



Level 2

King Arthur and the Sword



OXFORD



King Arthur and the Sword

Retold by Rachel Bladon
Illustrated by Andy Catling



❖ Contents ❖

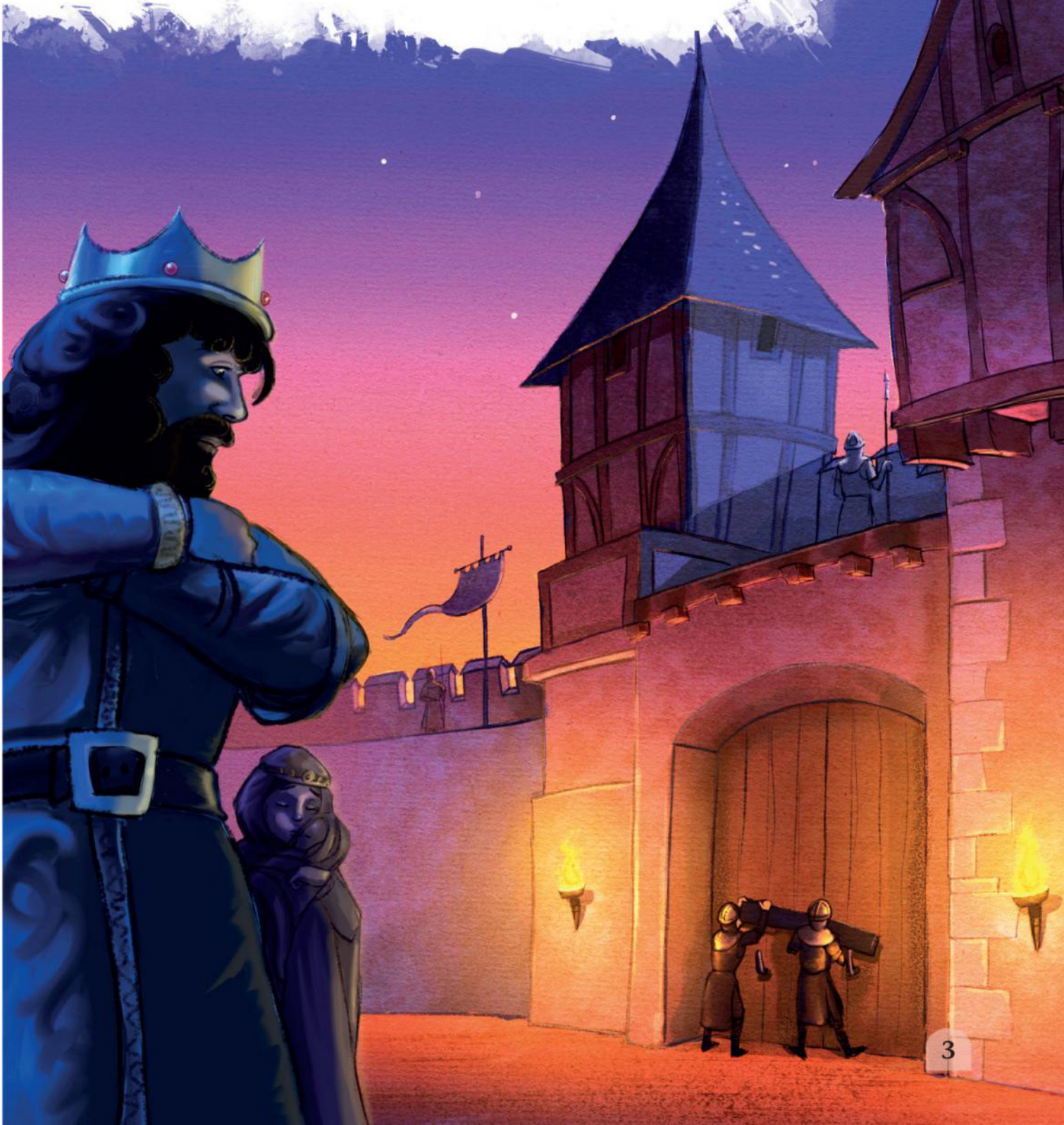
<i>King Arthur and the Sword</i>	2
Exercises	20
Picture Dictionary	22
About <i>Classic Tales</i>	24



Uther is the king of England. He is a good king. He and his queen have a beautiful baby boy.



