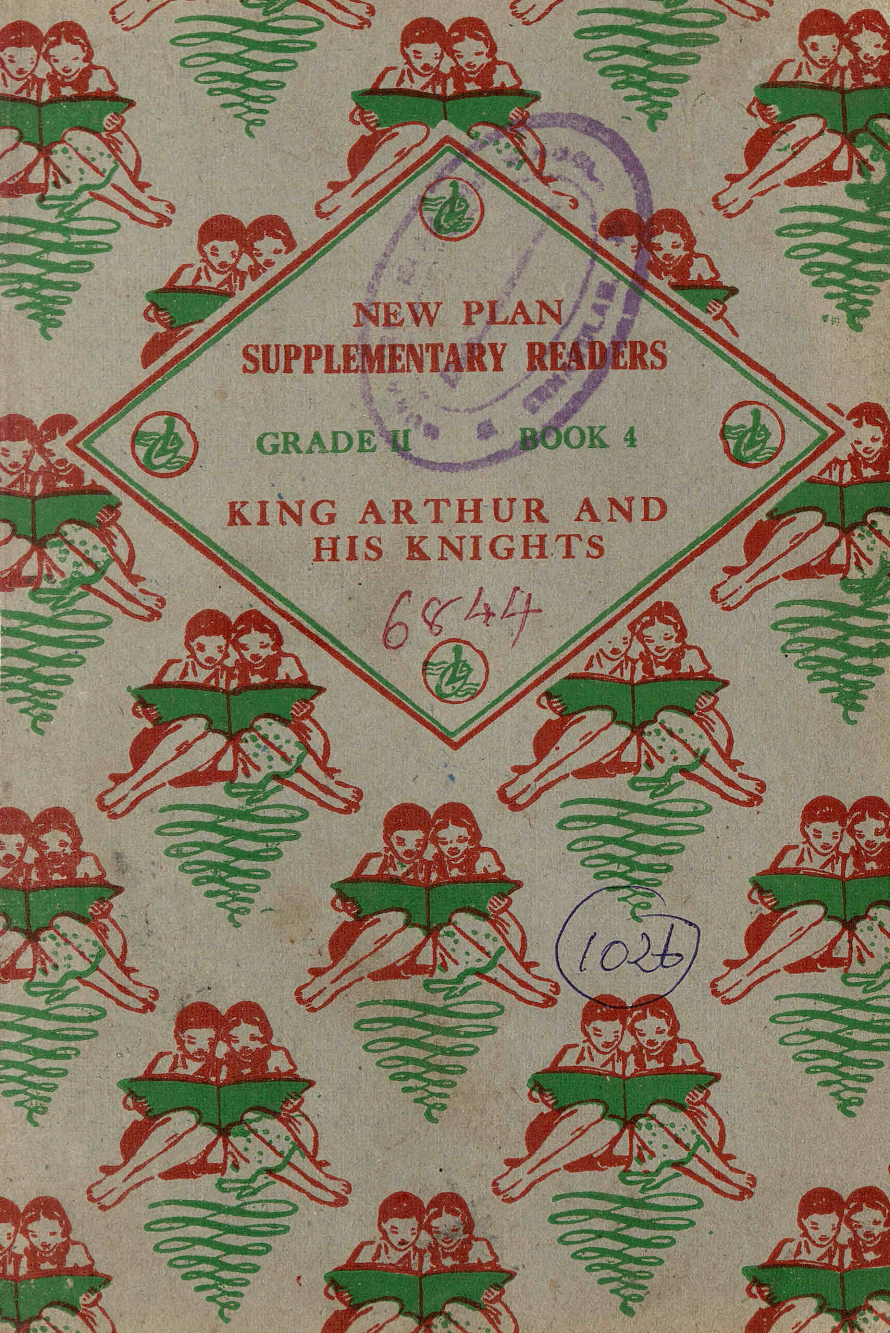


NEW PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

GRADE II BOOK 4

KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS

6844

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NEW PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

GENERAL EDITOR: DR. J. F. FORRESTER

GRADE II

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BOOK 4

KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS

I. D. ASIRVATHAM, B.A., D.T.

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PREFACE

This series of Supplementary Reading Books has been planned to meet the requirements of the English Syllabus issued by the Department.

The structures used in this book are those prescribed for Forms I and II with the addition of some examples of Reported Speech and the use of adjective clauses beginning with *who and that.* These latter are found in NEW PLAN ENGLISH READERS, BOOK III.

The vocabulary has been confined mainly to that found in NEW PLAN ENGLISH READERS, BOOKS I and II with the addition of a minimum of special words that tales of chivalry require. These and words taken from Book III are given separately at the end of the Book. The exercises have been planned to help pupils in comprehension as well as to make them familiar with the New Type of Questions.

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INTRODUCTORY

KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS

Children love to read stories of King Arthur and his knights. There are many



wonderful stories about Arthur. He was the king of the Britons. The Britons lived

in Britain. Britain is the old name for England.

The English people came to Britain less than two thousand years ago. The Britons were in that country long before the English came there. In this book you will read some of the stories of King Arthur. These things happened a long time ago.

QUESTIONS

Answer these questions in complete sentences:—

1. What is the old name for England?
2. When did the English people come to Britain?
3. Who lived in Britain before the English came to that country?
4. Who was Arthur?

1. HOW ARTHUR CAME

There are many stories about the birth of Arthur. Some stories say that he was the son of King Uther. Others say that he came to Britain from the sea. This chapter tells the story of how he came from the sea.

King Uther was old. He was very sad, because he had no son to rule the country after his death. He spoke to his adviser about this. His adviser's name was Merlin. Merlin was a magician.

Merlin said to the king, 'Come to the sea-shore with me. I will tell you who will rule the land after your death.' The king and Merlin walked to the sea-shore. They stood on the shore watching the waves. Eight large waves broke on the shore. The ninth wave was larger than the others. Merlin pointed to the ninth wave and said to the king, 'Look.'

The king looked at the wave. On the top of the wave he saw a ball of fire.

When the wave reached the shore the king saw a child riding on the wave. The child was smiling. There was fire on all sides but it did not harm the child.

