



King Arthur



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Retold by Kate O'brien

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KING ARTHUR



King Arthur



Queen Guinevere



The Wizard Merlin



Lady Nimue

English	Castellano	Català	Euskara	Galego
King	rey	rei	erregea	rei
Queen	reina	reina	erregina	raíña
Wizard	mago	mag	aztia	mago
Lady	dama	dama	anderea	dama



Sir Ector and his son, Kay



*Morgana Le Fey,
King Arthur's half sister*



Sir Lancelot, a knight



Sir Galahad, a knight

English	Castellano	Català	Euskara	Galego
half-sister	hermanastra	germanastra	arribaordea	medio irmá
knight	caballero	cavaller	zalduna	cabaleiro



King Arthur

Chapter 1: Canterbury



It was Christmas time in the year 450 *AD*. King Uther Pendragon of Britain was dead. All the knights in Britain decided to go to the cathedral in Canterbury to choose a new king. The knight, Sir Ector, his son Kay, and their *squire* Arthur were on their way to Canterbury.



Kay stopped. "Oh, no. I haven't got my *sword*," he said. "Arthur, go home and get it."

"Be careful, Arthur," said Sir Ector. "There are *robbers* in the forest and there's a dragon on the hill near the village. Take the other road."

Does Arthur choose route 1, 2 or 3?



Arthur went to Sir Ector's castle. When he arrived, nobody was at home. Arthur didn't have a key for the door.

Arthur returned to Canterbury with no sword. All the knights were in the cathedral. Arthur didn't know what to do. He saw a sword in a big *stone* next to the cathedral. The sword was called Excalibur. There were words on the stone but Arthur didn't read them. He pulled the sword from the stone and went to find Sir Ector and Kay. Sir Ector and the other knights saw Arthur with the sword. They ran to look at the stone and read the words on it.



Use the key to read the message on the stone.

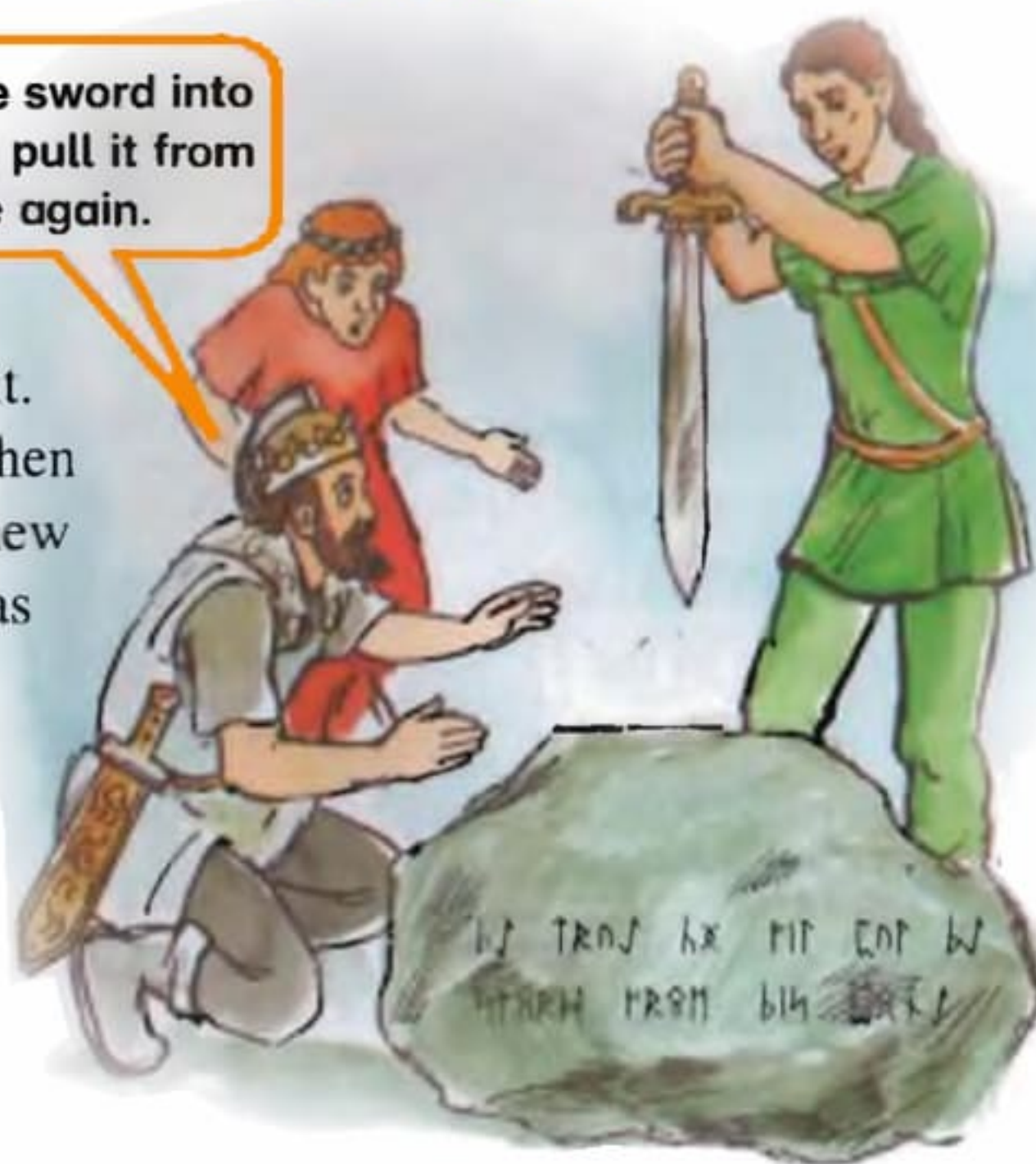


KEY:

th = ʒ	r = R	w = P	p = L	o = Q	k = h
e = J	u = n	i =	st = M	m = N	s = 4
t = ↑	ing = X	ll = ʃ	f = F	n = ʎ	d = H

Arthur, put the sword into the stone and pull it from the stone again.

Arthur did it. It was easy. Then the knights knew that Arthur was the new king.



Chapter 2: Camelot



Arthur **built** his new castle at Camelot. Merlin the wizard came to Camelot to teach Arthur to be a good king.



"Your father was King Uther Pendragon," Merlin said. "Other kings wanted to kill you. I asked Sir Ector to **look after** you. Now you're the king. You will be a great king. The magic sword, Excalibur, will help you."

Brave knights came to the young king in Camelot from every part of Britain. Merlin made a big, round table for the knights.

