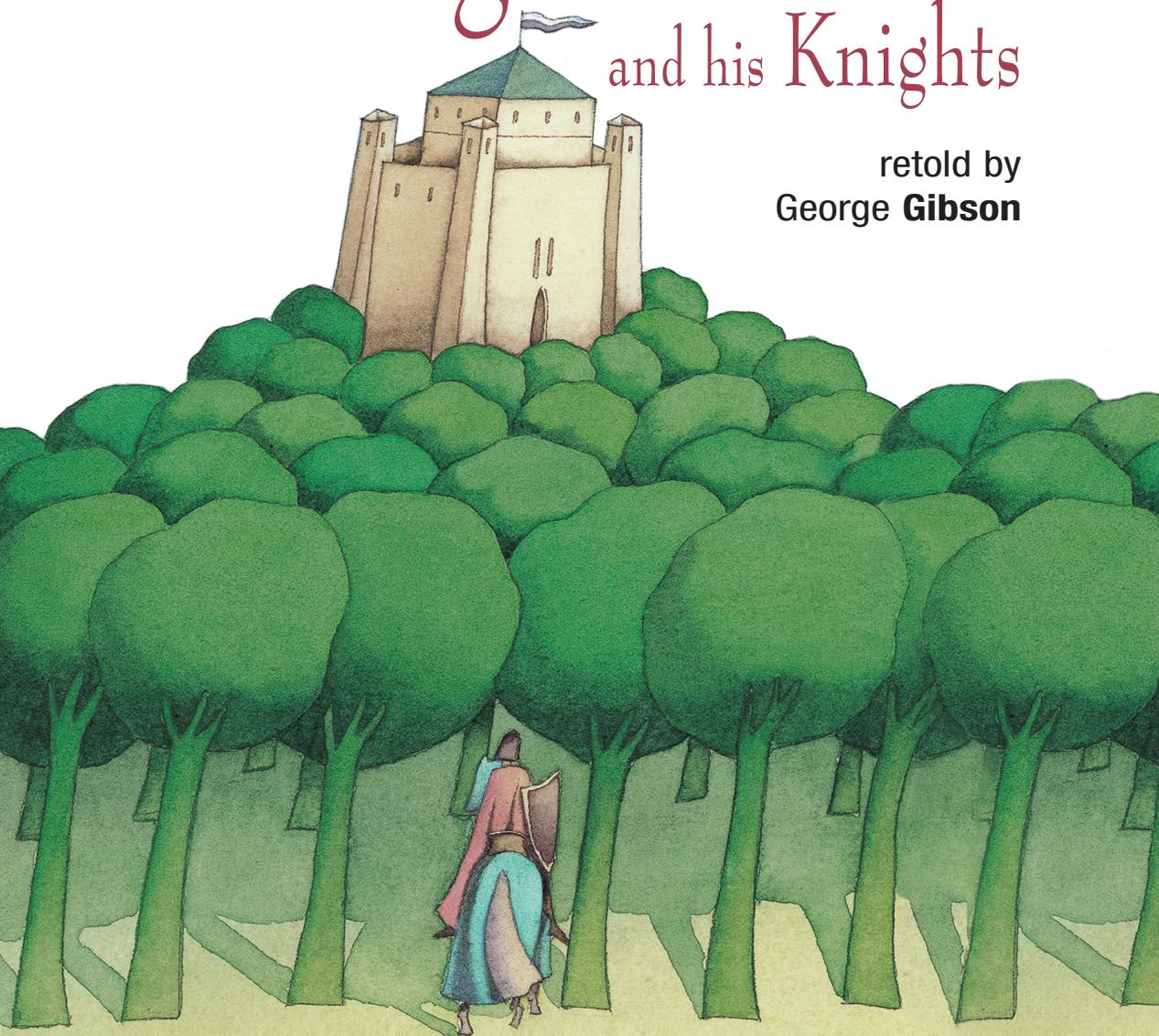




King Arthur and his Knights

retold by
George Gibson



free Audiobook



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KING ARTHUR and his KNIGHTS

Told by George Gibson





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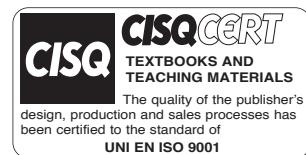
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Was King Arthur only a Legend?