The wave left the child at the feet of the king and the magician. Merlin picked up the child. It was a boy. Merlin said to the king, 'This is the next king of the Britons. He will rule the country after your death.' The king said, 'Who will bring him up? My queen is dead and there is no one in the palace to teach him.' Merlin said, 'I shall take the child to Sir Hector. The boy will grow up as one of Sir Hector's sons. He will learn everything that they learn.'

The king was very glad. Sir Hector was a good man. The king said to Merlin, 'Take the child to Sir Hector, but don't tell him now that this child will rule the land after my death.'

Merlin said, 'I shall tell no one about this child just now. When the proper time comes, the people will choose him as their king.'

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Carefully read the following pairs of words. If they mean the same thing mark S. If they mean the opposite, mark O.

(e.g.) good	—	bad	(O)
little	—	small	(S)
(*a*) before	—	after	( )
(*b*) birth	—	death	( )
(*c*) biggest	—	largest	( )
(*d*) alive	—	dead	( )

2. Answer in complete sentences:—

(*a*) Why was King Uther sad?
(*b*) Who was the king's adviser?
(*c*) Where did the magician take the king?
(*d*) How many large waves did they see?
(*e*) Which was the largest wave?
(*f*) What did the king see on the top of the largest wave?
(*g*) What was in the middle of the fire?
(*h*) Did the fire harm the child?

3. Choose the correct answer for each question and mark ✓ against it.

(*a*) The baby came to Uther
  (1) in a boat.
  (2) on the top of a wave.
  (3) from Sir Hector's house.

(*b*) Merlin took the baby to Sir Hector's house, because
  (1) the king did not like babies.
  (2) there was no one in the palace to bring up the child.
  (3) the queen would kill the child.

2. THE SWORD IN THE CHURCHYARD

Some years after this King Uther died. People asked one another, 'Who will be our next king?' Merlin knew the answer to that question, but he did not want to tell any one about the child in Sir Hector's house.

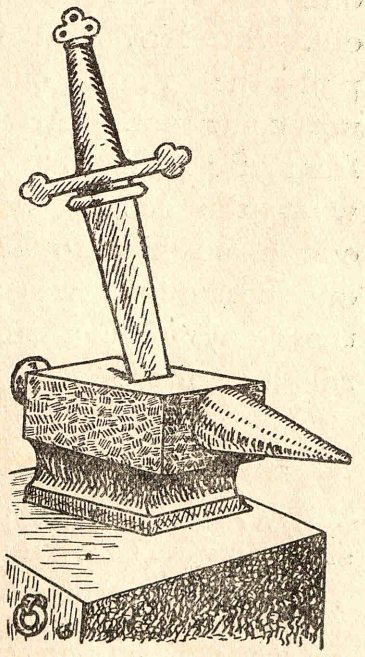
The child's name was Arthur. Arthur thought that he was one of Sir Hector's sons. Sir Hector's eldest son was Sir Kay. Arthur thought that Sir Kay was his eldest brother.

Soon after King Uther died, the chief men of the land came to Merlin and said to him, 'You have been our king's adviser for many years. Please tell us who will be our king.' Merlin said, 'Next Sunday we shall all meet in the great church. After the bishop has blessed us, I shall answer your question.'

Next Sunday the church was full. Almost every great lord was there. Some of them hoped that Merlin would

name one of them as the next king. The bishop said the mass. After that Merlin asked everybody to go into the churchyard. There were many tombs in the churchyard. Merlin led the people to one of the tombs.

Near the tomb there was an anvil with a sword in it. The handle of the sword and a part of the blade were sticking out of the anvil. The point of the sword and nearly one foot of the blade had gone into the anvil. Merlin said to the lords around him, 'This is my answer. Only the king of this land can pull the sword out of the anvil. No one else can do so.'



The bishop said, 'We shall ask all the

chiefs one by one to try to pull out the sword. We shall then find out who our king is.'

One by one, the chief men of Britain came and pulled with all their strength. No one was able to pull the sword out. The sons of the chiefs next tried to pull it out. They too were not able to pull it out. Sir Kay and many others tried to pull the sword out. The sword would not come out. Arthur saw these things from far off. He did not understand what the people were trying to do. No one asked him to try to pull the sword out, because he was a very small boy. In those days only a strong man was able to rule a country.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Write the letter T in the brackets if the statements are true. If not, write F.

(e.g.) King Uther had no son to rule Britain after his death. (T)

(*a*) Arthur was Sir Hector's son. ( )
(*b*) Sir Kay was Arthur's brother. ( )
(*c*) Merlin knew that Arthur was the next king of Britain. ( )

(*d*) When Uther died, Arthur was in Sir Hector's house. ( )
(*e*) Merlin was Uther's adviser. ( )
(*f*) There was an anvil with a sword in it in the churchyard. ( )
(*g*) The bishop pulled out the sword easily. ( )
(*h*) No one was able to pull the sword out on that day. ( )
(*i*) Arthur tried to pull out the sword but he was not able to do so. ( )

2. Answer in complete sentences :—
(*a*) Did Arthur think that he was Sir Hector's son ?
(*b*) Who was Sir Hector's eldest son ?
(*c*) Did the sword come out when the chiefs pulled at it ?
(*d*) Why did not Arthur try to pull it out ?

3. Fill in the blanks with suitable words taken from the list given below :
(*a*) Merlin asked the chiefs to go into the ——.
(*b*) There were many ——in the churchyard.
(*c*) There was an —— near one of the tombs.
(*d*) There was a —— in the anvil.
(*e*) Merlin said, 'No one —— the king can pull this sword, out.'

sword, church, churchyard, anvil, tombs, except, chiefs.

3. HOW ARTHUR BECAME KING

One day Arthur and Sir Kay went to another part of the country. Both of them had good horses and travelled quickly. After they had gone many miles, Sir Kay said to Arthur, 'I have forgotten to bring my sword. Will you ride back to our house and bring me my sword?'

Arthur turned his horse to go home. The road went past the great church. Suddenly Arthur remembered that there was a sword in the churchyard. He said to himself, 'I need not go home for a sword. I shall take the sword from the churchyard and return with it to Sir Kay. He will be very glad to get a sword so soon.'