But England is not a safe place.
There are many bad men, and they
want to be king. The boy cannot live
in the castle, because it is not safe.

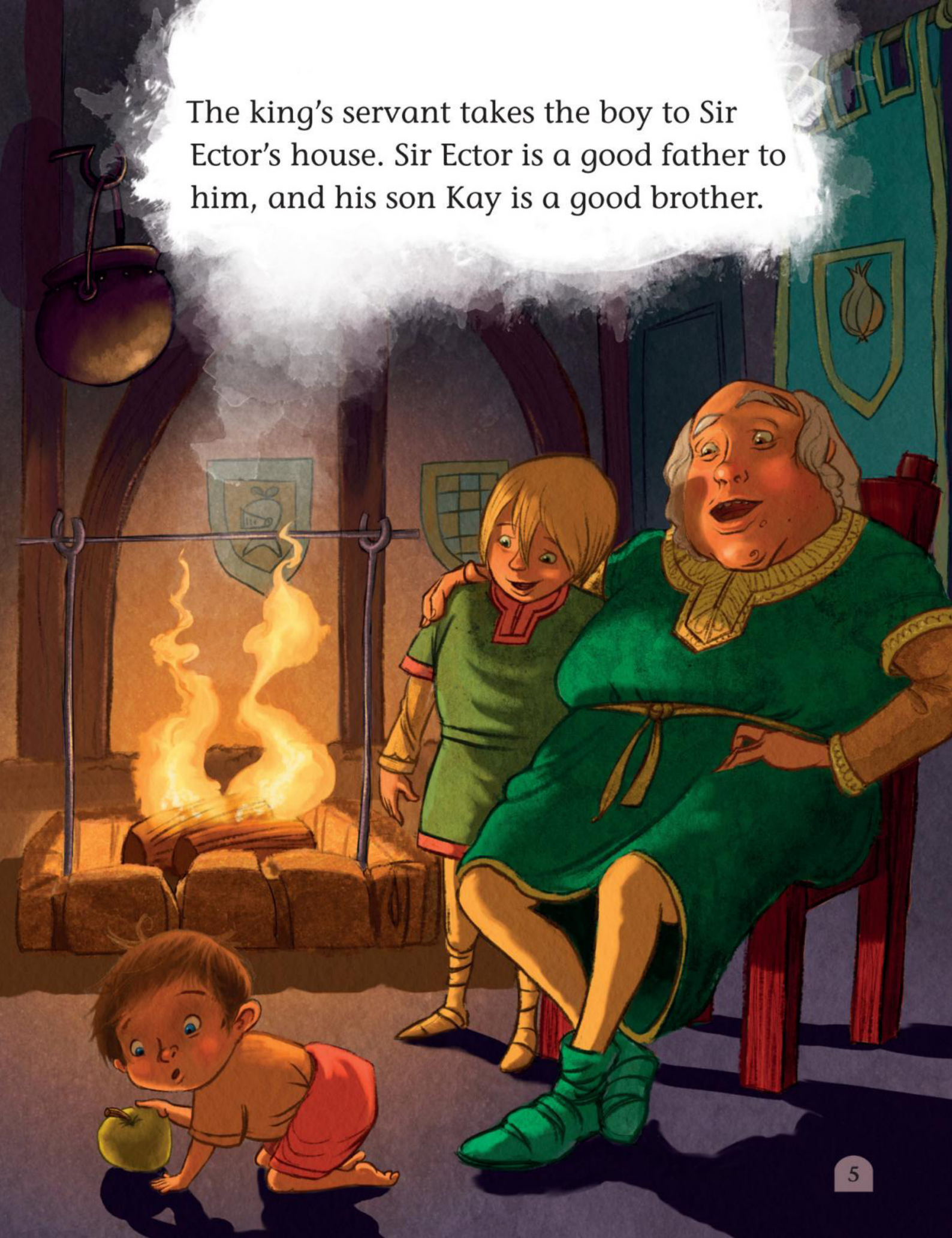


One day the king says to the queen, 'Sir Ector is a good man. He is a good knight. Our boy can live with Sir Ector and his son.'