 **N**o, King Arthur was not only a legend. In the ninth century, a historian called Nennius wrote a book called *Historia Britonum*. It was a history of Britain, about the life of the Celtic leader,¹ Arthur, and his knights.²

Nennius wrote that Arthur was a great Celtic military leader of the 5th and 6th century. He fought against the Saxons from the year 513 to 537. He and his men won many battles against the Saxons.

His people loved and remembered him for centuries after. There are lots of old ballads, songs, poems and stories about Arthur and his knights.

In 1470, Sir Thomas Malory wrote about King Arthur and his castle, Camelot. His writings are a complete and accurate record³ of the King's life and times.



Arthur's army confronting the Saxons
from Jean Wauquelin's Chronicle (15th century).

1. **leader** : commander, ruler.
2. **knights** : ['naɪts]
3. **record** : a writing about events and happenings.

Today there are many books and films in different languages on this exciting subject. King Arthur is so famous that he is part of the Breton literary cycle.

Important Places During Arthur's Time



1 Match the correct parts of the sentences.

- a. Nennius was
- b. Nennius wrote that King Arthur
- c. From the year 513 to 537
- d. His people remembered him
- e. *Historia Britonum*

- 1. with songs, poems and stories.
- 2. is a historic book about King Arthur and his times.
- 3. was a great Celtic leader of the 6th century.
- 4. Arthur fought against the Saxons.
- 5. a historian of the 9th century.

2 Look at the map on page 5 and answer the following questions.

- a. Where was Arthur born?
.....

- b. Where is the Round Table?
.....

- c. What is the name of the lake where Arthur found Excalibur?
.....

- d. Where was Camelot?
.....

- e. Where was Arthur buried?
.....

Before Arthur's Time

③ **T**he first inhabitants of Britain were probably the Celts. They came from Germany in the third century BC.

The Roman general, Julius Caesar, invaded Britain in the year 54 BC. He had 25,000 soldiers and 2,000 horses. But he did not stay in Britain. He went to fight the Gauls in France.

In 43 AD. the Roman Emperor Claudius invaded Britain. This time the Romans stayed. Britain became a Roman province called Britannia.

The Romans built roads, walls and towns. There are many Roman remains¹ in Britain. Hadrian's Wall is a good example. It was built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian in 122 AD. He built it in the north of Britain to keep out the Scots. It is about 120 kilometres long. It took six years to build.

The Romans left Britain in 410 AD. after 350 years.

During the fifth and sixth century, the Angles and the Saxons invaded Britain. The legendary King Arthur fought against these invaders and others.



These are two sides of a Roman coin. It was made to celebrate Claudius's victory in Britain. One side shows Emperor Claudius and the other shows him riding his horse. Notice the writing 'De Britann' on the coin.



1. **remains** : (here) parts of old buildings which are left.

1 Can you find the names of three Roman Emperors and the name of the Roman province? Circle them.

S	X	O	F	G	J	Z	V	R	A	O
D	S	H	A	D	R	I	A	N	G	H
B	S	R	Q	Y	P	E	D	I	H	Z
R	Z	O	J	C	A	E	S	A	R	L
I	O	X	R	L	V	R	G	Q	K	W
T	R	G	D	A	M	T	H	M	E	O
A	B	L	I	U	G	V	S	I	J	D
N	P	C	N	D	S	U	O	W	L	X
N	V	J	B	I	W	F	A	G	P	J
I	O	H	F	U	Q	P	F	B	V	C
A	U	K	I	S	E	O	P	E	R	K

Write a sentence about a Roman Emperor.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Write a sentence about the Roman province.

.....
.....
.....
.....

BEFORE YOU READ

What is a legend?

A legend begins as a true story, but as the years pass some things are added to it, and some things are forgotten.

