

Grade 4 Reading & Writing

Unit 3: King Arthur and the Round Table

16 lessons (the last is the Pausing Point review) and a words quiz. Use this pack with the unit's **Teacher Guide** and **Activity Book** (download them once from the course) to teach the whole unit without the internet.

For parents: This unit reads King Arthur and the Round Table, a Core Knowledge book that is free to download but not openly licensed, so its pages are not copied here. Each lesson links to it.

What is in this pack

- A plan for each lesson: the Teacher Guide pages to follow, words to know, what to read, questions to talk over and the Activity Book pages to print.
- The words quiz, ready to print.
- Answers for the teacher at the back: every discussion question and the quiz key.

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Lesson schedule

One lesson a school day, about 60–90 minutes; split long lessons over two days. Tick each one off as you go.

	Lesson	Reader pages	Activity Book
☐	Lesson 1: Chapters 1–2: “The Birth of Arthur” and “The Sword in the Stone”	see lesson	AP 1.1
☐	Lesson 2: Chapter 3, “The Sword in the Lake”	see lesson	AP 2.2
☐	Lesson 3: Chapter 5, “The Marriage of Arthur and the Founding of the Round Table”	see lesson	AP 3.1, AP 3.2
☐	Lesson 4: Chapter 6, “Sir Lancelot”	see lesson	AP 4.1, AP 4.2, AP 4.4
☐	Lesson 5: Chapter 8, “The End of Merlin”	see lesson	AP 5.2, AP 5.3
☐	Lesson 6: Chapter 11, “How the Quest Began”	see lesson	AP 6.2
☐	Lesson 7: Chapter 11, “How the Quest Began”	see lesson	AP 7.1
☐	Lesson 8: Chapter 12, “Sir Gawaine on the Quest”	see lesson	AP 8.1, AP 8.3
☐	Lesson 9: Chapter 17, “The Queen and the Poisoned Apple”	see lesson	AP 9.2, AP 9.3
☐	Lesson 10: Chapter 18, “Sir Meliagraunce”	see lesson	AP 10.2
☐	Lesson 11: Chapter 19, “The Civil War”	see lesson	—
☐	Lesson 12: Chapter 20, “The Departure of Sir Lancelot”	see lesson	AP 12.1, AP 12.3, AP 12.5
☐	Lesson 13: Chapter 21, “The Last Battle and the Death of Arthur”	see lesson	AP 13.2
☐	Lesson 14: Chapter 21, “The Last Battle and the Death of Arthur”	see lesson	AP 14.1
☐	Lesson 15: Chapter 15, “The Achievement of the Grail”	see lesson	AP 15.2
☐	Pausing Point: Review, extra practice and answer keys	—	—
☐	Words quiz	—	—

Page numbers are the PDF page numbers of the Student Reader file, so they match what your PDF reader shows.

LESSON 1 OF 16

Lesson 1: Chapters 1-2: “The Birth of Arthur” and “The Sword in the Stone”

Words to know

- **heir** — someone who has a legal right to claim another person’s title or property after the death of the person
- **subject** — a person who is controlled by the ruler or government
- **court** — the place where a monarch, such as a king or queen, lives and performs his or her official duties
- **baptize** — to perform a religious ceremony in a Christian church, using water as a sign of the person officially becoming a member of the church
- **misery** — a state of extreme sadness or pain
- **summon** — to call someone for a specific purpose
- **foretell** — to predict a future event
- **astonished** — filled with surprise or amazement
- **steward** — someone who manages or cares for the property belonging to someone else

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 29–41: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 1, “The Birth of Arthur”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. What is Merlin’s role in the story?
2. Do we know very much about Merlin’s boyhood?
3. Who was Arthur’s father?
4. Who was Vortiger?
5. Who did Vortiger become friends with?
6. Based on the way it is used in this paragraph, what does the word treachery mean?
7. What happened to Vortiger during the feast at Stonehenge?
8. What happened in this part of the text?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 1.1: Vocabulary for Chapter 1 “The Birth of Arthur” and Chapter 2 — Activity Book, PDF pages 5–6
- Activity Page 1.1: continued — Activity Book, PDF pages 61–65

