

高等学校文科英语泛读教材

亚瑟王和他的骑士

KING ARTHUR
AND HIS KNIGHTS



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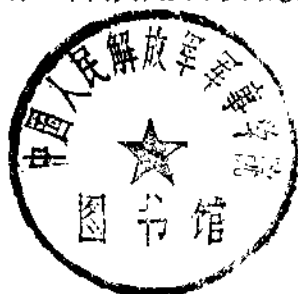


King Arthur and His Knights

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内 容 简 介

关于亚瑟王的故事始于十四、五世纪。有关这一题材的作品不胜枚举，在英国民间文学中占有重要的地位。

《亚瑟王和他的骑士》这部散文小说以十四世纪骑士诗歌为素材，集中了亚瑟故事的传说，用引人入胜的叙事技巧描写了骑士各种怪诞不经的冒险。

骑士诗歌与小说揭示了西欧中世纪人们的精神世界。浪漫主义的情趣和丰富多彩的艺术虚构使其流传至今。

原书是用浅易的英语编写而成的，专供以英语为第二语言或外语的学习者阅读之用，情节生动，文笔流畅，明白易懂。注释本是针对我国英语学习者的需要而编辑出版的。

本书列为大学文科英语泛读教材之一，也可以用作其他学英语的人的初级读物。

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Arthur Becomes King

Many years ago Uther fought to make himself King of all England.¹ Two true friends helped him. One was wise Merlin, the famous magician. The other was a great knight and fighter named Ulfius.² At last Uther beat his enemies and became king.

Then Uther married Igraine, a widow. She had three daughters, Elaine, Margaret, and Morgan le Fay. Morgan le Fay could do more magic than anyone but Merlin.³ The girls soon married three kings who had made friends with Uther.⁴

Soon after, Uther and Igraine had a son. Merlin went to Uther.

"King, you know that sometimes I can tell what will happen ahead of time. Listen to what is coming. You will die soon. Your enemies will rise again. They will want to kill your son so he will not become king. I beg you to do as I say. Let Sir Ulfius and me take

1. Uther ['ju:θə] fought to make himself King of all England. 尤瑟靠武力使他自己成为全英格兰的国王。 2. Ulfius ['ʌlfɪəs]: 男子名 3. can do more magic than anyone but Merlin: ……的魔法除了梅林比谁都多。 4. make friends with…: 与……交朋友

him away and hide him. When he grows up we will bring him back to be king."

"Merlin," said Uther, "you are a wise man. We all have to die. If I must die soon, you had better hide the boy. My enemies do not yet know I have a son."

So Merlin and Ulfius hid the boy. Only they knew where he was. A little later Uther got sick¹ and died.

Everything happened as Merlin had said. Uther's enemies rose and fought one another. Robbers and killers went free² in the land. No man was strong enough to rule. The years passed. At last the chief bishop³ of the church sent for Merlin.

"Merlin," he said, "men tell me you are wiser than all other men. Can you not save our land from war and killing? Choose a strong leader. He will be the king over us."

"My lord," said Merlin, "sometimes I can tell what will happen before it does. Soon our land will have such a king. He will be wiser and greater than Uther. I tell you too that he shall be Uther's true son."

"You tell me wonderful news, Merlin," said the Bishop. "When will he come? How shall we know him?"

"Say no more," said Merlin. "I shall find a way so all will know him. Call all the lords and great

1. get sick: 生病 2. go free: 不受约束, 逍遥法外

3. bishop ['bɪʃəp]: 主教

knights to London for Christmas. Have them all come to the great church there.”¹

The Bishop did as Merlin had said. As they came to London, all saw a strange thing. Before the great church was a square block of stone. On it was an iron anvil.² A wonderful steel sword was stuck in the anvil. The handle was gold, with shining jewels. On the stone were these words —

He who can pull out this sword
is the King of England.³

A great crowd of knights and lords came to London for Christmas. There would be a contest for the knights, and then they were to⁴ try to pull out the sword.

Among those who came to London was a good knight known as Sir Ector.⁵ Sir Ector had two sons. The older was Sir Kay, already known as a brave young knight. The other was a lad named Arthur. He carried Sir Kay's spear and shield but was not yet a knight. Sir Ector and his sons set up their tent with others near the contest field. Sir Kay was to fight in the contest.

The contest was to be a battle between two teams of knights. On the day of the battle the two teams

1. Have them all come to the great church there. 让他们都到那里的大教堂去。 2. an iron anvil [ˈænvɪl]: 铁砧 3. He who can...England. 谁能拔出这把剑, 谁就是英格兰国王。 4. they were to...: 他们要去…… (be+动词不定式表示计划中将要发生的事。) 5. a good knight known as Sir Ector: 一个叫作埃克特爵士的好骑士

began to fill their places. When all were ready a horn was blown. Each team raced its horses forward. They met with a crash like thunder.¹ Horses fell and men were thrown. Spears broke into pieces. The men fought on with their swords.