So the king says to his servant, 'Take my boy to Sir Ector. But do not say, "This is the king's son." Tell nobody.'



The king's servant takes the boy to Sir Ector's house. Sir Ector is a good father to him, and his son Kay is a good brother.



The boy, Arthur, is soon big and strong.
He is the king's son, but he does not
know it. He loves Sir Ector, and he loves
Sir Ector's son Kay.

Sometimes Sir Ector takes the boys to
a tournament. They like to see the
beautiful horses, and the strong knights.

'I want to fight in tournaments,' says Kay,
'when I'm older.'





King Uther is dead.

One day a servant comes
to Sir Ector's house.

'King Uther is dead,' the servant says.

Sir Ector falls to his knees, and he
cries for the king of England.

'Come tomorrow to the big stone
on the road to London,' says the
servant. 'All the king's knights
must go there.'



So, the next day, Sir Ector goes to the big stone on the road to London. Merlin and all the knights of England are there.

Merlin is a good man. He is a friend of the kings of England, and he knows many things.

There is a sword in the stone. It is a beautiful sword, with jewels on it.

‘Only the king of England can take this sword out of the stone!’ Merlin says. ‘Who wants to try?’

One knight comes to the stone. He pulls and he pulls, but the sword doesn’t move.

Then another knight tries, and another. But nobody can take the sword out of the stone.





I can take the sword out.

Every day, men come to the big stone on the road to London.

'I am a good, strong man,' each one says. 'I can take the sword out, and be king of England.'

Everyone tries, but nobody can take the sword out. And so England has no king.

Kay and Arthur are older now. Kay is a knight, and he fights in many tournaments.

One day there is a tournament in London. It is a big tournament, and Merlin, the queen, and all the knights of England are there.

But Kay suddenly says, 'Where is my sword?'

