

READER 1: Uther Pendragon was a great king of England. He was strong and well-loved. His queen was going to have a child, a child who would be heir to the throne.

READER 2: All should have been well, but Merlin, Uther Pendragon's friend, could see into the future, and the future was dismal.

3/MERLIN: Great king, you will soon fall ill and die.

READER 4: This was not the kind of news Uther Pendragon wanted to hear.

3/MERLIN: Your child will not live to adulthood, for there will be many battles to take the throne. He will surely die, unless you let me save him for you and for England.

READER 1: Uther Pendragon had long depended on Merlin for advice. He knew Merlin's visions were accurate, so he agreed to do as Merlin wished.

3/MERLIN: As soon as the child is born, I will take it to the home of one of your most trusted knights, Sir Ector. He will instruct the child in knightly ways. He will not fail.

READER 2: So, as soon as the baby was born, Merlin whisked the child to the home of Sir Ector.

5/SIR ECTOR: What child is this?

- 3/MERLIN:** Do not ask. You must teach the child all he needs to know to be a knight. Guide this lad as you do your own son, Kay. You will be greatly rewarded.
- 5/SIR ECTOR:** I am honored to be asked. You may be sure that I am worthy of your trust.
- READER 4:** As Merlin predicted, King Uther Pendragon soon died. England was in a state of turmoil. The chaos continued for over fifteen years.
- 6/ARCHBISHOP:** England is in danger from outside forces because we squabble at home. Is there no answer?
- 3/MERLIN:** There is an answer. The rightful king of England shall be known to all by the new year.
- 6/ARCHBISHOP:** How will we recognize the king?
- 3/MERLIN:** Look outside in the churchyard.
- READER 1:** When the Archbishop looked outside, he saw a huge block of marble and in that marble stone was a sword.
- 6/ARCHBISHOP:** What is this? The inscription says "Whoever pulls this sword from this stone is king of all England by right of birth."
- READER 2:** All the congregation gathered round the stone. Many barons attempted to pull the sword from the stone, but none could do it.