When Arthur went into the churchyard, he saw the anvil with the sword in it. He got off his horse and walked up to the anvil. He took the handle of the sword and pulled. The sword came out very easily. Arthur was very pleased. He

rode back to Sir Kay and gave him the sword.

Sir Kay took the sword and knew that it was the sword from the churchyard. He knew that Arthur had pulled it out of the anvil and was the lawful king. But Arthur did not know the secret of the sword. Sir Kay went to his father and showed him the sword. Sir Hector said, 'Is that not the sword from the churchyard?' Sir Kay replied, 'Yes it is. I am the lawful king because I have got it.' Sir Hector said, 'I don't think that you pulled it out. Tell me the truth. Who gave it to you?' Sir Kay said, 'Arthur gave it to me.' Sir Hector said to Arthur, 'Where did you get this sword? Who gave it to you?'

Arthur replied, 'No one gave it to me. Sir Kay sent me back for his sword. I did not want to ride a long way for his sword. I knew that there was a sword in the churchyard. I went there and pulled the sword out of the anvil and gave it to Sir Kay.'

Sir Hector rode with Arthur and Sir Kay to the churchyard. He said to Arthur, 'Will you put the sword back in the anvil?' Arthur did so. Sir Hector and Sir Kay then tried to pull out the sword. They were not able to do so. When Arthur put his hand on the sword, it came out easily. Arthur put the sword back in the anvil.

Then Sir Hector knelt before Arthur and said, 'You are the lawful king of this land. You have proved your right by pulling the sword out of the anvil.' He then called together all the great chiefs of the land and said, 'We shall choose our king today. Will each of you try again to pull the sword out of the anvil?'

When all the chief men had failed to pull out the sword, Sir Hector said to Arthur, 'Now, show these men how you pulled out the sword.'

Arthur went near the anvil and took the sword by the handle. At once the sword came out easily. All the people knew that Arthur was their lawful king.

So the bishop put the crown on Arthur's head in the great church. Everyone was very glad that they had a king.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Answer in complete sentences :—
   (*a*) Why did Sir Kay ask Arthur to ride back to their house?
   (*b*) When did Arthur remember the sword in the anvil?
   (*c*) Did Arthur know the secret of the sword?
   (*d*) Why did Sir Hector kneel before Arthur?
   (*e*) How did the people know that Arthur was their lawful king?

2. Read the following carefully. Mark R if the statements are correct. Mark W if they are not correct.
   (*a*) Sir Kay sent Arthur to his house for a sword. ( )
   (*b*) Arthur went to the churchyard and got the sword from there. ( )
   (*c*) Arthur knew the secret of the sword. ( )
   (*d*) When Sir Kay saw the sword he knew that it was the sword from the churchyard. ( )
   (*e*) When Sir Kay showed the sword to his father, his father said, 'You are the lawful king.' ( )
   (*f*) When Arthur put the sword back in the anvil, Sir Hector was able to pull it out easily. ( )

3. Fill in the blanks with suitable words taken from the list given below :—

(*a*) Arthur was able to pull out the sword——, because he was the——king.

(*b*) When Arthur passed the great church he ——the sword in the churchyard.

(*c*) He put his hand on the——of the sword and the sword came out easily.

(*d*) Sir Hector said to Arthur, 'You are our lawful king. You have——your—— by pulling the sword out of the anvil.'

(*e*) The people knew that —— was their lawful —— because no one —— Arthur was able to pull the sword out of the anvil.

proved, lawful, handle, remembered, easily, right, Arthur, except, king, Sir Kay.

4. Each of the following questions has four answers. Only one of the four is the correct answer. Mark ✓ against the correct answer.

(e.g.) The people chose Arthur as their king, because

(*a*) he was brave and strong.

(*b*) Merlin told them to choose him.

(*c*) he pulled the sword out of the anvil. (✓)

(*d*) the bishop put the crown on his head.

(1) Sir Kay sent Arthur back to the house, because

(*a*) he had forgotten his sword.

(*b*) he wanted to give some work to Arthur.

(*c*) he wanted to get the sword from the churchyard.

(*d*) he wanted Arthur to become king.

(2) When Arthur put the sword back in the anvil

(*a*) Sir Kay was able to pull it out.

(*b*) Sir Hector pulled it out easily.

(*c*) no one except Arthur was able to pull it out.

(*d*) all the chiefs were able to pull it out.

4. THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

The king soon gathered round him a group of brave soldiers. These soldiers had to promise to speak the truth always and to help anyone in trouble or danger from wicked men or beasts. Their first duty was to obey the king. When any young soldier performed a great deed, the king made him a knight. This is how he did it.

The brave young man spent a night in the chapel* praying and watching over his arms. The next morning he put on his armour† and knelt before the king. The king took a sword and with the flat side of the sword gently tapped the shoulder of the young man. He said at the same time, 'Rise up, Sir—.'

After that everyone added the word 'Sir' before the new knight's name. The king made many knights in his lifetime,

*chapel—a small place of worship, not so large as a church.

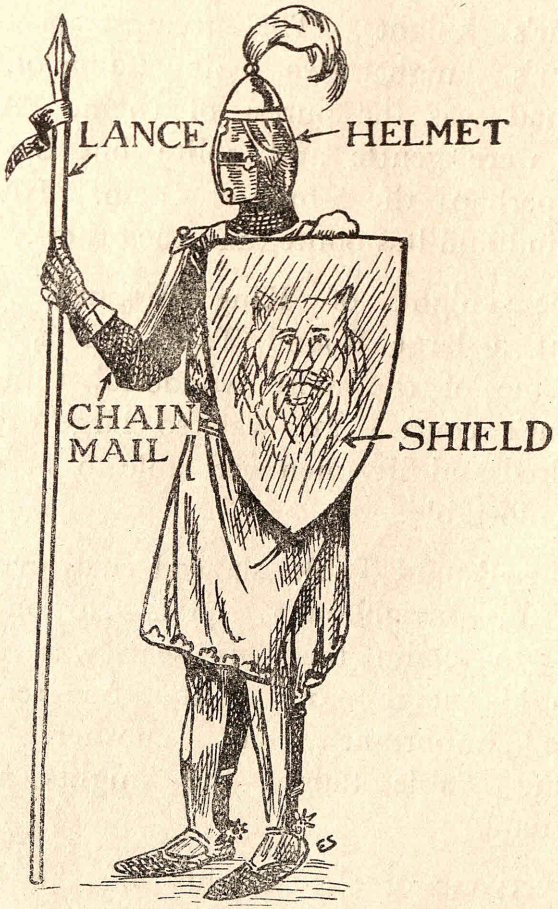
†armour—plates of steel of different shapes covering the whole body of a knight from head to heel.

but Sir Bedivere was the first of King Arthur's knights. The greatest of King Arthur's knights was Sir Lancelot. Sir Galahad was the purest of them. All of them were gentle and polite but Sir Kay was perhaps the worst of them. He was less kind and less polite than the others.