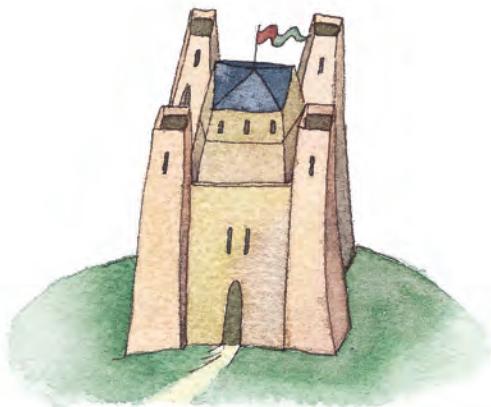
So, a legend is a mix of historical facts and popular fantasy.

1 The story of King Arthur is a very popular legend.
This is a picture of King Arthur when he became King.



The crowning of King Arthur from St. Alban's Chronicle (late 15th century).

What is your favourite legend?



YOUNG ARTHUR



n the year 493, Uther Pendragon became King of Britain. He had a counsellor named Merlin. Merlin was also a magician.¹

When King Uther's son Arthur was born, Merlin said, 'Your son must grow up away from the court. It is safer!'

Merlin gave the baby son to Sir Ector and his wife. They raised² him well.

When King Uther died in 509, Britain had no king. The country had many problems.

1. **magician** : person who can make strange things happen by magic.

2. **raised** : looked after, brought up.



Z. Illman



KING ARTHUR

and his KNIGHTS



Merlin went to the Archbishop of Canterbury¹ and said, 'Britain must have a king. We must find one. Call all the noblemen of the kingdom. Tell them to meet at the great church in London on Christmas Day. There, God will show us the new king.'

On Christmas Day, all the noblemen were in the great church. Outside the church there was a big stone with a sword in it. These words were written on the big stone:

He who pulls the sword
out of this stone
is the true King of Britain.



1. **Archbishop of Canterbury** : important religious leader in Canterbury.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



1 Read the questions below.

For each question, choose the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

1. What happened in the year 493?
A Sir Ector died.
B Merlin was born.
C Uther Pendragon became King of Britain.
D King Arthur was born.
2. Who was Merlin the magician?
A King Uther's counsellor.
B King Uther's father.
C The Archbishop of Canterbury.
D Sir Ector's brother.
3. Why did Merlin gave King Uther's baby son to Sir Ector and his wife?
A Because they lived in King Uther's castle.
B Because it was safer for the baby to grow up away from the court.
C Because they paid Merlin for the baby.
D Because King Uther did not want the baby.
4. What happened in the year 509?
A Merlin became the King's counsellor.
B King Uther died.
C Arthur was born.
D The Archbishop of Canterbury died.
5. What did Merlin say to the Archbishop of Canterbury?
A 'God will show us the new king on Christmas Day.'
B 'A nobleman of London will be the new king.'
C 'You must be the new king.'
D 'Sir Ector will be the new king.'
6. What was written on the stone?
A 'He who breaks this sword is the true King of Britain.'
B 'No one must pull this sword out of the stone.'
C 'He who pulls the sword out of this stone is the true King of Britain.'
D 'He who pulls the sword out of this stone is the new Archbishop of Canterbury.'

BEFORE YOU READ

PET



1 Listen to Chapter Two.

For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

1. Who tried to pull the sword out of the stone?

- A Sir Ector.
- B The noblemen.
- C Merlin.

2. Where was the sword on New Year's Day?

- A In the stone.
- B In the castle.
- C In the church.

3. Who pulled the sword out of the stone?

- A The Archbishop of Canterbury.
- B Sir Ector.
- C Arthur.