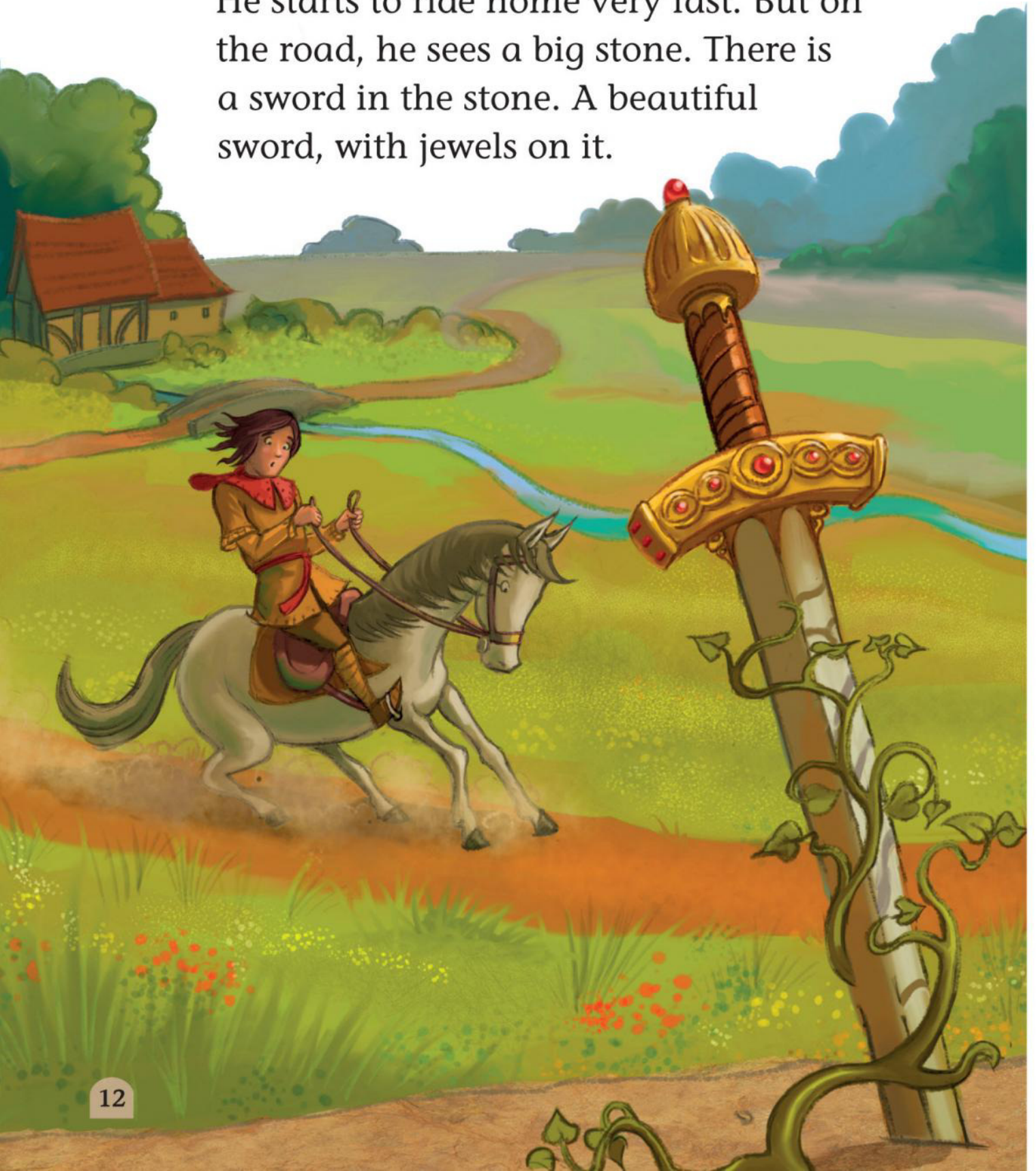
Oh no! Kay's sword is at home, in his room.

Where is my sword?



‘I can ride home, Kay,’ says Arthur. ‘I can ride home fast, and get your sword!’

He starts to ride home very fast. But on the road, he sees a big stone. There is a sword in the stone. A beautiful sword, with jewels on it.





‘Kay can fight with this sword,’ Arthur thinks. ‘Then I can put it back after the tournament.’

Arthur pulls the sword, and it comes out of the stone. Then he rides to the tournament.



Here's a sword, Kay!

This boy is
the king!

Arthur takes the sword to Kay and says, 'Here's a sword, Kay! You can fight with this sword. Then I can put it back.'

But the people at the tournament all stop and look.

'It's the sword!' one person says. 'The sword from the stone! This boy is the king! He is the new king of England!'



He is not the king!

Bring Merlin!