The knights of King Arthur's Court sat at a large Round Table. This Table was one of the most wonderful things in Arthur's court. It was so large that a hundred and fifty men were able to sit round it comfortably.

The Round Table showed that everyone was his neighbour's equal. No one was able to claim that his seat was higher than his neighbour's or that one seat was more important than another. The Round Table taught the knights not to be proud.

Everyone of the knights of the Round Table had done some great deed. The king wanted his knights to be the bravest, kindest, purest and the most gentle knights in all the world. He set them



the best example by his own life and character.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Answer in complete sentences :—
   (*a*) What did the king's soldiers promise to do ?
   (*b*) What was their first duty ?
   (*c*) Who was the purest of King Arthur's knights ?
   (*d*) Who was King Arthur's greatest knight ?
   (*e*) Who was perhaps the worst knight ?

2. Match the following :—

A	B
Sir Bedivere	showed that everyone was equal to his neighbour.
Sir Kay	was the first of King Arthur's knights.
The Round Table	was less kind and less polite than others.
A hundred and fifty men	had each done some great deed.
The knights of the Round Table	were able to sit round the table.

3. If the following statements are true, mark T against them. If they are not true, mark F.

(e.g.) King Arthur's knights sat at a large Round Table. (T)

(*a*) The king wanted his knights to be the bravest and purest knights in the world. ( )

(*b*) The knights promised to speak the truth always. ( )

(*c*) The knights always went to help anyone in danger. ( )

(*d*) Sir Kay was the greatest knight in King Arthur's Court. ( )

(*e*) King Arthur's Round Table was a very small one. ( )

4. Learn this summary of the Scout Laws. Compare these with the duties of knights.

Trusty, Loyal and Helpful,
Brotherly, Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Smiling and Thrifty
Pure as the rustling wind.

(courteous = polite)

5. A TOURNAMENT

You have all heard the word 'Tournament' in and out of school. We have football tournaments, hockey, volley ball or basketball tournaments and tournaments in almost all the games we play in schools. We have taken this word from the days of King Arthur.

Just as your physical instructor arranges practice matches to make you fit for real matches, King Arthur regularly arranged some kind of practice fighting. These practice fights or mock* fights were tournaments. At these tournaments, either two single knights or two groups of knights fought in a marked piece of ground. All around them were spectators.

The object of the knights in these tournaments was not to kill each other, but only to knock each other off his horse. They tried to do this in the following way.

Each knight after saluting the king and

* mock fights—not real fights.

queen rode back to his end of the marked ground. When the king gave the signal, a man sounded a trumpet. At once the two knights rode fast towards each other and met in the centre of the ground. Each knight carried a long lance or spear in his right hand. With this lance, he tried to strike the middle of his opponent's shield and knock him off his horse. Very often, when the men were equally strong or equally clever, they did not fall off but their lances broke to pieces. When this happened, they returned to their places for another lance and rode at each other again and again till one of them won. Sometimes both of them fell off their horses. Then they sprang to their feet and fought with swords, till one of them gave up the fight.

The best knight in the field always received a suitable prize at the hands of the most beautiful lady watching the tournament.

Note.— The area where the tournaments took place had a special name, 'Lists'. The Greeks called such a place a 'Stadium'. The Romans had their games in the 'Arena'.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Match the following :—

A	B
A tournament	carried a long lance in his right hand.
The object of the knights	the two knights rode towards each other.
When the trumpet was sounded	was to knock each other off his horse.
Each knight	was a mock fight.
The best knight	fell off their horses.
Sometimes both the knights	received a prize.

2. Answer in complete sentences :—

(*a*) What was a tournament ?

(*b*) What did the knights do if their lances broke and they did not fall off their horses ?

(*c*) What did the knights do if they both fell off their horses ?

3. Write Yes or No against the following statements :—

(e.g.) The object of the knights in a tournament was to kill one another. (No)

(*a*) The most beautiful lady watching the tournament gave the prize to the winner. ( )

(*b*) Before the tournament began, the knights saluted the king and queen. ( )

(*c*) Each knight tried to strike the middle of his opponent's shield with his lance. ( )

(*d*) When they both fell off, they ran away from the ground. ( )

6. THE CROWN WITH NINE DIAMONDS

When Arthur was a boy he loved to roam among the hills near Sir Hector's house. One day, when he was walking along a valley, he saw two skeletons. They were probably the bones of two men. These two men had fought and killed each other. Their swords had become very rusty. Very little of their armour remained. But near one of the skeletons was a crown of gold. There were nine diamonds in that crown. The largest diamond was in the middle and there were four smaller diamonds on either side.

Arthur picked up the crown and put it on his head. He heard a voice saying 'You too will be a king one day.'

Arthur laughed but took off the crown at once. He took it home and left it with Sir Hector. Then he forgot all about it.

When Arthur grew up and became king, he remembered the crown with nine

diamonds. He had his own crown and did not want another. He removed the diamonds from that old crown and said to his knights, 'I know what I shall do with these diamonds. Every year for nine years I shall hold a tournament and give a diamond as the prize to the winner.'

The knights were very glad. Soon they got ready for the first tournament. Knights from all over the country came. The knights of the Round Table fought better than all the other knights. The best of the knights of the Round Table was Sir Lancelot. He won the diamond.

The same thing happened eight years running. None of the knights was able to defeat Sir Lancelot. Everyone knew that Sir Lancelot was the greatest knight of King Arthur's Round Table. In the eighth year Sir Lancelot received a deep wound and he took a long time to get well.