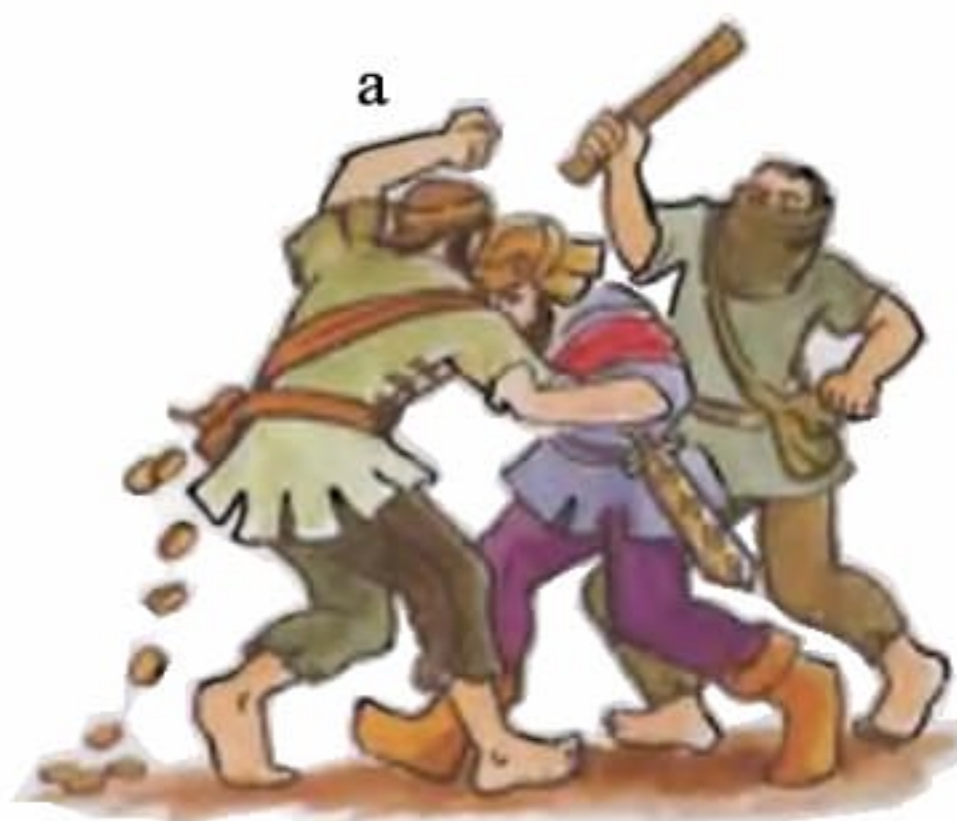
"Merlin, why is the table round?" asked the knights.

"The table is round because you're all equal," answered Merlin. "You're the Knights of the Round Table."





King Arthur and his knights had many adventures. They **rescued** ladies and killed dragons. They fought robbers and **wicked** knights. Soon, everybody knew about the Knights of the Round Table. More and more knights came to Camelot.



Match the sentences to the correct picture.

1. A knight rescues a lady.
2. A knight fights robbers.
3. A knight fights a dragon.

King Arthur learned to be a good king, but he wasn't happy. He didn't have a queen. One day, he visited his friend, King Leo. King Leo had a beautiful daughter called Guinevere. King Arthur saw her.

"I love Guinevere, King Leo's daughter," King Arthur told Merlin. "I want to marry her."

"Guinevere is very beautiful. She'll cause problems in Camelot," said Merlin. "But you have to marry the woman you love."

So Guinevere came to Camelot and married the king.

Long live King Arthur! Long live Queen Guinevere!





Chapter 3: Merlin



Merlin the wizard was King Arthur's friend and teacher. Merlin read the future in a crystal ball. One day, he said to King Arthur, "**Soon**, I have to leave you, My King."

"But I need your help and **advice**, Merlin," said King Arthur. "Please don't leave me."

"I can see the future in my crystal ball, My King," Merlin said. "I don't want to leave you, but it's my destiny."



How does Merlin know his destiny?

After a few days, the beautiful Lady Nimue came to Camelot. Merlin knew she wanted to learn his magic, but he fell in love with her. It was his destiny.

Merlin, you're a great wizard. Teach me your magic.



Merlin taught Lady Nimue all his magic.

"Now you know all my secrets, Nimue," said Merlin. "Do you love me?"

Lady Nimue didn't answer.

"Come with me to a beautiful *cave* in the mountains," she said.

Lady Nimue used black magic and Merlin went to sleep in the cave. People say Merlin *still* sleeps in the beautiful, magic cave.





Chapter 4: Morgana Le Fey



King Arthur had a half-sister called Morgana Le Fey. Morgana was very *jealous* of King Arthur. She came to Camelot and tried to kill the king with black magic. One day she took Arthur's magic sword, Excalibur.

"There's a *tournament* today," Morgana said to her husband, Lot. "Use this sword to fight King Arthur. Then you will win."

Lot fought King Arthur and *hurt* him, but then he *dropped* Excalibur. King Arthur took the sword and hurt Lot. King Arthur won the fight.



"I'm sorry, My King," Lot told King Arthur. "Morgana gave me the sword. I didn't know it was Excalibur."

"You're a good knight, Lot," said King Arthur. "This was Morgana's work. She used black magic to *trick* you."

Morgana *was scared of* King Arthur. She left Camelot and used magic to build a castle in the middle of a black lake. There weren't any fish in the water. There weren't any trees near the lake. There were always grey clouds around the castle. Morgana tried many times to destroy King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

King Arthur was very unhappy. "Why did Merlin leave me?" King Arthur asked Guinevere. "I need his advice. What will my destiny be?"

Which castle does Morgana live in?





Chapter 5: Sir Lancelot



Sir Lancelot was the *best* Knight of the Round Table. He was stronger and braver than the other knights. Sir Lancelot had many adventures. One day, a lady asked Sir Lancelot to fight a wicked knight. The lady and Sir Lancelot *rode* into a forest. The wicked knight appeared and pulled the lady onto his horse.



Sir Lancelot *chased* the wicked knight and cut off his head.

"Sir Lancelot," said the lady, "in the past, that wicked knight hurt many ladies. You're a very brave knight."

The lady returned to Camelot. She told King Arthur and Queen Guinevere about the fight. Sir Lancelot didn't return to Camelot. He went to find more adventures.