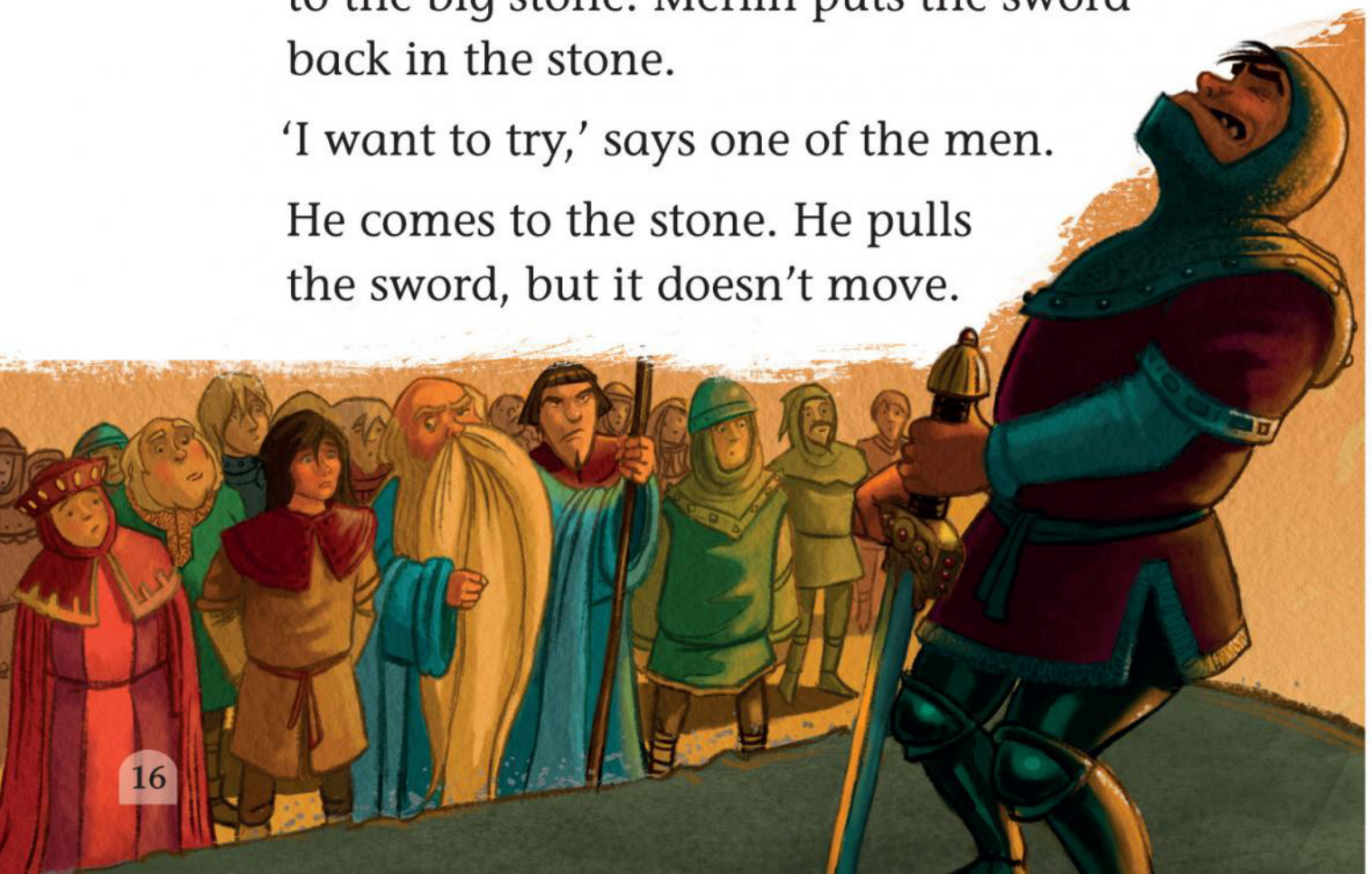
Some of the people are angry.
'He is not the king!' they say.
'He's Sir Ector's boy!'
'Bring Merlin!' somebody
says. 'Bring Merlin!'



Merlin sees the sword, and he says,
'Come with us to the stone, boy.'

So Merlin, Arthur, and all the people go
to the big stone. Merlin puts the sword
back in the stone.