But the tournaments had made many knights stronger and braver. More and more knights came to take part in the tournaments each year. They knew that

they had no hope of winning the diamond. But still they came and fought hard till they lost. The knights learnt a lesson that boys and girls learn today in our school matches. We try hard to win a match but we also learn that the game is more important than the prize. In the same way the knights learnt to play the game.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Answer in complete sentences :—

(*a*) Where did Arthur find the two skeletons ?
(*b*) How had the two men died ?
(*c*) What did Arthur find near one of the skeletons ?
(*d*) How many diamonds were there in the crown ?
(*e*) What did Arthur hear when he put the crown on his head ?
(*f*) With whom did he leave the crown ?
(*g*) What did Arthur do with the crown after he became king ?
(*h*) Who fought the best in the tournament ? What did he get as the prize ?
(*i*) What happened to Sir Lancelot in the eighth year ?
(*j*) What lesson do boys and girls learn in our schools ?

(*k*) What did the knights learn from these tournaments ?

2. Write R if the following statements are right. If they are wrong write W.

(e.g.) Arthur loved to roam among the hills. (R)
When he found the skeletons, Arthur was already a king. (W)

(*a*) The tournaments made many knights stronger and braver. ( )

(*b*) The knights of the Round Table fought better than all the other knights. ( )

(*c*) Sir Lancelot was not able to win the diamonds. ( )

(*d*) When Arthur picked up the crown, he put it on his head. ( )

(*e*) None of the knights was able to defeat Sir Lancelot. ( )

(*f*) Boys and girls learn in school that the game is more important than the prize. ( )

3. Match the following :—

A	B
The largest diamond	was the greatest knight of the Round Table.
The two men	had become very rusty.
Their swords	was in the middle.
Sir Lancelot	found a crown near one of the skeletons.
Arthur	had killed each other.

7 (*a*). LANCELOT AND ELAINE

PART 1. LANCELOT

When the time for the ninth tournament came, every one except Lancelot was ready to go. The king asked Lancelot, 'Are you not coming to the tournament?' Lancelot replied, 'My old wound has not healed. I am not fit to fight in the tournament.'

The king was sorry to hear it. He said, 'I had hoped that you would win all the nine diamonds and make a necklace for the lady who will be your wife some day.'

Lancelot smiled and said, 'There is no such lady, sir. No young and beautiful lady will ever be my wife.'

The queen was ill and she was not going to the tournament. As soon as the king went away, the queen said to Lancelot, 'I know you are not very ill. Why don't you go to the tournament? Please go at once and take part in the tournament.'

Lancelot said, 'How can I go now? I have already told the king that my wound has not healed.'

Then the queen said, 'I shall tell you what to do. Your opponents fall off their horses when your lance touches their shield because they know that they fight the great Sir Lancelot. Now, go to the tournament without your own shield. Take the shield of some other knight. No one will know that you are Lancelot. They will attack you without fear. When you win the last and largest diamond, no one will be able to say that the name of the great Sir Lancelot defeated the other knights. The king will be glad because you are helping the young knights to fight without fear.'

Lancelot said, 'My queen, I shall do so. I shall know whether I am really the strongest knight or not.' Then he got upon his horse and went to the tournament by a different way.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Complete the following sentences in the best way you can :—

(e.g.) Lancelot was not fit to fight, because his .....

Answer. Lancelot was not fit to fight, because his old wound had not healed.

(*a*) The king had hoped that Lancelot would .....

(*b*) Lancelot said that no young and beautiful lady would ever.....

(*c*) When Lancelot's lance touched their shield many young knights fell off their horses, because they knew that.....

2. Answer in complete sentences :

(*a*) Why was Sir Lancelot not fit to fight for the ninth diamond ?

(*b*) Did the king think that Lancelot would win all the diamonds ?

(*c*) Why didn't the queen go to the tournament ?

7 (*b*). LANCELOT AND ELAINE

PART 2. THE CASTLE OF ASTALOT

When it was evening, Sir Lancelot found that he had lost his way. In those days, there were not many roads in the country. Sir Lancelot followed some kind of path and soon saw some towers. He knew that he was near a castle. He knew that the owner of the castle would gladly receive him and give him food and lodging.

When he came near, he saw that the castle gate was not open. He saw a horn hanging nearby. It was like a trumpet. Lancelot blew the horn. Soon some people came and opened the gate. One of them took Sir Lancelot to a room. There the man helped to take off Sir Lancelot's armour. The man did not speak a word. He did all his work in silence. Then Sir Lancelot found out that the man was dumb.

The dumb man then led Sir Lancelot to the hall. The lord of the castle was

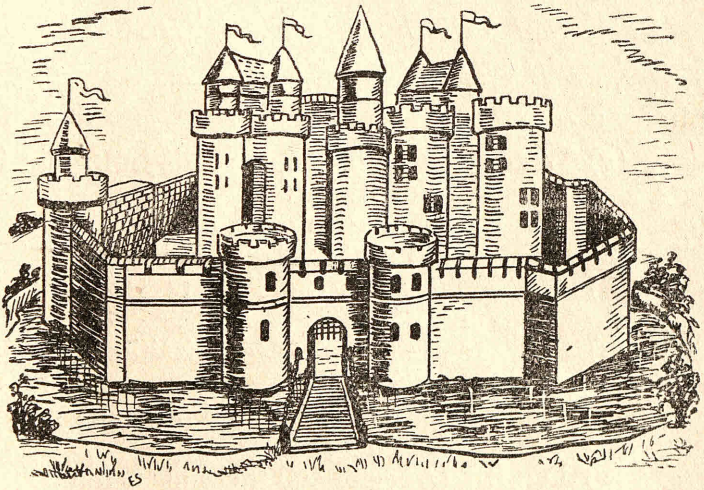
waiting for his guest there. The lord's two sons were there too. Behind her brothers stood a very beautiful young lady. The lord of the castle then said, 'You are welcome to the castle of Astalot. You look like the greatest knight of King Arthur's Court. Will you kindly tell us who you are and where you come from? I have seen King Arthur, but I have not seen any of his great knights of the Round Table.'

Lancelot replied, 'I am from King Arthur's Court and I am going to the tournament. But as I don't want any one to know who I am, I won't tell you my name just now. I will tell you my name later. I shall be glad to get a plain shield from you. My friends know my own shield well.'