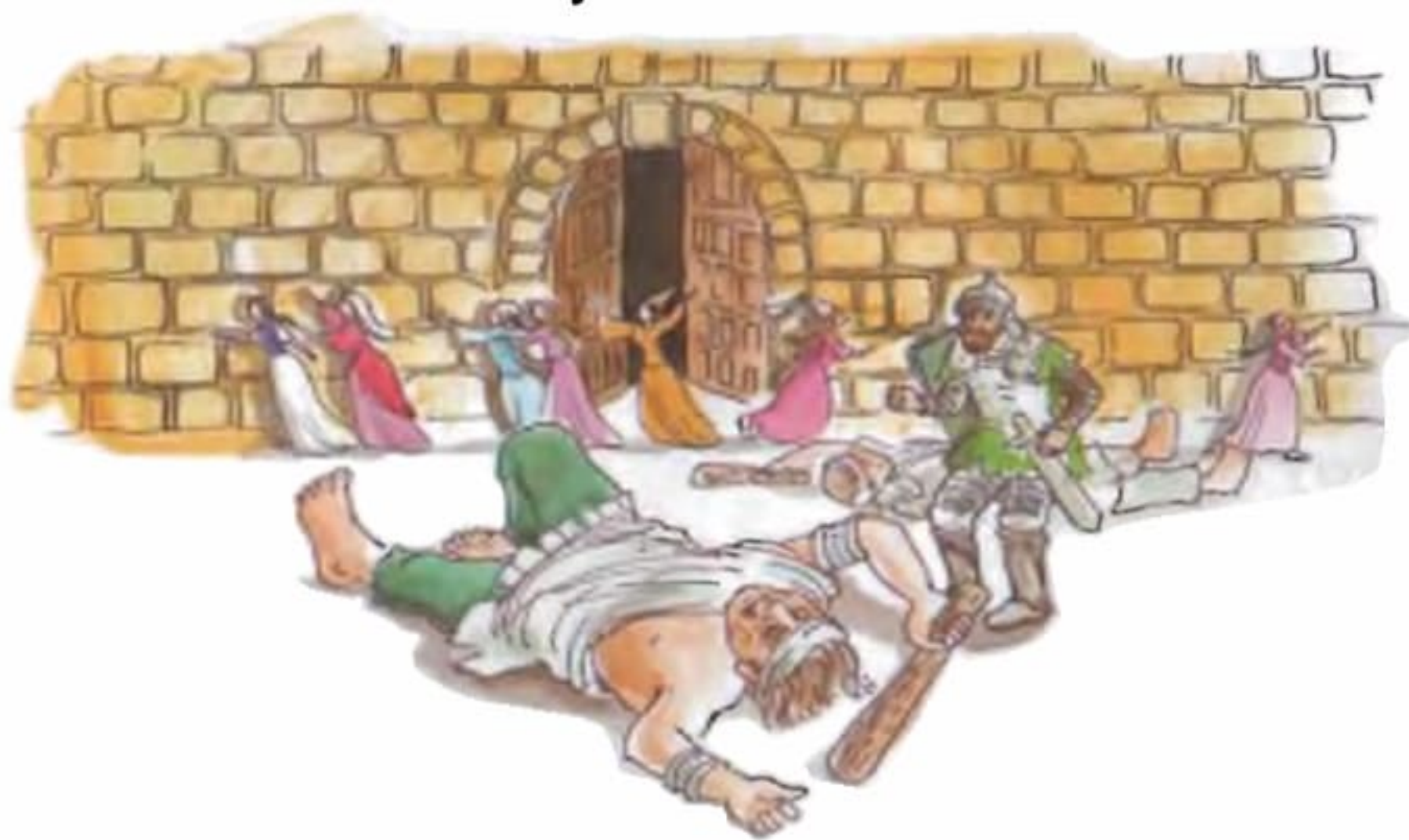
One day, Sir Lancelot came to a castle. Many ladies called to him from the windows.

Run away! Don't come to this castle. There are two *giants* here. They'll kill you.



Suddenly, two giants ran out of the castle. Sir Lancelot killed the first giant.

The other giant tried to escape. Sir Lancelot chased him and killed him too. Sixty ladies ran out of the castle.



"Thank you, good knight. You rescued us from those terrible giants," the ladies said.

Sir Lancelot left to look for more adventures. The sixty ladies went to Camelot to tell King Arthur and Queen Guinevere about Sir Lancelot and the giants.



Chapter 6: Sir Galahad



After his adventures, Sir Lancelot returned to Camelot. He saw Queen Guinevere. "Queen Guinevere is very beautiful," thought Sir Lancelot. "She's the King's wife, but I love her. I'll do many brave things for her." One day, an old man came to Camelot. He spoke to Sir Lancelot.



"Please come to my monastery, Sir Lancelot," he said. Sir Lancelot went with the old man. At the monastery, a tall, attractive young man came to meet Sir Lancelot. Sir Lancelot looked at the young man's face. He was surprised, because the boy looked very familiar.