Check for understanding

- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 2: Chapter 3, “The Sword in the Lake”

Words to know

- **alter** — to change
- **coronation** — a ceremony in which a king or queen is crowned
- **court** — the place where a monarch, such as a king or queen, lives and performs his or her official duties
- **custom** — the usual way someone acts; something that is done on a regular basis by a person or group of people
- **fair** — attractive; pleasing to the senses
- **prophecy** — prediction
- **subject** — a person who is controlled by the ruler or government
- **yield** — a promise; to give up

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 42–52: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 3, “The Sword in the Lake”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. What does the phrase bearing down mean in this line?
2. What does Arthur mean when he says “in spite of all your crafts”?
3. What does the knight in black want Arthur to do?
4. What happened to Arthur in the fight?
5. How did Arthur react to the way the fight ended?
6. What does Arthur’s reaction to the ending of the fight tell us about his character?
7. What is happening in this drawing?
8. prophecy does Merlin reveal here?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 2.2: King Arthur — Activity Book, PDF pages 7–8

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 3: Chapter 5, “The Marriage of Arthur and the Founding of the Round Table”

Words to know

- **blossoming** — flowering
- **bustle** — to wave about in a threatening way (brandished); a great deal of activity
- **coronation** — a ceremony in which a king or queen is crowned
- **court** — the place where a monarch, such as a king or queen, lives and performs his or her official duties
- **courtesy** — politeness
- **enforce** — to make someone obey a rule or obligation, some of the time through force
- **fair** — attractive; pleasing to the senses
- **foreign** — from or having something to do with a country other than one’s own
- **hold** — to control
- **prophecy** — prediction

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 53–63: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 5, “The Marriage of Arthur and the Founding of the Round Table”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. Why was Arthur’s law obeyed in only a small part of his kingdom?
2. Who is Guenevere?
3. Why do you think Merlin didn’t remind Arthur about his sister’s son?
4. Based on the way it is used in this paragraph, what is meant by the phrase equal fellowship?
5. Why is the Round Table a better shape for Arthur’s knights than a rectangular table would be?
6. Are all of the seats at the Round Table really equal?
7. What are the traits or values Arthur wants his knights to possess?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 3.1: Vocabulary for Chapter 5 “The Marriage of Arthur and — Activity Book, PDF pages 9–10

■ Activity Page 3.2: continued — Activity Book, PDF pages 11–12

Check for understanding

- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 4: Chapter 6, “Sir Lancelot”

Words to know

- **betray** — to not be loyal to
- **disentangle** — to become free from something
- **dismount** — to get down from a horse or other mode of transportation
- **fair** — attractive; pleasing to the senses
- **foreign** — from or having something to do with a country other than one’s own
- **hasty** — quick or in a hurried manner
- **shamed** — a feeling of humiliation or extreme embarrassment because of having done something wrong
- **shelter** — to provide protection to
- **sorceress** — a witch or female wizard
- **steward** — someone who manages or cares for the property belonging to someone else

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 64–74: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 6, “Sir Lancelot”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. What have you already read about the Lady of the Lake in this story?
2. What is meant by the phrase won his fame by his own merits?
3. What trait or value of knighthood does Sir Lancelot demonstrate by wanting to win his fame by his own merits?
4. What does the word expedition used in this line mean?
5. What character trait or value is demonstrated by the actions described in these lines?
6. Who is Sir Kay, and what is a steward?
7. What is meant by the phrase we yield to you as a champion of unmatched strength?
8. What does the woman mean by the phrase on your oath of knighthood?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 4.1: Vocabulary for Chapter 6 “Sir Lancelot” in — Activity Book, PDF pages 13–14
- Activity Page 4.2: continued — Activity Book, PDF pages 15–16