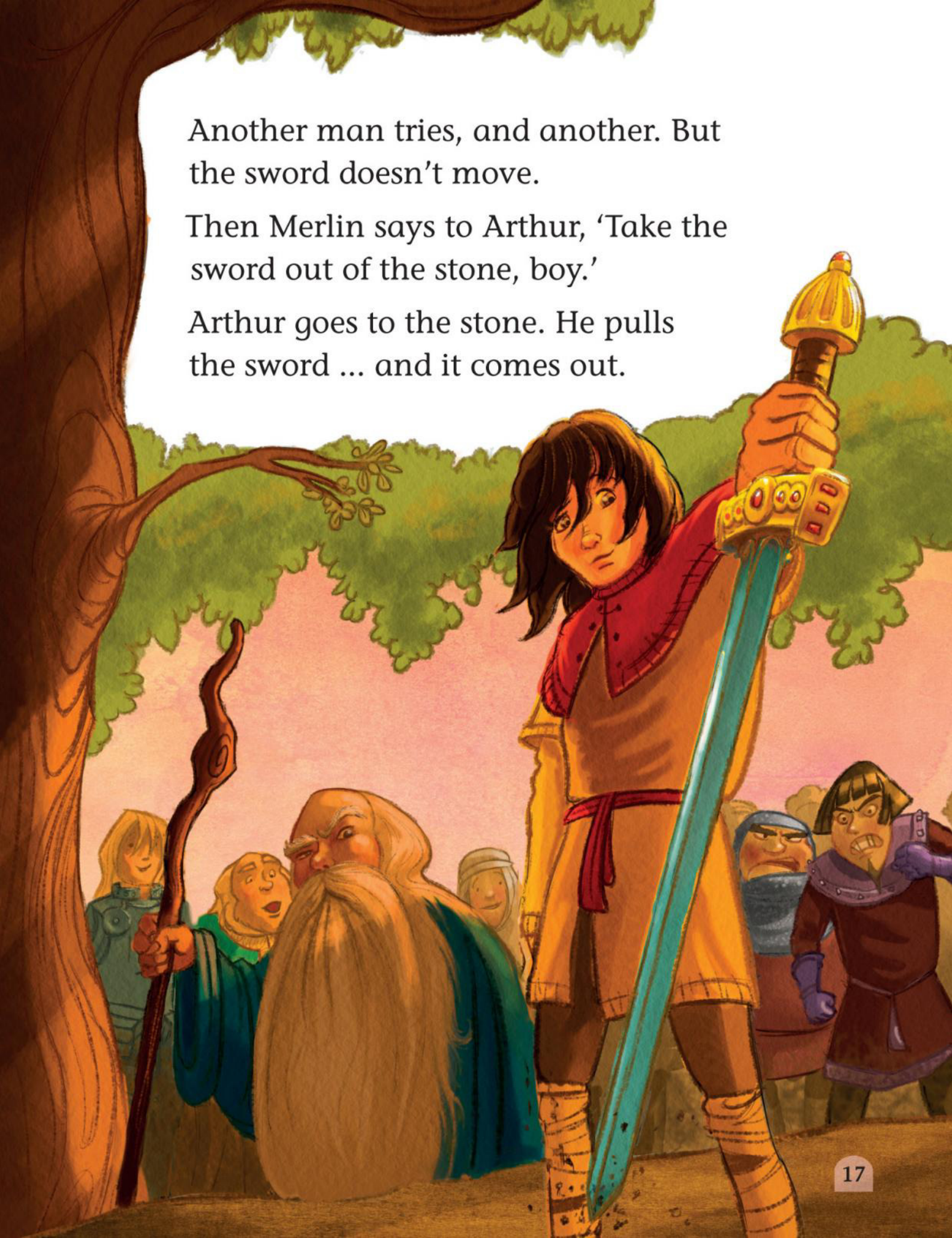
'I want to try,' says one of the men.
He comes to the stone. He pulls
the sword, but it doesn't move.



Another man tries, and another. But the sword doesn't move.

Then Merlin says to Arthur, 'Take the sword out of the stone, boy.'

Arthur goes to the stone. He pulls the sword ... and it comes out.



‘He is the king!’ the people say.

‘I am not a king,’ Arthur says.

‘My father is Sir Ector.’

Now King Uther’s servant comes to Arthur and falls to his knees. ‘Sir Ector is not your father,’ he says.

‘You are the son of King Uther.’

‘And now you are king of England,’ says Merlin.

‘We have a king!’ the people say. ‘England has a king!’

And now you are king of England.

You are the son of King Uther.





So from that day, Arthur is king of England.
He lives in Uther's castle, with Merlin and
his mother, and with Sir Ector and Kay.

Soon King Arthur has a beautiful queen,
Guinevere. He is a good king and the
people love him. And he always carries the
beautiful sword – the sword from the stone.