Sir Kay threw two knights quickly before his horse went down. He fought on with his sword and brought down more. Then, fighting hard with another knight, he hit him squarely on his steel helmet. The knight fell, but Sir Kay's sword snapped in two.² He fought his way clear to the wall.³ Arthur, watching his brother, ran to him.

"Brother," cried Sir Kay, "get me another sword. Hurry to the tent. Our men have some there."

Arthur ran back to the tent. But no one was there. All had gone to watch the battle. Not a sword could Arthur find.⁴

Then he remembered seeing⁵ the sword in the anvil near the church. He ran quickly to the church, which was nearby. No one was guarding the sword. With-

1. They met with a crash like thunder. 他们交了锋, 杀声震天。 2. sword snapped in two: 剑折成了两截 3. He fought his way clear to the wall. 他杀出了一条路直到墙边。 clear在这里用作副词, 表示“一直”的意思。 4. Not a sword could Arthur find.: 亚瑟一把剑也找不到。(否定词放在句首时谓语句常倒装。类似的倒装句本书中还有多处。) 5. he remembered seeing...: 他记起曾经看见……。 (remember 后的动名词表示已经发生的动作, 而不定式则表示尚未发生的动作)。

out seeing the words, Arthur jumped on the stone. He put his hand on the sword and easily pulled it out.

Back on the field, Sir Kay was waiting. He saw Arthur come running.

"Do you have it?" he called.

"Here," said Arthur, handing him the sword.

Sir Kay knew the sword as soon as he saw it.

"Where did you get this sword?" he cried.

"Why," said Arthur, "I could find none in the tent. I pulled this one out of the anvil before the church. What's the matter?"

"Nothing," said Sir Kay. "Run and find our father. Tell him to come quickly to our tent."

When Sir Ector came to the tent he saw Sir Kay's face was white.

"What is the matter, my son?" he cried.

"Look!" said Sir Kay. He pointed to the sword. Sir Ector's mouth fell open.¹ He knew the sword well.

"Where did you get it?" he cried.

Sir Kay smiled. "I've got it. What's the difference?"

"If you pulled it out, you are to be King of Eng-

1. Sir Ector's mouth fell open. 艾克特爵士目瞪口呆。直译：张开了嘴。(fell 作联系动词)

land," said Sir Ector. "But if you pulled it out, you can put it back again. It is not yet the time to do it."

Sir Kay began to be afraid. But he thought that if Arthur was able to pull out the sword, surely he could do it, too.

"Come," said Sir Ector. The two started off for the great church. Arthur followed. When they came to the anvil, they found it smooth.¹ Sir Kay pushed and pushed at the sword. He could not even scratch the anvil.

"How did you pull it out?" asked Sir Ector.

"Let me put it back," said Arthur, coming forward.

"You? What right have you to touch it, boy?"

"Why, I pulled it out," said Arthur.

Sir Ector looked at him strangely. Then he looked at Kay. "Try it," he said at last.

Arthur took the sword and jumped upon the stone. He pushed the sword easily deep into the iron.² Then he pulled it out again and pushed it back.

Sir Ector rubbed his eyes. "I can't believe it!" he cried.

Then he fell on his knees³ before Arthur.

1. they found it smooth: 他们发现铁砧是平整的。 2. He pushed the sword easily deep into the iron. 他不费什么劲就把剑深深地插进了铁砧。 3. he fell on his knees: 他跪下了。

"Father!" cried Arthur. "Why do you kneel before me?"

"Boy," said Sir Ector, "I am not your father. You must be a king's son or you could not have pulled out the sword."¹

"What?" cried Arthur unhappily. "Father, please do not kneel before me. Tell me what you mean!"

"Listen, then," said Sir Ector. "Years ago the wise magician, Merlin, came to me. He told me to be at King Uther's castle gate at midnight. That night I did as he said. Merlin and Sir Ulfius, Uther's best friends, came. Merlin carried a baby in his arms.² That baby was you, Arthur."

"Merlin told me to bring you up as my own son.³ He said no one must know who you were. I told Merlin I would do as he said. I never knew who your father was. Now I can guess. You must be King Uther's son. Who else could have pulled out the sword?"

"I would rather be your son than be a king!"⁴ cried Arthur.

"Come," said Sir Ector. "On Christmas the Bishop will give everyone a chance to pull the sword. You

1. You must be...the sword. 你必定是國王的兒子，否則你是不可能把劍拔出來的。 2. carried a baby in his arms: 抱著一個嬰兒 3. to bring you up as my own son: 把你當作我的親生兒子抚养成人 4. "I would rather...a king!": 我寧愿作您的兒子也不愿當國王。

must take your turn.”¹

On Christmas Day the great crowd of knights and lords and kings gathered before the church. The Bishop had a horn blown to start the trial.²

First came the kings who had once joined with King Uther. King Lot, husband of Queen Igraine's daughter Margaret, stepped forward. He took hold of the sword with both hands and pulled with all his might.³ Again and again he tried. The sword did not move. Angrily King Lot stepped back.