- Activity Page 4.4: Morphology: Practice with the Prefix en- — Activity Book, PDF pages 17–18

Check for understanding

- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 5: Chapter 8, “The End of Merlin”

Words to know

- **devotion** — strong loyalty
- **enchantment** — a magic spell
- **flatter** — to give praise or compliments
- **folly** — foolishness
- **foreboding** — a feeling of fear
- **foretell** — to predict a future event
- **humility** — the state of being humble or modest
- **imprisonment** — the state of being in a prison or lacking freedom to make choices
- **prophecy** — prediction
- **reign** — the rule, or time period during the rule, of a king or queen

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 75–80: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 8, “The End of Merlin”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. When Merlin tells King Arthur about his prophecy, what is King Arthur’s response?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 5.2: Chapter 8 “The End of Merlin” — Activity Book, PDF pages 19–20
- Activity Page 5.3: Writing a Narrative Paragraph — Activity Book, PDF pages 21–22

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 6: Chapter 11, “How the Quest Began”

Words to know

- **bounty** — something that is given generously
- **courtesy** — politeness
- **disentangle** — to become free from something
- **foreboding** — a feeling of fear
- **foretell** — to predict a future event
- **heir** — someone who has a legal right to claim another person’s title or property after the death of the person
- **hold** — to control
- **humility** — the state of being humble or modest
- **misery** — a state of extreme sadness or pain
- **peal** — a loud sound, such as the ringing of bells

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 81–88: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 11, “How the Quest Began”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. What was the quest for the Holy Grail?
2. Why were they not able to stop the quest, despite knowing it would end in disaster?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 6.2: Grammar: Practice Identifying and Correcting Sentence — Activity Book, PDF pages 23–24

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 7: Chapter 11, “How the Quest Began”

Words to know

- **bounty** — something that is given generously
- **fair** — attractive; pleasing to the senses
- **foreboding** — a feeling of fear
- **quest** — a search

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 89–95: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 11, “How the Quest Began”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. What values of knighthood are demonstrated in this chapter, and how might they lead to the end of the knights of the Round Table?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 7.1: Writing: Create a Character — Activity Book, PDF pages 25–26

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 8: Chapter 12, “Sir Gawaine on the Quest”

Words to know

- **alight** — to come down from a structure or vehicle
- **amends** — some form of payment for a loss or injury suffered by another
- **crude** — primitive, natural, or rough; Unit 3 | Activity Book Grade 4 |
- **deserted** — having no people or other signs of life
- **fair** — attractive; pleasing to the senses
- **garment** — a piece of clothing
- **hermitage** — a place where people live in isolation from others
- **humility** — the state of being humble or modest
- **muffled** — dull; not very clear
- **ponder** — to think about

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 96–105: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 12, “Sir Gawaine on the Quest”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. Describe Gawaine’s character. Are these character traits we’ve come to expect from knights?
2. What was Gawaine’s mood as he started his quest?
3. How does Gawaine feel about Sir Galahad, and why?
4. Based on the way it is used in this line, what does the word quarrel mean?
5. What does it mean when it says the hermit saw right into his heart in a disconcerting way?
6. What does the hermit mean when he says Gawaine must make amends for killing the seven knights? Does Gawaine agree that he should make amends?
7. How does Gawaine’s action toward the knight violate the values of a knight?
8. What is meant by the phrase Gawaine had no more heart for the Quest?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 8.1: Vocabulary for Chapter 12 “Sir Gawaine on the Quest” — Activity Book, PDF pages 27–28
- Activity Page 8.3: Mid Unit Assessment — Activity Book, PDF pages 29–36

Check for understanding

- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 9: Chapter 17, “The Queen and the Poisoned Apple”

Words to know

- **acquit** — to declare not guilty of a crime
- **appetite** — a strong desire for something
- **court** — the place where a monarch, such as a king or queen, lives and performs his or her official duties
- **disgraceful** — bringing about shame or embarrassment
- **fair** — attractive; pleasing to the senses
- **feat** — an act or achievement that shows courage or skill
- **fetch** — to go for something or someone and bring that person or thing back
- **fix** — to decide on or set
- **grim** — terrible or frightening
- **promptly** — done immediately or without delay