Exercises

1 Write the names.

Arthur Kay King Uther ~~Sir Ector~~ Merlin Guinevere

- 1 The servant takes King Uther's baby boy to Sir Ector.
- 2 _____ wants to fight in tournaments when he's older.
- 3 _____ is a friend of the kings of England.
- 4 A servant tells Sir Ector, '_____ is dead.'
- 5 _____ pulls the sword out of the stone.
- 6 England soon has a new queen, _____.

2 Answer the questions.

- 1 Who's this? It's Arthur.
- 2 Can he pull the sword out of the stone? _____
- 3 Does he take the sword to Kay?

- 4 Is he Sir Ector's son?

- 5 Is he King Uther's son?

- 6 Is he the new king of England? _____



3 Match and write the words.

safe ~~beautiful~~ strong bad baby big



a beautiful horse



a _____ knight



a _____ boy



a _____ stone



a _____ place



a _____ man

4 Make sentences about the story. Then number them 1–5.

☒ 1 Arthur arrives at the tournament ...

☐ Arthur goes to the stone ...

☐ All the people at the tournament ...

☐ Arthur pulls the sword, ...

☐ Arthur is the new king of England, ...

with Merlin and all the people.

and he lives in Uther's castle.

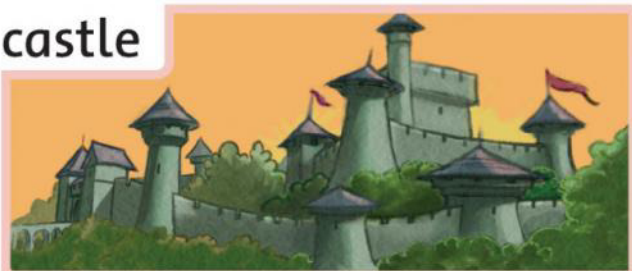
and it comes out of the stone.

with the sword from the stone.

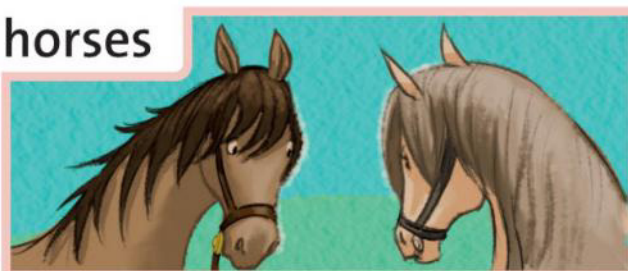
stop and look.

Picture Dictionary

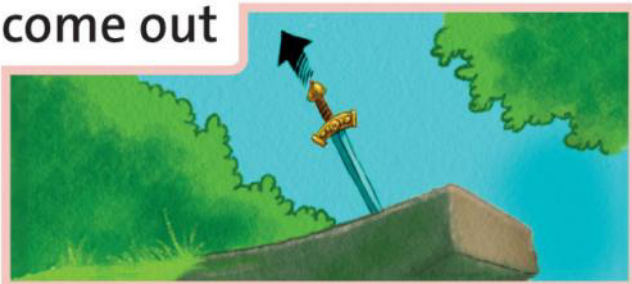
castle



horses



come out



jewels



cry



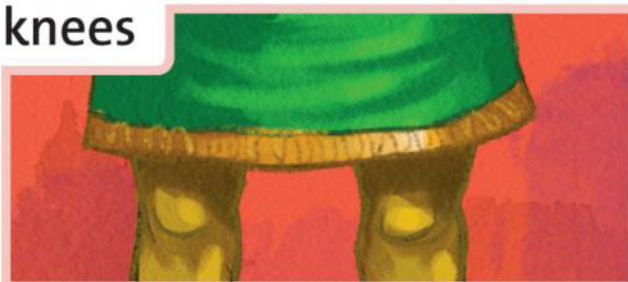
king



dead *He is dead.*



knees



fight



knight



pull



servant



put back



stone



queen



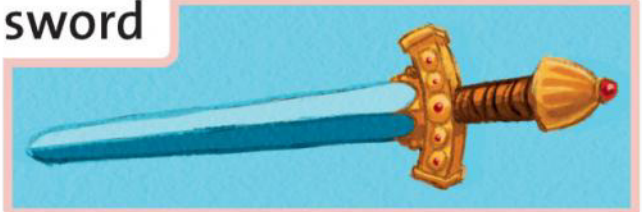
strong *He is strong.*



ride



sword



road



take out



safe *She's safe.*



tournament



Classic Tales

Classic stories retold for learners of English – bringing the magic of traditional storytelling to the language classroom