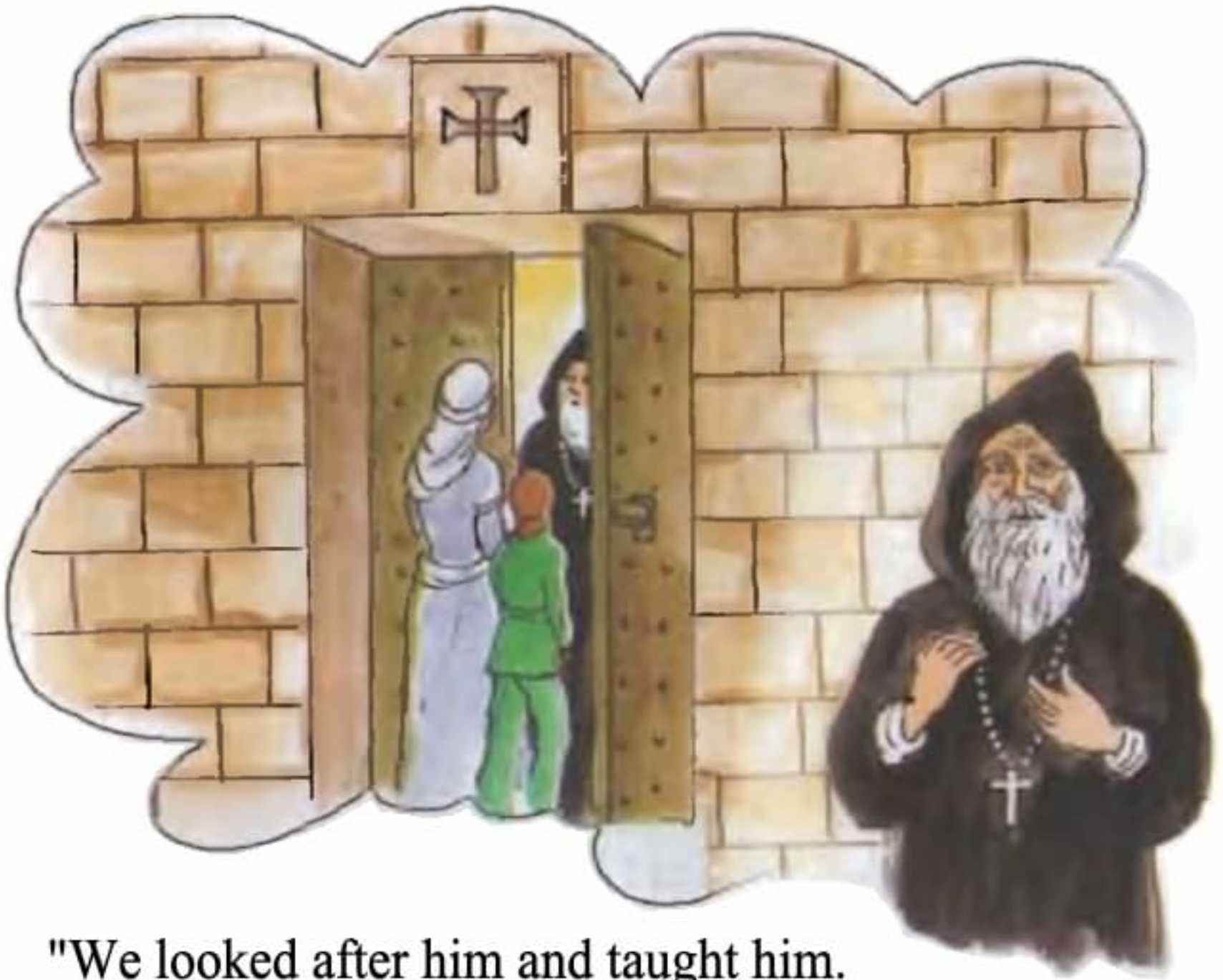


*Look at the picture.
Who is the young man?*



"Who is this young man?" Sir Lancelot asked.

"This is Galahad, your son," said the old man. "Many years ago his mother brought him to us before she died.



"We looked after him and taught him. He's strong and brave and he loves God. Now, it's time for him to leave our monastery. He wants to be a knight."

Galahad knelt down in front of his father.

I name you Sir Galahad, Knight of the Round Table. Come with me to Camelot.





The next day, there was a big stone in the river near Camelot. King Arthur and all the people in Camelot ran to see the stone. There was a sword in the stone. On the sword were the words:

I am the sword of the best knight in the world.



"Sir Lancelot," said King Arthur. "Pull the sword from the stone."

"I'm not a good knight. I love Queen Guinevere," thought Sir Lancelot.

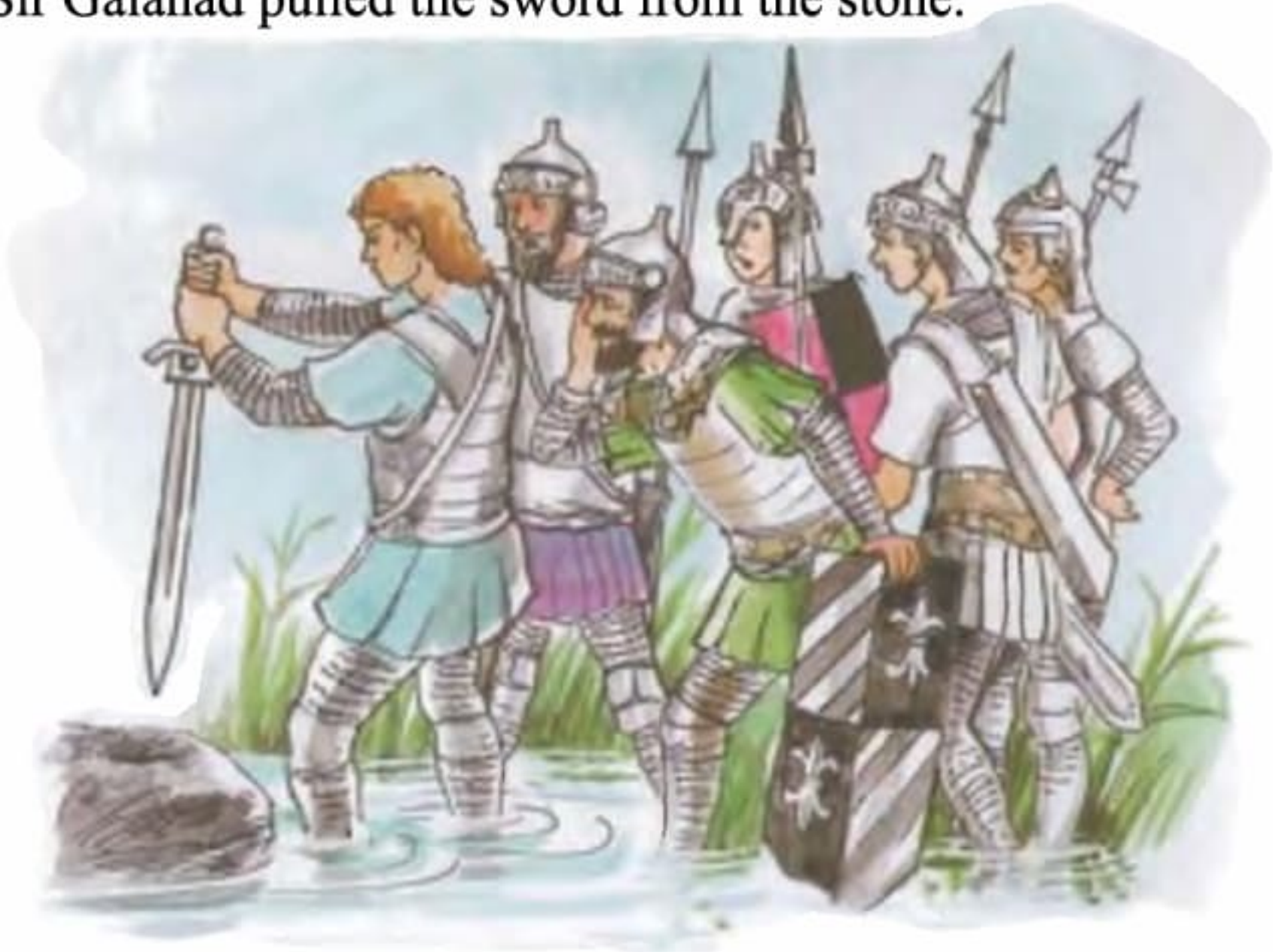
"I'm not the best knight, My King," said Sir Lancelot. "I can't pull the sword from the stone."

Sir Lancelot took Sir Galahad to the king.

**This young man is my son.
He will be the best knight in
the world. He will pull the
sword from the stone.**



Sir Galahad pulled the sword from the stone.





"Come and sit at the Round Table, Galahad, my son," said Sir Lancelot.

Sir Lancelot took Sir Galahad to the Round Table. Suddenly, a magic fire appeared. The fire wrote words on the back of Sir Galahad's chair.

Can you read the message in the fire?



Chapter 7: The Holy Grail



One day Sir Galahad and the other knights sat at the Round Table. Suddenly there was a bright light. A gold ***goblet*** appeared and moved above the Round Table. There was a white cloth on the goblet. Nobody in the room spoke. Nobody moved.