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 106–111: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 17, “The Queen and the Poisoned Apple”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. Why was the Queen accused of poisoning Sir Patrise?
2. Why did Arthur and Guenevere want Sir Lancelot to defend the Queen?
3. Do you think it was just, or fair, for them to determine the Queen’s guilt or innocence by having two knights fight in a battle? Why or why not?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 9.2: Practice Using Punctuation for Dialogue — Activity Book, PDF pages 37–38
- Activity Page 9.3: continued — Activity Book, PDF pages 39–40

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 10: Chapter 18, “Sir Meliagraunce”

Words to know

- **ambush** — to attack by surprise from a hiding place
- **council** — a group of people who meet to make decisions for or offer advice to the public
- **courtesy** — politeness
- **disentangle** — to become free from something
- **dishonor** — to bring shame on or embarrassment to
- **embark** — wanting very much to do or have something; having to do with the elements, or things of nature; to start
- **foretell** — to predict a future event
- **halt** — to stop
- **heir** — someone who has a legal right to claim another person’s title or property after the death of the person
- **humility** — the state of being humble or modest

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 112–119: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 18, “Sir Meliagraunce”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. What was the “affair of the poisoned apple”?
2. Based on this line, do you think Sir Meliagraunce has those traits or values that are usually associated with a knight? Why or why not?
3. What does the word yield mean?
4. Based on what you learned in Unit 2, The Middle Ages, how is the word page being used here?
5. What does the phrase on fire with pride mean?
6. Why does Sir Meliagraunce tell his knights to shoot at Sir Lancelot’s horse rather than at Lancelot himself?
7. Who is the “Queen’s champion” referenced in line 7, and how does Sir Meliagraunce feel about his arrival?
8. How does Sir Lancelot break the rules of knighthood in this scene?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

■ Activity Page 10.2: continued — Activity Book, PDF pages 41–42

Check for understanding

- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 11: Chapter 19, “The Civil War”

Words to know

- **ambitious** — having a desire to be famous, successful, or powerful
- **ambush** — to attack by surprise from a hiding place
- **avenge** — to seek repayment or punishment from someone because of something they did wrong
- **civil war** — a war between two groups within the same country or kingdom
- **exile** — to force someone to leave their home or country
- **fair** — attractive; pleasing to the senses
- **mischief** — an action that harms or causes trouble
- **outlaw** — to declare someone or something against the law
- **stronghold** — an area of safety, or one dominated by a particular person or group
- **triumph** — victory or success

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 120–129: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 19, “The Civil War”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. Based on the title, what do you think might take place in this chapter?
2. What values of the knights of the Round Table are described here?
3. What does the author say is the lasting effect of the Round Table?
4. What brought about the end of the Round Table?
5. How were the character traits displayed by Gawaine and his brothers different from the traits generally displayed by other knights?
6. Are the actions that are described in these lines examples of values held by most knights? Why or why not?
7. What is meant by the line an open declaration of war?
8. Why does Sir Lancelot believe that King Arthur will have to punish him?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 12: Chapter 20, “The Departure of Sir Lancelot”

Words to know

- **besiege** — to pressure or cause worry to
- **council** — a group of people who meet to make decisions for or offer advice to the public
- **frantic** — nervous, chaotic, anxious
- **perish** — to die
- **quarrel** — disagreement; argument
- **skirmish** — a small fight that is often part of a larger battle
- **subject** — a person who is controlled by the ruler or government

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 130–138: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 20, “The Departure of Sir Lancelot”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 12.1: Vocabulary for Chapter 20 “The Departure of Sir Lancelot” — Activity Book, PDF pages 43–44
- Activity Page 12.3: Peer Review Checklist — Activity Book, PDF pages 45–46
- Activity Page 12.5: Morphology: Practice with the Root graph — Activity Book, PDF pages 47–48