4. What did Sir Ector tell Arthur?

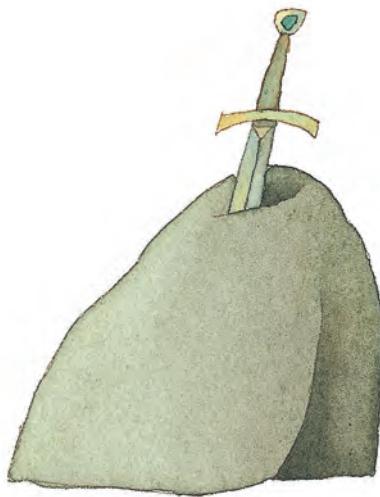
- A 'I'm not your real father.'
- B 'I'm the King of Britain.'
- C 'I'm your father.'

5. Who raised Arthur like a son?

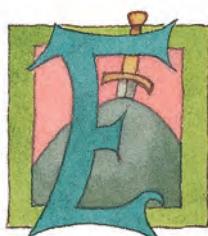
- A Merlin.
- B Sir Ector.
- C The Archbishop of Canterbury.

6. What must Arthur do now?

- A He must give the sword to the Archbishop.
- B He must leave Britain.
- C He must go and do his duty.



THE SWORD IN THE STONE



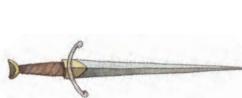
ach nobleman tried to pull the sword out of the stone. No one was able to do it.

On New Year's Day, the sword was still in the stone. Arthur was there with Sir Ector.

Arthur pulled the sword out of the stone without difficulty! This was the sign from God. All the noblemen were surprised. He was the new King of Britain.

Sir Ector said, 'Arthur, you are now the King of Britain.'

Arthur said, 'Father, I don't want to leave you!'



KING ARTHUR

and his KNIGHTS



Sir Ector said, 'I'm not your real father. I don't know who you are. The magician Merlin brought you to us when you were born. I raised you like a son, and I love you. Now you are a king. God wants you to lead¹ Britain. You must go and do your duty.'²

Merlin said to the noblemen, 'This is King Uther's son and he is our new king!'

Young Arthur first became a knight. Then he became King of Britain.



1. **lead** : govern.
2. **do your duty** : accept your responsibilities.



UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

PET

1 Look at the statements below about Chapter Two.

Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect.

If it is correct, tick (✓) A.

If it is not correct, tick (✗) B.

A B

1. No nobleman was able to pull the sword out of the stone.
2. Arthur was in London with Merlin.
3. Arthur pulled the sword out of the stone easily.
4. All the noblemen were angry.
5. Arthur did not want to leave Sir Ector.
6. Sir Ector was not Arthur's real father.
7. Merlin said, 'This is Sir Ector's son and he is our new king!'
8. First Arthur was a knight, then he became King.



2 Match the words below with their opposites.

a. first	1. come
b. pull	2. old
c. difficult	3. small
d. true	4. take
e. new	5. hate
f. born	6. push
g. big	7. false
h. bring	8. easy
i. love	9. die
j. go	10. last

3 Demonstrative pronouns

In Chapter Two, we saw this sentence:

This was the sign from God.

The demonstrative pronouns are: *this*, *that*, *these* and *those*.

This and *these* refer to things close to you. *That* and *those* refer to things farther away.

Complete the sentences below with a suitable demonstrative pronoun.

- a. Today is Christmas Day, and all the noblemen are in the church.
..... is an important day.
- b. 'Who is the old man at the back of the church?' asked Arthur.
'..... is the Archbishop of Canterbury,' said Sir Ector.
- c. 'Look at the young boy here with the sword,' said Merlin.
'..... is the new King of Britain.'
- d. Many men are in front of the church over there.
..... are the noblemen of Britain.
- e. are the words written on the stone in front of the church.
- f. Sir Ector was outside the church.
'..... is the great church of London,' he said.

T: GRADE 4

4 Topic – Places

The sword in the stone was outside a great church in London.

Bring to the class a photo/map/souvenir of London or a city you like. Talk to the class about this city. Use the following questions to help you.

- a. Describe this city. Where is it? What is it like? Is it big or small?
- b. What can you visit in this city? What are the most interesting things to see? Where are the best places to go for a person of your age?
- c. When are you going to visit this city again?