The lord of Astalot promised to give him the shield of his eldest son, Sir Torre. The younger son Lavaine asked the knight's permission to go with him and take part in the tournament. The knight gladly agreed to take him along.

The Lord of Astalot said in fun, 'My young son Lavaine wants to fight for this diamond, win it and give it to his sister Elaine.'

Lancelot who was always polite to ladies looked at Elaine and saw that she was the



most beautiful lady he had ever seen. But he was too old to fall in love. He said very politely, but also truthfully, 'I think this young lady is fit to wear the richest jewel in the world.'

Elaine then looked up and saw the face of the speaker. She did not know his

name. His face was not very attractive. He had a sword-cut across his face. His skin was dark. But she fell in love with him.

Not knowing this, Sir Lancelot went happily to bed and slept well.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Answer each of the following in a word or phrase :—

(*a*) Were there many good roads in Britain in the days of Arthur ?
(*b*) Was the castle gate open or shut ?
(*c*) What was the horn like ?
(*d*) Who helped Sir Lancelot to take off his armour ?
(*e*) How many persons were waiting for the guest in the hall ? Who were they ?
(*f*) Did the lord of Astalot know any of the king's knights ?
(*g*) Did Sir Lancelot tell them his name ?
(*h*) What did Sir Lancelot want to get from them ?

2. Say whether the following statements are right or wrong. Write R or W in the brackets.

(*a*) Lancelot went to the Castle of Astalot because he had lost his way. ( )
(*b*) Lancelot did not tell them his name because the lord of Astalot knew it already. ( )

(*c*) Lavaine wanted to go to the tournament with Sir Lancelot. ( )

(*d*) Other knights knew Sir Lancelot by looking at his shield. ( )

3. Complete the following sentences in the best way you can, choosing the proper words from those in brackets.

(e.g.) Lancelot did not tell them (my, his, your) name, because (he, they) did not want anyone to know who (he, they) (is, was, were).

Answer. Lancelot did not tell them *his* name, because *he* did not want anyone to know who *he was*.

(*a*) Lancelot said that (my, his) friends knew (my, his, their) shield.

(*b*) Lancelot said that he (think, thought) that the lady (is, was) fit to wear the richest jewel in the world.

7 (*c*). LANCELOT AND ELAINE

PART 3. THE ROPE OF PEARLS

The next morning Sir Lancelot and Lavaine got ready to go to the tournament. Elaine then said to Sir Lancelot, 'Will you wear on your helmet one of my jewels?'

Sir Lancelot said, 'I have never worn anything belonging to a lady.' Elaine then said, 'If you wear something now, your friends will not know who you are.' Sir Lancelot thought over this. Then he said, 'Very well. I shall do so. What is it?' Elaine replied, 'It is only a rope of pearls.'

Sir Lancelot took the rope of pearls and tied it round his helmet. He left his own shield with Elaine and took Sir Torre's shield. Then he rode away with Lavaine.

In the 'Lists', Lavaine fought bravely by the side of his companion. The knight with the plain shield fought better than others. 'Who is this new man?' asked the king. No one knew who he

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was. Some said, 'He fights like Lancelot.' Others said, 'He has a rope of pearls in his helmet. Lancelot never wears ladies' gifts like that. We are sure it is not Lancelot.'

Then the friends and relatives of Sir Lancelot were angry with the new knight and attacked him fiercely. But the knight and his young friend drove away all attackers. In the fight Lancelot received a deep wound. The trumpets sounded and the king said that the knight with the plain shield was the winner.

When the officials asked him to go up to the king to receive the prize, he said,

'Diamond me no diamonds,
Prize me no prizes, for my prize is death.'

Then he said, 'Please do not follow me,' and then went into the forest with Lavaine.

There Lavaine pulled out a piece of a lance from Sir Lancelot's side. Much blood flowed out. A hermit who was living nearby, carried Sir Lancelot to his

cottage and applied medicine to the wound. For many days Lancelot lay there like a dead man.

Meanwhile the king heard that the winner had gone away because he was wounded. The king gave the diamond to Sir Gawain, his nephew, and said, 'Please find out where the knight has gone and deliver this diamond into his hand.' Sir Gawain promised to do so and went away at once.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Four answers have been given for each of the following. Only one of the answers is correct. Mark the correct answer with a ✓

(1) Sir Lancelot tied the rope of pearls round his helmet, because

(*a*) Sir Torre asked him to do so.

(*b*) he loved Elaine.

(*c*) he thought that his friends would think that he was some other knight.

(*d*) he wanted to please the king.

(2) Lancelot's friends did not know that the knight with the pearls was Sir Lancelot, because

(*a*) he did not fight like Lancelot.

(*b*) Lancelot never wore ladies' gifts.

(*c*) they did not know Lavaine.
(*d*) King Arthur did not tell them who the knight was.

2. Fill in the blanks with the most suitable words from the list.

(*a*) Elaine asked Sir Lancelot to wear her —— in his helmet.
(*b*) Sir Lancelot left his —— with Elaine and took Sir Torre's —— shield with him.
(*c*) Lancelot received a deep —— during the fight.
(*d*) A —— who was living nearby carried Sir Lancelot to his ——.

shield, plain, rope of pearls, hermit, cottage, wound.

3. Give two reasons why Lancelot's friends thought that the strange knight was not Sir Lancelot.

4. When the knight did not go to him to get his prize what did the king do?

7 (*d*). LANCELOT AND ELAINE

Part 4. The Diamond

Sir Gawain went about looking for the wounded knight. He looked for him everywhere except at the hermit's cottage. One day he came to the castle of Astalot. Elaine saw him and asked him, 'Did my knight win the diamond?' Gawain said, 'I do not know the name of your knight. Who is he?' Elaine said, 'He wore a rope of pearls in his helmet.' Gawain then said, 'He won the diamond. But as he was wounded, he went away before the king gave him the prize. Will you tell me his name?'

Elaine said, 'We do not know his name. But he left his shield here. He said that his friends knew his shield.'

Gawain wanted to see the shield. Sir Torre and his father then showed him the shield. Gawain knew at once that it was Lancelot's shield.