Now came the others, kings, lords, and knights. They pulled and pushed, but not one could make the sword move.

“What trick of Merlin's is this?” they cried. “No man can move this sword. Come, choose one of us to be king.”

The Bishop held up his hand. “Let no man speak against the wisest of us all.”⁴ There comes Merlin. He will speak for himself.”

All turned to look. Down the street came Merlin and Sir Ulfus. Behind them came Sir Ector with Sir Kay and Arthur. Merlin led them to where the sword

1. You must take your turn. 轮到你时你一定要去试。 2. had a horn blown: 命令吹起号来 3. with all his might: 使尽全力
4. Let no man...of us all. 谁也不要说话反对比我们大家都聪明的人。

was.¹

“Who are these men?” asked the Bishop.

“Here is one who will try the sword,” said Merlin. He laid his hand on Arthur’s shoulder. “Here, lords of England, is the true son of king Uther!”

“But Uther had no son!” cried the Bishop.

And so Merlin told the story again. Sir Ulfius said, “Here am I to say Merlin speaks true.”

“Then let him try,” said the Bishop.

Arthur stepped upon the stone. He laid his hand on the sword. Smoothly and easily he pulled it out. He held it high so all could see.²

The lords and knights did not know what to say or do. Some were ready to have Arthur.³ Others would not. “A boy to be our king?” they cried. “No! This is a trick of Merlin and Sir Ulfius!”

But others began to shout for Arthur. “Arthur, King of England! Arthur, King of England.”

To make sure that all was fair,⁴ the Bishop had other trials in other places. Each time only Arthur pulled the sword free.⁵ Each time he won more friends. At last the Bishop put the crown upon his head.

1. Merlin led them to where the sword was. 梅林把他们领到剑所在的地方。 2. He held it high so all could see. 他高高地举起了剑，让大家都能看见。 3. to have Arthur: 拥护亚瑟为王 4. To make sure that all was fair: 为了使事情办得公道 5. pulled the sword free: 把剑拔了出来

So Arthur became King of all England. Some of the kings and lords did not want him, and he had to fight them. As the years went by, he became stronger and greater. Knights came from all lands to be in his court. At Camelot¹ Arthur started the famous Knights of the Round Table. These were the greatest of all the knights. They made their names famous for all time. All who love the old stories will remember Sir Lancelot² of the Lake, Sir Galahad,³ who found the Holy Grail,⁴ Sir Gawain,⁵ and Sir Gareth.⁶

1. Camelot: 地名 2. Lancelot ['lɑ:nslət]: 男子名 3. Galahad ['gæləhæd]: 男子名 4. Holy Grail: 圣杯 (中世纪传说中耶稣在进最后的晚餐时所用的杯子。据传说, 耶稣被钉在十字架上时, 他的门徒亚利马太的约瑟曾用它来盛接从耶稣的伤口流出的血。) 5. Gawain [gə'weɪn]: 男子名 6. Gareth ['gæriθ]: 男子名

The Wonderful Sword Excalibur¹

Not long after Arthur became king, he and his friends were resting in a castle. They had been going from city to city meeting the people. A knight came riding slowly to the castle. A boy walked beside him holding him up on his horse.² His shield and armor were red with blood.³ A great wound in his side still bled as he rode.

"Give help to that poor knight," cried King Arthur. "Sir Kay, bring the boy to us. Let us hear what has happened."

They brought the wounded knight to King Arthur's doctor. The boy came before the King.

"Who is your master?" asked King Arthur. "How was he so badly hurt?"

"My lord," said the boy, "he is Sir Miles. He set out to find adventures as a good knight should."⁴ This

1. Excalibur [iks'kælɪbə]: 宝剑的名字 2. holding him up on his horse: 扶他坐在马上 3. His shield and armor were red with blood: 他的盾牌和盔甲都被血染红了 4. as a good knight should: 象一个好骑士应该做的那样 (should即 should do, do 代替 set out to find adventures)

morning we came to a castle deep in the forest. Before the castle lay a broad flat field. We crossed a stone bridge. On one side stood a tree. Many shields hung in this tree. On the bridge was a big black shield. Near it hung a great hammer. Under the shield were the words —

He who strikes this shield
risks his life.¹

“Sir Miles took the hammer and hit the shield. It rang out like thunder. The great gate of the castle was lowered. Out rode a mighty knight in black armor. His horse, his shield — everything was black.

“‘So,’ he cried, ‘you struck the shield! Now I will take your shield away. I shall hang it on the tree with the others.’

“‘If you can,’ said Sir Miles.

“Then the two knights charged.² They met near the middle of the field. Sir Miles’ spear broke into splinters. The Black Knight’s spear drove through my master’s shield and into his side. He fell from his horse and lay on the ground.

“Then the Black Knight took my master’s shield

1. He who strikes this shield risks his life. 击此盾者性命不保。 2. charge: 冲上前去