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 13: Chapter 21, “The Last Battle and the Death of Arthur”

Words to know

- **decisive** — definite or clear
- **flinch** — to withdraw from, or draw back from, because of pain or fear
- **rebel** — someone who opposes or goes against something
- **shrink** — to get smaller or to pull back in pain, fear, or surprise
- **subjection** — the act of placing someone under your control

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 139–144: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 21, “The Last Battle and the Death of Arthur”, in *King Arthur and the Round Table*.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 13.2: Short Story Editing Checklist — Activity Book, PDF pages 49–50

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 14: Chapter 21, “The Last Battle and the Death of Arthur”

Words to know

- **decisive** — definite or clear
- **prophecy** — prediction

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 145–149: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 21, “The Last Battle and the Death of Arthur”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Talk it over

1. What do you think is meant by the last line in this chapter: Here lies Arthur, King that was and King that shall be?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 14.1: continued — Activity Book, PDF pages 51–52

Check for understanding

- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Lesson 15: Chapter 15, “The Achievement of the Grail”

Teacher’s lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 150–151: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Read

Read Chapter 15, “The Achievement of the Grail”, in King Arthur and the Round Table.

Activity Book pages

- Activity Page 15.2: End of Unit Assessment — Activity Book, PDF pages 53–60

Check for understanding

LESSON 16 OF 16

Pausing Point: Review, extra practice and answer keys

Teacher's lesson plan

Follow the Teacher Guide, PDF pages 152–164: the steps, materials and timing for this lesson.

Check for understanding

WORDS QUIZ

King Arthur and the Round Table

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Which word means “STUDENT RESOURCE withdraw, leave”?

- a) retire
- b) halt
- c) stern
- d) subjection

2. Which word means “a state of confusion or chaos”?

- a) turmoil
- b) astonished
- c) dismount
- d) ambitious

3. Which word means “to make someone obey a rule or obligation, some of the time through force”?

- a) court
- b) unravel
- c) sorceress
- d) enforce

4. Which word means “a group of people who meet to make decisions for or offer advice to the public”?

- a) promptly
- b) shrink
- c) enchantment
- d) council

5. Which word means “a witch or female wizard”?

- a) amends
- b) sorceress
- c) decisive
- d) ambush

6. Which word means “to die”?

- a) fix
- b) perish
- c) frantic
- d) halt

- 7.** Which word means “strict or harsh”?
- a) peal
 - b) council
 - c) stern
 - d) misery
- 8.** Which word means “to get smaller or to pull back in pain, fear, or surprise”?
- a) shrink
 - b) sorceress
 - c) subjection
 - d) outlaw
- 9.** Which word means “to put back into a previous condition; Unit 3 | Activity Book Grade 4 |”?
- a) sentry
 - b) vessel
 - c) procession
 - d) restore
- 10.** Which word means “done immediately or without delay”?
- a) custom
 - b) promptly
 - c) vessel
 - d) skirmish
- 11.** Which word means “to cause something to come apart”?
- a) betray
 - b) unravel
 - c) subject
 - d) custom
- 12.** Which word means “some form of payment for a loss or injury suffered by another”?
- a) hermitage
 - b) muffled
 - c) hasty
 - d) amends

Answers

Lesson 1: Chapters 1-2: “The Birth of Arthur” and “The Sword in the Stone”

1. **What is Merlin’s role in the story?**

He is a wizard, and the only one who knows Arthur was a prince. SUPPORT: Explain that a synonym for wizard is a magician.

2. **Do we know very much about Merlin’s boyhood?**

No, the text says his “boyhood is hidden.”

3. **Who was Arthur’s father?**

Uther

4. **Who was Vortiger?**

He was an English king who reigned before both Arthur and Uther.

5. **Who did Vortiger become friends with?**

He became friends with the Saxons, particularly a Saxon named Heingist.