When the vision disappeared, everybody started to ask questions.

"What was that? Where did it go?" they asked.

"Our Lord Jesus used that goblet at the Last Supper," said King Arthur. "We call it the ***Holy Grail***."



It's the most beautiful thing in the world. I *have to* see it again without the cloth.

Yes! Let's look for the Holy Grail. This will be the greatest adventure of the Knights of the Round Table.



King Arthur was very sad. "This adventure is very dangerous," he said. "A lot of brave knights will die."

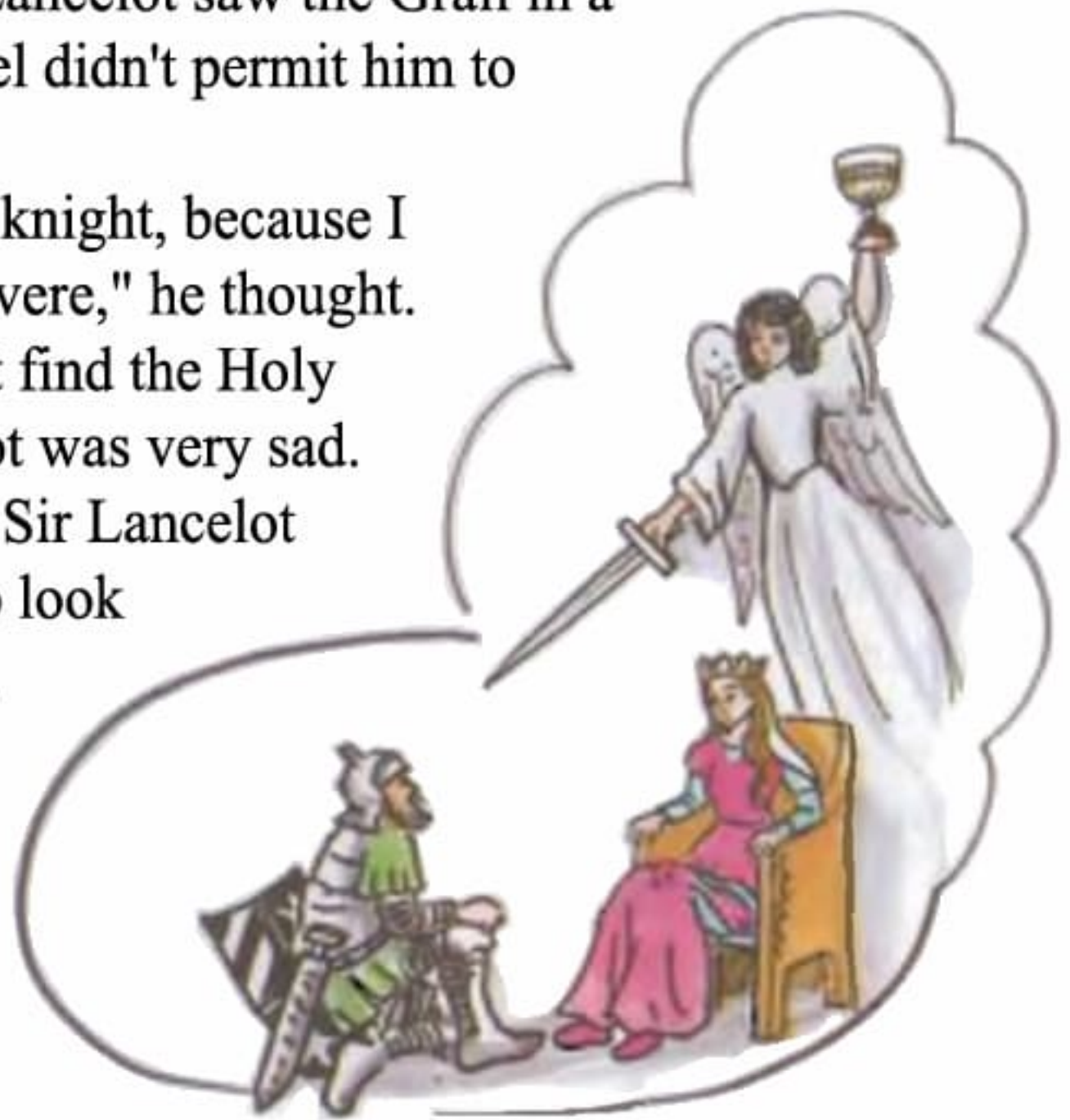
The next morning Sir Lancelot left Camelot with his son and the other knights. He looked for the Grail for many months.



One night, Sir Lancelot saw the Grail in a dream, but an angel didn't permit him to touch it.

"I'm not a good knight, because I love Queen Guinevere," he thought. "That's why I can't find the Holy Grail.- Sir Lancelot was very sad.

In the morning, Sir Lancelot thought, "I have to look for the Holy Grail. It's my destiny. I'll try to be a perfect knight.



"I won't return to Camelot. I'll never see Queen Guinevere again. Then perhaps I'll see the Holy Grail again before I die."



After many months, Sir Lancelot came to a castle. He went up some stairs in the castle. He came to a closed door.

"Sir Lancelot," said a *voice*. "You can see the Holy Grail, but you can't go into the room.-

The door opened and Sir Lancelot saw the Grail. It was on a golden table. Sir Lancelot tried to walk into the room. A strong, hot wind stopped him. Sir Lancelot fell down outside the door. Some women in the castle looked after Sir Lancelot. He was very ill for a long time.

Put the pictures in the correct order.