He told them that the shield was Sir

Lancelot's. He then asked Elaine whether she loved Sir Lancelot. Elaine told him that she did. He then said, 'I shall leave the diamond with you. I am sure Sir Lancelot will be glad to get it from you.'

Sir Gawain then went back to the Court and said, 'I have seen the lady who loves Sir Lancelot. I have left the diamond with her. The rope of pearls was hers. Sir Lancelot left his shield with her and came to the tournament with a plain shield. I am sure the king will be glad to hear that Lancelot is going to marry the beautiful maid of Astalot.'

The king was glad to hear that Lancelot had found a really beautiful and lovable maid. He hoped that Sir Lancelot would marry her. But he said to Gawain, 'You have not obeyed me. I told you to give the diamond to the knight. But you have given it to some one else.'

A knight's first duty was to obey the king. Sir Gawain had failed in his duty.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Answer in complete sentences :—

   (*a*) Did Sir Gawain look for Lancelot in the hermit's cottage ?

   (*b*) How did Sir Gawain find out who the winner of the diamond was ? (Answer in two or three sentences).

   (*c*) Why did the winner go away before taking his prize from the king ?

   (*d*) Did Sir Gawain obey the king ?

2. Match the following :—

A	B
Elaine said,	'You have not obeyed me.'
Gawain said to Elaine,	'We do not know his name ; but he left his shield here.'
Gawain said to his friends in the court,	'I shall leave the diamond with you.'
The king said to Gawain,	'I have seen the lady who loves Sir Lancelot.'

3. Learn the following words and their opposites.

win	lose
won	lost
obey	disobey
obedience	disobedience
glad	sorry
love	hate
like	dislike
beautiful	ugly

7 (*e*). LANCELOT AND ELAINE

PART 5. LANCELOT RECOVERS

When Sir Gawain had gone, Elaine said to her father. 'Please allow me to go and find Sir Lancelot. He is wounded. He needs some one to nurse him.'

Elaine's father and Sir Torre said to her, 'We cannot stop you if you want to go. But we think it is good for you to stay at home.'

But Elaine wanted to go and she took Sir Torre with her. Soon they reached the forest near the hermit's cottage. There they saw Lavaine. Lavaine was surprised to see his sister. He said, 'Why have you come so far from our home?' Elaine said, 'I hear that Sir Lancelot is ill. I have come to nurse him.'

Lavaine then asked his sister, 'How do you know the knight's name? He did not tell us his name.'

Then Elaine told him of Sir Gawain's visit to Astalot. Then they went in and Elaine gave the diamond to Sir Lancelot.

Every day she went in the morning to the hermit's place and returned to a town nearby for her night's lodging.

After many weeks the hermit said to Sir Lancelot, 'You are now quite well. But this young lady's nursing has helped me to cure you. Without her help all my medicines would not have cured you.'

Then Sir Lancelot, Lavaine and Elaine went to the castle of Astalot. One day Sir Lancelot said to Elaine, 'You have saved my life. I wish to do something for you in return. Tell me what you like the best.'

Elaine was silent. What she liked the best was to be Sir Lancelot's wife. She put him off, saying, 'I shall ask for a gift tomorrow.'

She said this many times. One day Sir Lancelot said, 'I am going away tomorrow. Please tell me now what you want.'

Then Elaine said, 'Will you take me as your wife?' Lancelot said, 'My dear child, you should marry a man much younger than myself. You will soon forget me. When you marry a good

young man, I shall give him half of my lands and wealth. You will then be happy. I am old and cannot marry a young maid like you.'

Elaine was very sorry to hear Sir Lancelot's words. The next day Sir Lancelot left the castle of Astalot. He did not even say good-bye to Elaine.

QUESTIONS

Answer the following :—

(*a*) Why did Elaine want to find Sir Lancelot?
(*b*) Who went with Elaine?
(*c*) Whom did they see near the hermit's cottage?
(*d*) What gift did Elaine want from Sir Lancelot?
(*e*) Did Sir Lancelot give her what she wanted?

7 *(f)*. LANCELOT AND ELAINE

PART 6. DEATH OF ELAINE

Soon after Sir Lancelot went away, Elaine became very ill. No medicine could cure her. Everyone knew that she would soon die.

One day she called her father to her side and said, 'When I am dead, put on me my best clothes. I have written a letter to the queen and Sir Lancelot. Put the letter in my hands. Then place my body in our boat. Tell our dumb servant to row the boat to the king's palace.'

Her father promised to do so. In a few days Elaine was dead. Her father and brothers then dressed her like a queen and put the body in their boat. The dumb man took the oars and rowed the boat to the king's palace.

Meanwhile Lancelot met the queen and gave her the nine diamonds. The queen had not been very pleased to hear that Elaine loved Sir Lancelot. She was jealous. So she said, 'Why do you give me the diamonds? Please add the diamonds to the rope of pearls and give them to Elaine.' Then before Sir

Lancelot opened his mouth to reply, she said, 'No. Why should she have them? I shall throw them away.' Saying this she threw the diamonds into the river.

As soon as they fell on the water, the boat carrying Elaine's dead body passed by and came to the steps of the king's palace. Everyone ran down to the steps. Soon there was a crowd round the boat. The dumb man pointed to the letter in Elaine's hand.

Some one took the letter and gave it to the king. The king read it aloud. This is what he read:

'Most noble Knight Sir Lancelot, because you left without saying good-bye to me, I have come to take my last farewell of you. I loved you but you did not love me in return. So I die. I request you all, king, queen, knights and ladies to pray for my soul.'

Most of the lords and ladies wept. The king was very sad. Sir Lancelot said to them all, 'My Lords, I am very sorry for the death of this maid. She loved me

more than any woman ever loved a man. But at my age it was difficult for me to fall in love. I gave her no cause to love me.'

Then the king and all his court gave Elaine the grandest funeral that ever took place at Arthur's Court. After the funeral the king and Lancelot spoke about Elaine and her noble qualities. Sir Lancelot then went away by himself to think about his past life and his future plans.

Stories say that he ended his life as a holy man in a monastery.

QUESTIONS

Answer in complete sentences :—

(*a*) What happened to Elaine after Sir Lancelot went away ?

(*b*) What did her father and brothers do when Elaine was dead ? (Answer in four or five sentences.)