6. **Based on the way it is used in this paragraph, what does the word treachery mean?**

an act of betrayal

7. **What happened to Vortiger during the feast at Stonehenge?**

He was taken prisoner by the Saxons and had to give away all his land to the Saxons, whom he now realized were his enemies, to save his life.

8. **What happened in this part of the text?**

Vortiger escaped from the enemy and fled to Wales where he hid in a cave. The British began to gather around him.

Lesson 2: Chapter 3, “The Sword in the Lake”

1. **What does the phrase bearing down mean in this line?**

It means King Arthur was fast approaching them.

2. **What does Arthur mean when he says “in spite of all your crafts”?**

He is referring to Merlin’s magical powers.

3. **What does the knight in black want Arthur to do?**

The knight in black wants Arthur to yield, or surrender and give up.

4. **What happened to Arthur in the fight?**

Arthur was almost killed by the knight, but Merlin put the knight under a spell, and they were able to escape.

5. **How did Arthur react to the way the fight ended?**

Arthur was upset with Merlin for using a magical spell to save him, when the other knight had fought fairly and bravely.

6. **What does Arthur’s reaction to the ending of the fight tell us about his character?**

Answers may vary. Arthur seems fair and honorable.

7. **What is happening in this drawing?**

Arthur is fighting with the knight in black. Merlin is watching them battle.

8. **prophecy does Merlin reveal here?**

Merlin says that the knight that Arthur fought was named Pellinore, and Pellinore will later serve Arthur well. He will also tell Arthur the name of his nephew who will bring about the destruction of his kingdom.

Lesson 3: Chapter 5, “The Marriage of Arthur and the Founding of the Round Table”

1. **Why was Arthur’s law obeyed in only a small part of his kingdom?**

Foreign invaders held control over most parts of the kingdom. [Have a student read page 43 aloud.]

2. **Who is Guenevere?**

She is the woman who Arthur loves and will marry.

3. **Why do you think Merlin didn’t remind Arthur about his sister’s son?**

Merlin had told Arthur a prophecy so it was going to come to be whether he reminded him or not.

4. **Based on the way it is used in this paragraph, what is meant by the phrase equal fellowship?**

It means that all the knights at the Round Table are equal – none more important than the others.

5. **Why is the Round Table a better shape for Arthur’s knights than a rectangular table would be?**

A round table allowed all knights to be treated as equals, with no one sitting at the head of the table (or at the short side of a rectangular table).

6. **Are all of the seats at the Round Table really equal?**

Answers may vary but may include that there are 3 special seats (2 empty seats for the two of best fame in any year and the Perilous Siege where no man will sit but one). King Arthur gives the seat next to these three seats to Pellinore and says it is a seat of honor.

7. **What are the traits or values Arthur wants his knights to possess?**

He wants them to not do anything evil; to be loyal to the King; never to be cruel; to always help a woman in any kind of need; and not to participate in anything that is unjust, or unfair.

Lesson 4: Chapter 6, “Sir Lancelot”

1. **What have you already read about the Lady of the Lake in this story?**

She was the woman who gave Arthur Excalibur, the Sword in the Lake.

2. **What is meant by the phrase won his fame by his own merits?**

He didn’t want to become famous because he was the son of a wealthy king. He

became famous because of what he accomplished, not because of who he was related to.

3. **What trait or value of knighthood does Sir Lancelot demonstrate by wanting to win his fame by his own merits?**

fairness

4. **What does the word expedition used in this line mean?**

An expedition is a journey or a trip that is taken for a specific purpose.

5. **What character trait or value is demonstrated by the actions described in these lines?**

loyalty

6. **Who is Sir Kay, and what is a steward?**

He is the son of Sir Ector, who raised Arthur before he became king. A steward is someone who cares for the property belonging to someone else.