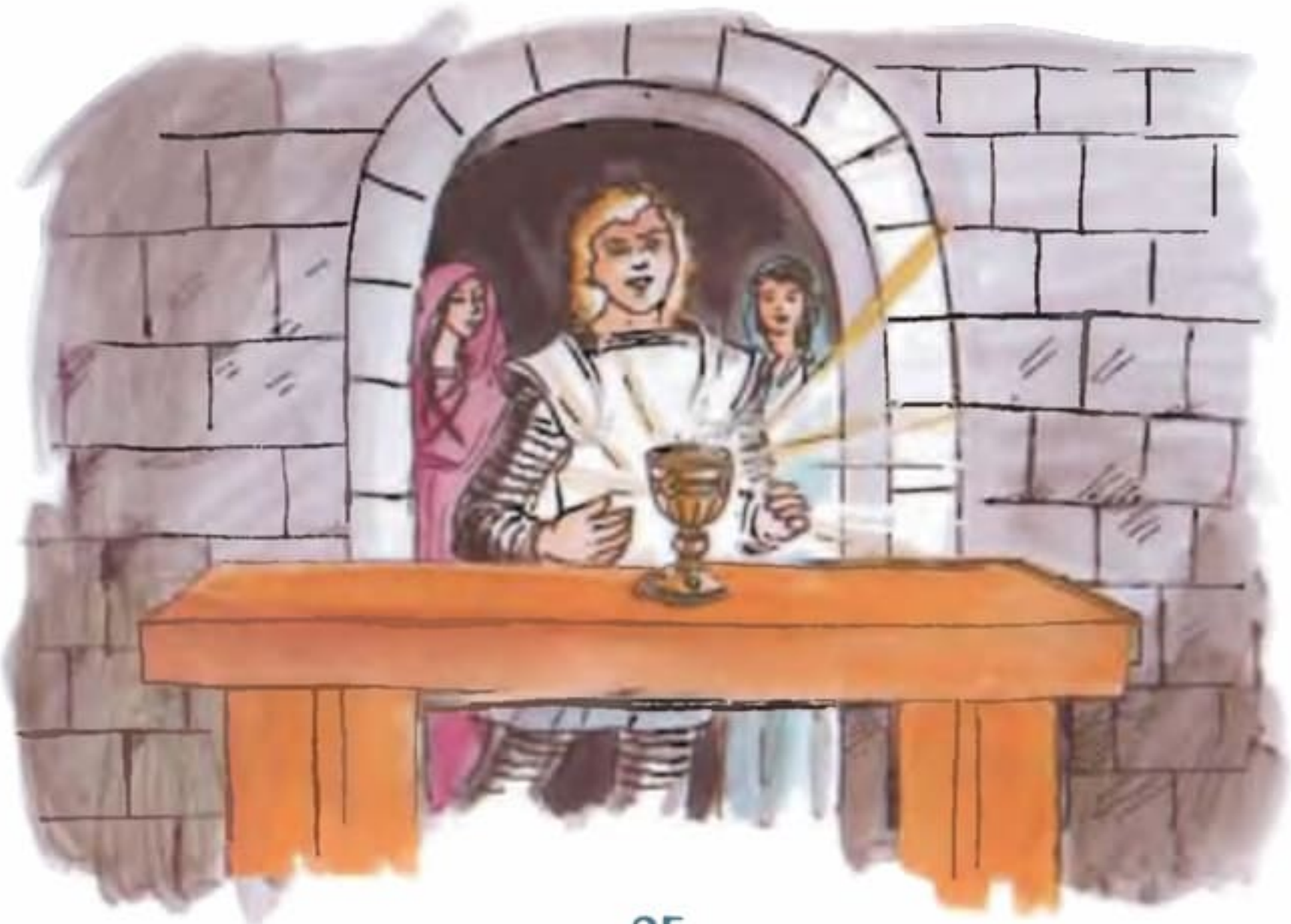


After a few months, Sir Galahad came to the castle. He found his father, Sir Lancelot. Sir Lancelot was asleep. The women took Sir Galahad to the closed door.



A voice said, "Sir Galahad, you're the best knight in the world. Go into the room. You will see the Holy Grail."

The door opened and Sir Galahad walked into the room. He saw the Grail on a golden table.





Sir Galahad knelt in front of the table. He kissed the Grail. Then he fell down in front of the table. He smiled and his heart stopped. Sir Galahad died happy.



"Nobody will see the Holy Grail again," said the voice. The golden table and the Grail disappeared.

At last, Sir Lancelot woke up. He buried his son, Sir Galahad, and then he returned to Camelot. He was still very weak and ill.



Chapter 8: Sir Mordred



The best knights of the Round Table died on the adventure of the Holy Grail. King Arthur was very sad.

Some of the young knights in Camelot were unhappy. There were no more dragons or robbers in the forests. Wicked knights were scared to come near Camelot, but the young knights wanted adventure. They wanted to fight. Sir Mordred was one of the unhappy knights.

King Arthur doesn't want to fight. He wants *peace*.

We're knights, and knights fight. We can make King Arthur and Sir Lancelot fight each other. Then they'll be weak and we'll be strong.





"But Sir Lancelot won't fight the King," the knights said. "He loves King Arthur."

"Yes, but Sir Lancelot also loves Queen Guinevere," said Sir Mordred. "We can make a *trap* to catch him in the Queen's room."

"We can *send* Sir Lancelot a *message* from Guinevere," said one of the knights. "He'll think the Queen needs to talk to him. When Lancelot goes to her room, we can capture him. His friends will come to Camelot to free him. Then we'll fight."

Sir Mordred sent a message to Sir Lancelot. He wrote the Queen's name on the message.

Which letter did Sir Mordred send?

2

1

*Sir Lancelot,
You are in danger.
Leave Camelot now.
Queen Guinevere*

*King Arthur,
Please go to the
Queen's room
tonight.
Sir Lancelot*

3

*Sir Lancelot,
Please help me.
Come to my room tonight.
Queen Guinevere*

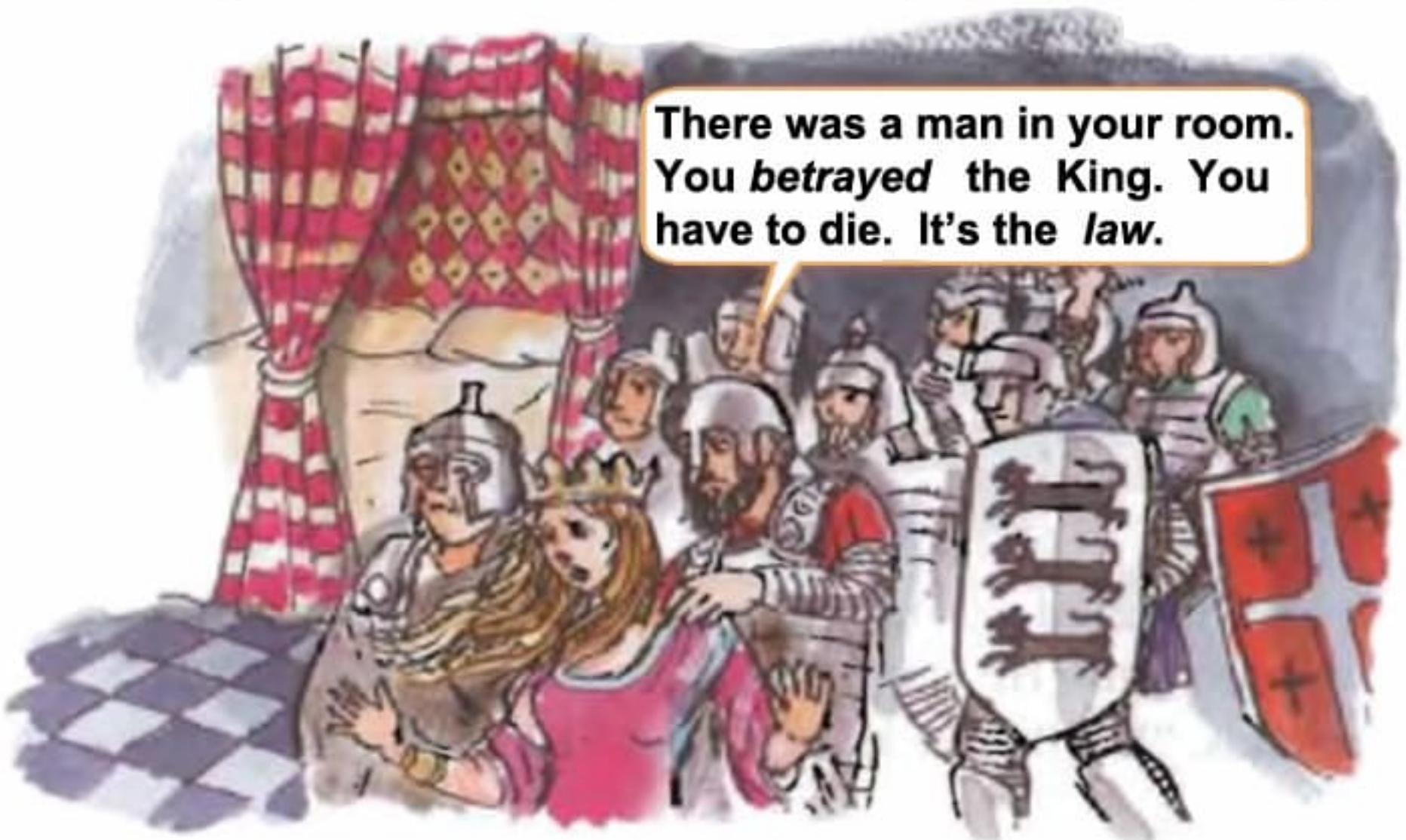
Sir Lancelot got the message. That night he went to the Queen's room.