Level 1: 100 headwords

- The Enormous Turnip
- The Lazy Grasshopper
- The Little Red Hen
- Lownu Mends the Sky
- The Magic Cooking Pot
- The Magpie and the Milk
- Mansour and the Donkey
- Peach Boy
- The Princess and the Pea
- Rumpelstiltskin
- The Shoemaker and the Elves
- Three Billy-Goats

Level 2: 150 headwords

- Amrita and the Trees
- Big Baby Finn
- The Fisherman and his Wife
- The Gingerbread Man
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- King Arthur and the Sword
- Rainforest Boy
- Thumbelina
- The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse
- The Ugly Duckling

Level 3: 200 headwords

- Aladdin
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- The Heron and the Hummingbird
- The Little Mermaid
- Little Red Riding Hood
- Rapunzel

Level 4: 300 headwords

- Cinderella
- The Goose Girl
- Sleeping Beauty
- The Twelve Dancing Princesses

Level 5: 400 headwords

- Beauty and the Beast
- The Magic Brocade
- Pinocchio
- Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

All *Classic Tales* have an accompanying

- **e-Book with Audio Pack** containing the book and the e-book with audio, for use on a computer or CD player. Teachers can also project the e-book onto an interactive whiteboard to use it like a Big Book.
- **Activity Book and Play** providing extra language practice and the story adapted as a play for performance in class or on stage.

For more details, visit www.oup.com/elt/readers/classictales

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP, United Kingdom

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark of Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

© Oxford University Press 2015

The moral rights of the author have been asserted

First published in 2015

2019 2018 2017 2016 2015

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

No unauthorized photocopying

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press, or as expressly permitted by law, by licence or under terms agreed with the appropriate reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope of the above should be sent to the ELT Rights Department, Oxford University Press, at the address above

You must not circulate this work in any other form and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

Links to third party websites are provided by Oxford in good faith and for information only. Oxford disclaims any responsibility for the materials contained in any third party website referenced in this work

ISBN: 978 0 19 423989 9

This Classic Tale title is available as an e-Book with Audio Pack

ISBN: 9 780 19 423991 2

Also available: King Arthur and the Sword Activity Book and Play

ISBN: 9 780 19 423995 0

Printed in China

This book is printed on paper from certified and well-managed sources

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Illustrations by: Andy Catling/Advocate Art



Level 2

King Arthur and the Sword

Enjoy this famous English tale of King Arthur
and the sword in the stone.

A retelling of the classic story for learners of English

Retold by Rachel Bladon
Illustrated by Andy Catling

**Classic Tales – bringing the magic of traditional
storytelling to language learning**

The stories are carefully graded at Levels 1–5 to provide easy and enjoyable reading. Beautiful illustrations on every page work closely with the text to help understanding. Each *Classic Tale* also includes activities related to the story, and a picture dictionary or glossary.



Level 1: 100 headwords



Level 2: 150 headwords



Level 3: 200 headwords



Level 4: 300 headwords



Level 5: 400 headwords

Word count for this story: 832

Also available:

- **King Arthur and the Sword e-Book with Audio Pack** containing the book and the e-book with audio. Use the e-book to read and listen on your computer, or teachers can project it onto an interactive whiteboard.
- **King Arthur and the Sword Activity Book and Play** providing extra activities and the story adapted as a play for performance in class or on stage.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

www.oup.com/elt



ISBN 978-0-19-423989-9



SHAPING learning TOGETHER