



# The Sword in the Stone

Name:

Date:

1) What was the name of Arthur's father?

Feedback

2) What was the name of Arthur's half brother?

3) Where was Arthur running to when he saw the sword?

4) What did Merlin tell Arthur to do with the sword when they returned to the clearing?

5) What did the knights do when Arthur pulled the sword from the stone a second time?



# Questions

6) The sword in the stone is special. Find two pieces of evidence to support this.

Feedback

7) Number the following sentences from 1 – 7 to show the order in which they happen in the tale. The first one has been done for you

Arthur pulled the sword from the stone.	
A tournament was held.	
Merlin took Arthur to Ector.	
The sword in the anvil arrived.	
Merlin foresaw Uther's death.	1
Merlin challenged one of the knights to draw the sword from the stone.	
Uther died.	

8) *The days of the old king were numbered...*

What does this phrase tell us about King Uther's reign?



# Questions

Feedback

9) *...he ventured forth to Tintagel castle...*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'he ventured forth' as it is used here? Tick one box.

Merlin had an adventure at the castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merlin travelled to the castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merlin had already visited the castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merlin did not like visiting the castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>

10) *...long before he came of age, his father would die....*

Explain what the phrase 'before he came of age' tells us as it is used here.

11) *He must be taken and secluded in a place of safety, where none can find him...*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'secluded' as it is used here? Tick one.

taken quickly	<input type="checkbox"/>
protected	<input type="checkbox"/>
hidden	<input type="checkbox"/>
shown	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Questions

**12) *There are many who would wish him ill, should they learn of his existence.***

**Explain what the phrase 'would wish him ill' means as it is used here.**

**13) *Despite his greatest exertions he failed to move the sword....***

**Explain what the phrase 'despite his greatest exertions' means as it is used here.**

**14) Look at page three. Find and copy one phrase which suggests it would have been impossible for the knights to remove the sword.**

Feedback



# Questions

Feedback

**15) What impressions do you get of Merlin from this tale?**

**Give one impression, using evidence from the text to support your answer.**

**Impression**

**Evidence**

**16) Why did the knights not believe Arthur had taken the sword? Give two reasons.**

**17) How does the first knight feel about being asked to take the sword again? Give two pieces of evidence to support your answer.**



# The Sword in the Stone

## Answer Sheet

1) What was the name of Arthur's father?

Uther Pendragon

2) What was the name of Arthur's half brother?

Kay

3) Where was Arthur running to when he saw the sword?

The camp

4) What did Merlin tell Arthur to do with the sword when they returned to the clearing?

Return it to the stone

5) What did the knights do when Arthur pulled the sword from the stone a second time?

They fell to one knee



## Answers

**6) The sword in the stone is special. Find two pieces of evidence to support this.**

- The silver blade shone like a sliver of polished moonlight.
- The golden handle had been crafted with a greater care than any known blacksmith possessed.

**7) Number the following sentences from 1 – 7 to show the order in which they happen in the tale. The first one has been done for you**

Arthur pulled the sword from the stone.	6
A tournament was held.	4
Merlin took Arthur to Ector.	2
The sword in the anvil arrived.	5
Merlin foresaw Uther's death.	1
Merlin challenged one of the knights to draw the sword from the stone.	7
Uther died.	3

**8) *The days of the old king were numbered...***

**What does this phrase tell us about King Uther's reign?**

Uther would not be king for much longer



# Answers

9) *...he ventured forth to Tintagel castle...*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'he ventured forth' as it is used here? Tick one box.

Merlin had an adventure at the castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merlin travelled to the castle.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Merlin had already visited the castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Merlin did not like visiting the castle.	<input type="checkbox"/>

10) *...long before he came of age, his father would die....*

Explain what the phrase 'before he came of age' tells us as it is used here.

Uther would die before Arthur was old enough to rule as king

11) *He must be taken and secluded in a place of safety, where none can find him...*

Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'secluded' as it is used here? Tick one.

taken quickly	<input type="checkbox"/>
protected	<input type="checkbox"/>
hidden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
shown	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Answers

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**12) *There are many who would wish him ill, should they learn of his existence.***

**Explain what the phrase 'would wish him ill' means as it is used here.**

People would want to hurt or  
kill Arthur

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**13) *Despite his greatest exertions he failed to move the sword....***

**Explain what the phrase 'despite his greatest exertions' means as it is used here.**

Even though he tried his hardest

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**14) Look at page three. Find and copy one phrase which suggests it would have been impossible for the knights to remove the sword.**

Where before, hundreds of the land's strongest men had each taken the blade and fought to free it, they might as well have tried to move the sun or moon.



## Answers

### 15) What impressions do you get of Merlin from this tale?

Give one impression, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Impression**

He is respected.

**Evidence**

- The king listens to his advice without question.
- The knights all do as he says.

**Impression**

He wants the best for the country.

**Evidence**

- He gives the king advice.
- He makes sure that Arthur is protected until he can rule fairly.

**Impression**

He has magical powers.

**Evidence**

- He can see the future.
- He is able to place the sword in the anvil so that only Arthur can remove it.

**Impression**

He is feared.

**Evidence**

- The knights do as he says without question.



## Answers

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**16). Why did the knights not believe Arthur had taken the sword? Give two reasons.**

- Stronger men than him had tried to take it.
- He looked too weak to move the sword. “ Him? A weak and tiny sapling like him? This base boy is all skin and elbows. He would lose a battle against a good wind.”
- The competition was to find a king and Arthur looked too young to become king.

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**17) How does the first knight feel about being asked to take the sword again? Give two pieces of evidence to support your answer.**

He feels embarrassed and does not want to take the sword.

- He felt everybody watching him.
- He did not want to take the sword – he stopped.
- He only tried because Merlin looked at him.