There was a noise outside the Queen's door.

"Sir Lancelot, it's a trap!" said Queen Guinevere. "You have to escape!"

Suddenly, Sir Mordred and the other knights ran into the Queen's room. They tried to capture Sir Lancelot, but he fought them and escaped. The knights were very angry.





Early in the morning, the knights took the Queen outside. Sir Lancelot and his friends fought the knights around Queen Guinevere.



Sir Lancelot rescued Queen Guinevere and she returned to the castle. A lot of knights died in the battle.

Sir Lancelot killed our friends. Now we have to fight him.

No, I don't want more knights to die. I'll meet Sir Lancelot. We'll make peace.



Sir Mordred was very angry. "King Arthur doesn't want to fight. He isn't a good king," Sir Mordred told his friends. "We'll fight King Arthur. Then I'll be king."

Chapter 9: The Lake

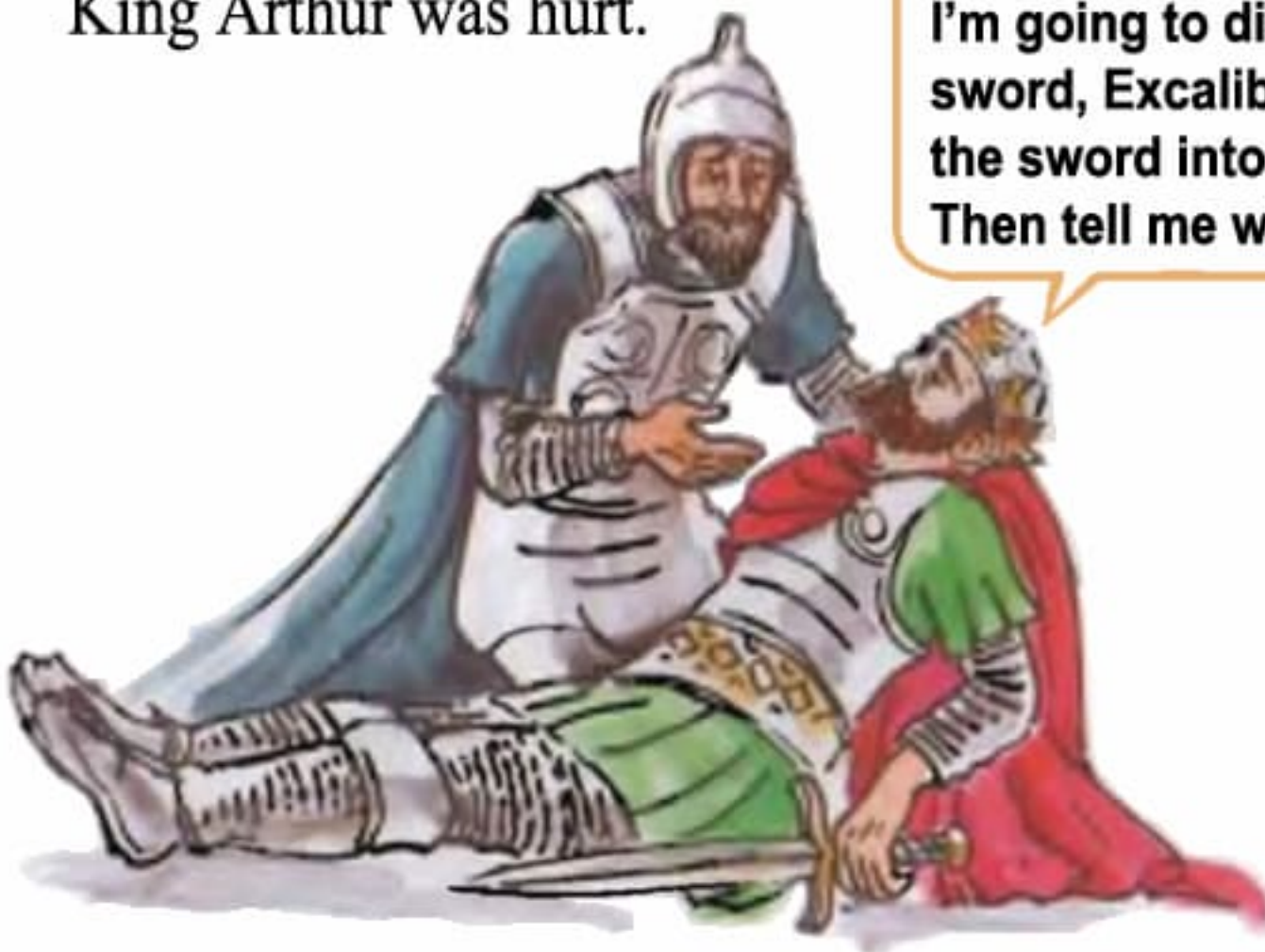


King Arthur's knights and Sir Mordred's knights fought a terrible battle. Most of the knights died. Sir Mordred fought King Arthur and hurt the King. Finally, King Arthur killed Sir Mordred.