(*c*) Who rowed the boat to the king's palace ?

(*d*) What did the queen do to the nine diamonds ?

(*e*) Who read the letter ?

(*f*) What did Elaine's letter ask the king, queen, knights and ladies to do for her ?

(*g*) What did the king and the court do to honour Elaine ?

(*h*) How did Sir Lancelot end his life ?

8. HOW ARTHUR WENT AWAY

You have read that Arthur came to Britain in a very wonderful way. He went away from that country in the same wonderful way.

King Arthur ruled the land for many years. During that time his knights performed many wonderful deeds. Some went away looking for adventure. Many of those who remained became selfish and wicked. Some of them tried to drive out King Arthur.

King Arthur defeated his enemies one after another. In the last battle the leader of his enemies was Sir Modred. The king met Sir Modred on the battle-field. Sir Modred gave the king a hard blow and wounded him. But the king cut through the helmet of Sir Modred and killed him.

When he received the wound the king fell down. All the king's knights except Sir Bedivere were either dead or dying. Sir Bedivere carried the king to the chapel

and laid him on the floor. The chapel was near a lake.

The king then said to the knight, 'Please take my sword Excalibur, and throw it into the lake.'

Sir Bedivere took the sword and walked down the side of the hill to the shore of the lake. When he reached the shore, he looked at the sword. It was the most beautiful sword he had seen. He did not like to throw it away. He hid it in the tall grass near the shore and went back to the king.

The king asked the knight, 'What did you see?' The knight replied, 'I saw the waves breaking on the shore. I saw nothing more.'

The king knew that the knight was not telling the truth. He said to him, 'You have not obeyed me. I know that you have hidden the sword. Go back at once and throw it into the lake.'

Sir Bedivere ran down the hill once more and pulled the sword out. Then he said to himself, 'This is the sword of King

Arthur. If I throw away this sword, no one will believe that Arthur was king of Britain. If I keep this sword, I can tell people about Arthur, and they will believe me. They will not believe me without the sword.' He hid Excalibur once again and went back to the king.

When the king asked him, 'What did you see?', the knight replied, 'I saw nothing except the waves breaking on the shore.'

The king knew that Sir Bedivere was not telling the truth. He was very angry. He said, 'You have disobeyed me twice. If you do not obey me, I will kill you. Be quick. My wound is getting worse.'

Then the knight went quickly to the shore. He pulled Excalibur out. He shut his eyes and threw the sword far into the lake. When he opened his eyes he saw an arm coming up from the water. The arm caught the sword by the handle. It waved the sword three times in the

air. Then the arm and the sword disappeared under the water.

The knight was greatly surprised. He ran back to the king. The king said to him, 'I know that you have thrown away the sword. What did you see?' The knight replied, 'I shut my eyes, and threw the sword far into the lake. When I opened my eyes I saw an arm rising out of the water. The arm caught the sword. It waved the sword three times in the air. Then the arm pulled the sword into the water.'

Then the king asked Sir Bedivere to carry him to the shore of the lake. The knight took the king upon his back and slowly walked over the rough ground till he came to the shore.

When he reached the shore he saw a boat in the lake. It came towards the shore. The knight looked at it wonderingly. The boat was black in colour. Its sails were black. There were many ladies in the boat. Their clothes too were black.

When the boat touched the shore, the knight saw that there were three queens in the boat. All of them had crowns on their heads.

The king said to the knight, 'Now put me in the boat.' Sir Bedivere did so. The three queens took the king from Sir Bedivere. They wept because Arthur was wounded. They took off King Arthur's helmet.

The knight was very sad. He said to the king, 'What shall I do now? Where shall I go if you leave me? All the knights of the Round Table are gone. I am the only one left alive.'

The king replied, 'God makes many changes in this world. The knights of the Round Table have finished their work. The world does not need them any more. My advice to you is to pray to God night and day. You can do many great things by praying to God.'

The boat left the shore. Sir Bedivere cried out, 'Where are you going, my king?' The king replied, 'I am going

to a valley far away in an island. There my wounds will heal.'

Sir Bedivere stood on the shore watching the boat. He watched till the boat disappeared. He turned back thinking of Merlin's words. When the people asked Merlin about Arthur, he always said, 'He came from the deep water. He will go back to the deep water.'

Many people believe that Arthur is still alive in that valley. They think that he will come again if Britain needs his help against her enemies.

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

1. Try to answer in two short paragraphs the meaning of Merlin's words about Arthur. 'He came from the deep water. He will go back to the deep water.'

2. Answer in complete sentences :—

(*a*) Who wounded Arthur ?
(*b*) Who was the only knight left alive ?
(*c*) Where did Sir Bedivere carry the king ?
(*d*) Where was the chapel?
(*e*) What did the king ask Sir Bedivere to do ?
(*f*) Did he obey the king at first?
(*g*) What happened when Sir Bedivere threw the sword into the lake ?

(*h*) Who came to take King Arthur away?
(*i*) Where was Arthur going in the boat?
(*j*) What advice did Arthur give to Sir Bedivere before the boat left the shore?
(*k*) Do you like these stories of King Arthur?
(*l*) Which of these do you like the best?
(*m*) Which of the knights would you like to be: Lancelot, Kay, Galahad or Bedivere?

Words from Book III

allow (3)
answer (4)
attack (18)
cause (7)
church (19)
during (12)
enemies (17)
except (11)
happened (7)
important (14)
lodging (12)
marry (4)
noble (15)
perform (8)
qualities (15)
question (9)
received (7)
rule (13)
save (10)
wept (21)
wicked (9)

Other words

anvil (2)
armour (4)
bishop (2)
blade (2)
bless (2)
castle (7b)
chapel (4)
court (4)
crown (3)
cure (7c)
diamond (6)
difficult (7f)
failed (2)
funeral (7f)
heal (8)
helmet (8)
hermit (7c)
horn (7b)
jealous (7f)
kind (4)
knight (4)
lance (5)
lawful (3)
lists (5)
maid (7b)
mass (2)
monastery (7f)
nurse (7e)
opponent (5)
pearl (7c)
prove (3)
pure (4)
ride (3)
shield (5)
single (5)
soul (7f)
tomb (2)
tournament (5)
towers (7b)

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