

Graphic Classics

Worksheet 1

King Arthur

Same story different genre

In the story of King Arthur, a young, unknown squire, Arthur is able to pull the sword from the stone with little effort when all the important knights who have gathered for the tournament are unable to do so. In those times storytellers who travelled the country would have broadcast the story. Today it would be reported in newspapers, on television or on radio.

Directions:

1. You are to imagine that you are one of the following:

- A wandering story teller at the time of Merlin and the young Arthur.
- A modern newspaper journalist.
- A modern radio reporter.

The character you choose will determine how you report the events of the day when the young page withdrew the sword from the stone.

2. You are to:

Draft the story you would tell to entertain those assembled around a fire in the great hall of a castle. You may tell the story as if you actually witnessed the incident.

OR

Draft the report you would write as a newspaper journalist of today reporting the story. You can tell it as if you saw it or as it is reported to have happened.

OR

Draft the script for a breaking radio story. You can be "on the spot" or reporting from a distance.

(There were no radios or newspapers in King Arthur's time, so you can use your imagination to tell how it *could* have been reported)

3. Some things you may need to check before you begin:

The story tells of lords and knights.

Who were the knights?

How did a man become a knight?

Arthur was a page? What did pages do?

In the story Arthur had forgotten his knight's sword and was hurrying to collect it because the tournament was just about to start. What was a tournament?

Look at the frame where Arthur is returning to his master with the sword from the stone. This area where the tournament is to be held is called the lists. Use a reference book to find who might be spectators at the lists.