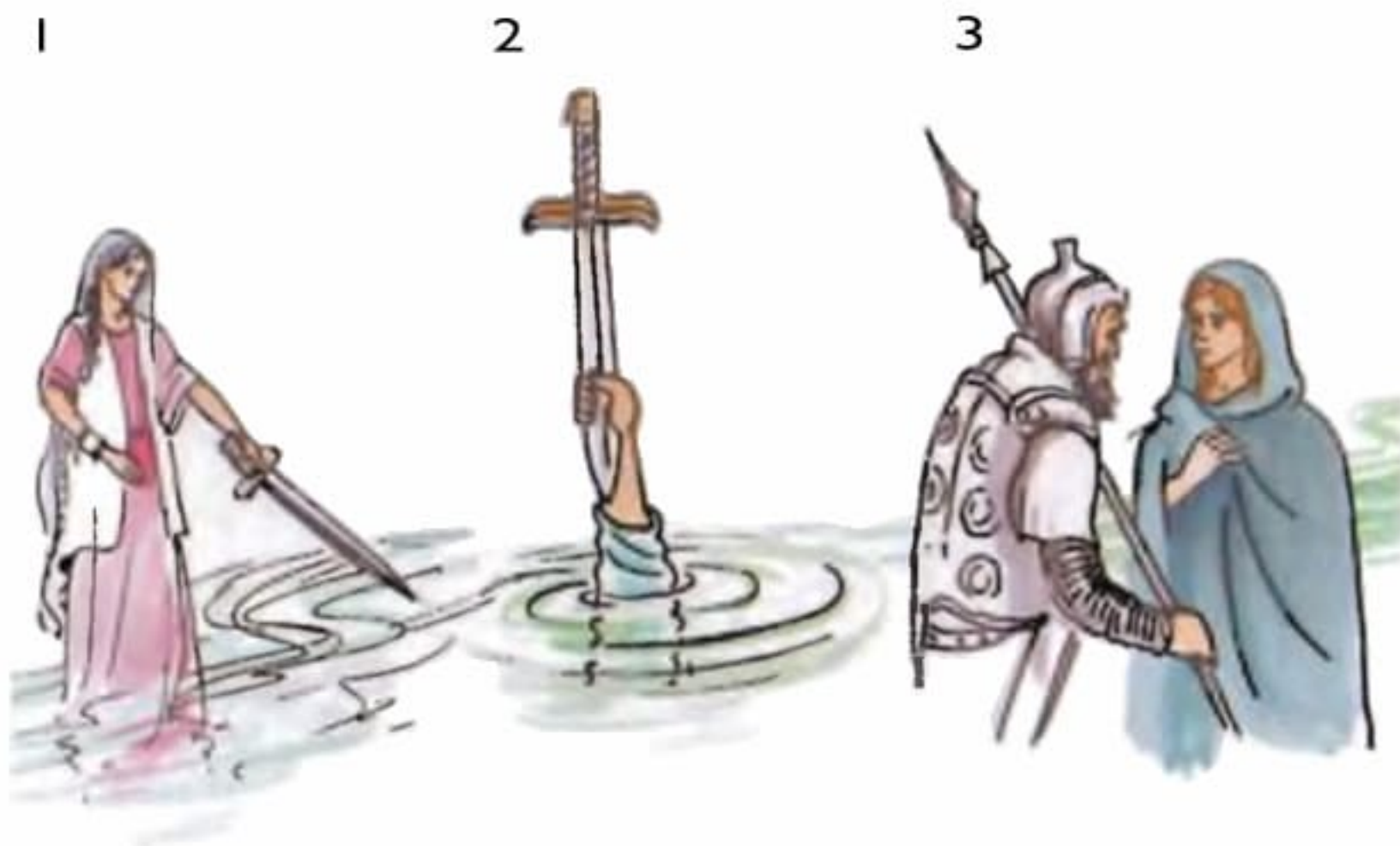
King Arthur was hurt.



**Sir Bedivere, my friend,
I'm going to die. Take my
sword, Excalibur. Throw
the sword into the lake.
Then tell me what you see.**

Sir Bedivere threw Excalibur into the lake. A woman's arm came out of the water and caught the sword. Then the arm and the sword disappeared into the lake. Sir Bedivere returned and told the king.

Choose the correct picture.



"Take me to the lake," said King Arthur. "I haven't got much time."

Sir Bedivere took King Arthur to the lake. There was a white boat with four ladies on the lake. They were crying. One of the ladies was Morgana Le Fey. Lady Nimue was also there.

Arthur, my brother,
I'm sorry. I was
wicked to fight you.
You were a good king.

We'll take you to the land of
Avalon. We'll try to save you
with our magic, but you're very
cold. I think it's *too late*.





"Arthur, My King and my friend," said Sir Bedivere.
"Please don't leave us."

"I have to go to Avalon with these ladies," said King Arthur. "Sir Bedivere, tell my story to the people. Tell them about Camelot and the Knights of the Round Table. One day, there will be peace in Britain again."

The boat disappeared into the clouds on the lake.
Nobody saw King Arthur again.



Who goes to Avalon?



GLOSSARY

English

AD
advice
best
betrayed
brave
built
buried
cave
chased
dropped
fire
giants
goblet
Holy Grail
hurt
jealous
law
look after
message
peace
rescued
robbers
rode
send
soon
squire
still
stone
sword

Euskara

Kristo ondoren
 aholku
 onena
 saldu, traizionatu
 ausart
 eraiki zuen
 lurperatu zuen
 kobazulo
 atzetik ibili zen
 erori
 su, su-gar
 erraldoiak
 kopa, kaliza
 Graal Santua
 zauritu zuen
 jeloskor
 lege
 zaindu
 mezu
 pake
 erreskatatu
 lapur
 zaldiz ibili ziren
 bidali
 laster
 eskutari
 oraindik
 harri
 ezpata

Castellano

después de Cristp
 consejo
 mejor
 traicionaste
 valientes
 construyó
 enterró
 gruta
 persiguió
 dejó caer
 fuego, llama
 gigantes
 copa, cáliz
 Santo Grial
 hirió
 celosa
 ley
 cuidar
 mensaje
 paz
 rescataban
 ladrones
 cabalgaron
 enviar
 pronto
 escudero
 todavía
 piedra
 espada

GLOSSARY

English

too late

tournament

trap

trick

voice

was scared of

wicked

Euskara

beranduegi

torneo

arte, tranpa

engainatu

ahots

beldur zen

gaiztoak, zitalak

Castellano

demasiado tarde

torneo

trampa

engañar

voz

tenía miedo de

malvados

This book tells the story of the
legendary adventures of King Arthur.

King Arthur lives in Camelot with
his beautiful Queen, Guinevere.

Merlin the wizard and the Knights
of the Round Table help King Arthur
and they have many adventures together.

Other Original Stories for this Level



Escape from the
Guillotine



The Mysterious Circles



The Secret of White
Mountain



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