

经典文学简易读物丛书

亚瑟王传奇

THE ADVENTURES OF
KING ARTHUR



商務印書館
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Angela Wilkes 改写

〔英〕 Gill Harvey 改编

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出版前言

“经典文学简易读物丛书”是商务印书馆专门为我国中小學生精心挑选并组织翻译的一套优秀英汉对照简易读物，共10本。有驰名中外的英美经典文学著作，也有家喻户晓的希腊、罗马神话和寓意深刻的寓言和传说。每本均由英国专家简写而成，英语地道，通俗易懂；插图精美，妙趣横生；译文准确，语言流畅。

本套丛书适合中小學生阅读。相信他们一定会被大师们塑造的文学人物所吸引，被引人入胜的故事情节所感动，在世界文学的殿堂里得到熏陶，并在不知不觉的阅读过程中既提高了英语语感，也培养了浓厚兴趣。

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Chapter 1

The sword in the stone



1 One stormy night, Merlin, a wise old wizard, left King Uther's castle. Under his cloak, he carried a baby... the king's only son.

2 King Uther had given the baby to Merlin to keep him safe from his enemies. He never saw his son again.



3 Years passed and King Uther died. All over England, knights began fighting over which of them should be king. No one knew about Uther's son.

4 But Merlin knew. "All the knights nearby must come to the Abbey in London," he announced.

What's this all about then?

No idea!

5 When they arrived, a strange sight met their eyes. In front of the Abbey was a big, square stone with a sword sticking out of it.

6 Merlin read the words on the stone. "Whoever pulls this sword from the stone is the true-born King of England."



7 One by one, the knights went up to try their luck. But not one of them could move the sword, not even a little way.

8 “The king isn’t anyone here,”
said a bishop. “We’ll hold a
jousting **tournament** to find him.
Spread the word across the land,
so that everyone knows.”

Make sure
you tell everyone,
now!



9 As news of the tournament spread, the country's excitement grew. Hundreds of knights came to London with their families and friends, and set up tents.

Everyone
wants to be
king.



10 One of these knights was Sir Ector. He rode to London with his two sons, Kay and Arthur. Kay had just become a knight, but Arthur was still too young. He was only sixteen.



11 Sir Ector found an inn near the tournament where they could spend the night.

12 Early next morning, they set out.

Kay was very excited. He was about to joust with other knights for the first time. But halfway there, he stopped in a panic.

13 “I’ve left my sword at the inn!” he cried.

14 “I’ll fetch it!” offered Arthur, quickly turning and galloping off.



15 But the inn was shut. Everyone had gone to the tournament.

16 “Where will I find a sword?”

Arthur wondered, as he rode past the Abbey. As he glanced into the churchyard, he saw a sword, stuck in a stone.



17 Hurriedly, Arthur pulled out the sword and went to find Kay.

- 18 Arthur raced up to Kay.
19 “Here you are!” he said, handing
his brother the sword.
20 Kay stared at it. He knew right
away where it had come from.



- 21 But he didn't tell Arthur. Instead,
he snatched the sword and rushed
to find their father.

22 “Father! Look!” he shouted. “I have the sword from the stone. I must be the King of England!”

23 But Sir Ector was not easily fooled. “Really, my son?” he said and took both boys back to the Abbey.