7. **What is meant by the phrase we yield to you as a champion of unmatched strength?**

They gave in to him because he was stronger than everyone else. [Read Pages 58-62 through Line 18]

8. **What does the woman mean by the phrase on your oath of knighthood?**

One of the things a knight promised to do when he became a knight was to help a woman whenever she needed it. Here, this woman was asking Sir Lancelot to fulfill that promise by helping her.

Lesson 5: Chapter 8, “The End of Merlin”

1. **When Merlin tells King Arthur about his prophecy, what is King Arthur’s response?**

He tells Merlin that, since Merlin knows there will be a disaster, Merlin should use his magic to prevent that disaster.

Lesson 6: Chapter 11, “How the Quest Began”

1. **What was the quest for the Holy Grail?**

It was the search for the cup that Jesus used at the Last Supper.

2. **Why were they not able to stop the quest, despite knowing it would end in disaster?**

o Once they made the promise to go on the quest, they couldn’t go back on the promise because it would violate a knight’s oath.

Lesson 7: Chapter 11, “How the Quest Began”

1. **What values of knighthood are demonstrated in this chapter, and how might they lead to the end of the knights of the Round Table?**

Knights honor and remain loyal to God, and this makes them want to see the Holy Grail, which is one of the most important symbols in early Christianity. They are also required to keep their promises, so this means that after Sir Gawaine and the others

Lesson 8: Chapter 12, “Sir Gawaine on the Quest”

1. **Describe Gawaine’s character. Are these character traits we’ve come to expect from knights?**

He is proud, impatient, jealous, and easily angered. No, these are not the usual character traits demonstrated by knights.

2. **What was Gawaine’s mood as he started his quest?**

He was angry and looking for a fight.

3. **How does Gawaine feel about Sir Galahad, and why?**

He is jealous of Sir Galahad, because Galahad got to sit in the Perilous Siege, an important seat at the Round Table.

4. **Based on the way it is used in this line, what does the word quarrel mean?**

disagreement or dispute

5. **What does it mean when it says the hermit saw right into his heart in a disconcerting way?**

It means he saw Gawaine’s true character and was upset by it. SUPPORT: Disconcerting means concerning or upsetting.

6. **What does the hermit mean when he says Gawaine must make amends for killing the seven knights? Does Gawaine agree that he should make amends?**

He means that Gawaine must make up for the evil act. Gawaine says he has more important things to do on a quest than make amends.

7. **How does Gawaine’s action toward the knight violate the values of a knight?**

Knights are not supposed to harm another knight of the Round Table, and Gawaine killed this knight.

8. **What is meant by the phrase Gawaine had no more heart for the Quest?**

He no longer wants to go on the quest.

Lesson 9: Chapter 17, “The Queen and the Poisoned Apple”

1. **Why was the Queen accused of poisoning Sir Patrise?**

The Queen was having a dinner for 24 of the knights, including Sir Pinel, Sir Patrise, and Sir Gawaine. Sir Pinel wanted to kill Sir Gawaine, and, knowing Gawaine liked apples, Sir Pinel put poison in an apple and waited for Sir Gawaine to take it. Instead, Sir Patrise took the apple and died. Gawaine realized the apple had been meant for him and he accused Queen Guenevere of planning to kill him.

2. **Why did Arthur and Guenevere want Sir Lancelot to defend the Queen?**

It was decided that the Queen’s “trial” to determine whether she was guilty, would be based on a battle between Sir Mador and a challenger. The King and Queen thought that Sir Lancelot would be able to defeat Sir Mador, proving the Queen was innocent.

3. **Do you think it was just, or fair, for them to determine the Queen’s guilt or innocence by having two knights fight in a battle? Why or why not?**

Answers may vary, but may include that it is not just because the outcome of the battle has no connection to the death of Sir Patrise.

Lesson 10: Chapter 18, “Sir Meliagraunce”

1. What was the “affair of the poisoned apple”?

It was the event in which Queen Guenevere was wrongly accused of poisoning Sir Patrise when Sir Pinel accidentally poisoned him while trying to kill Sir Gawaine. It was Sir Lancelot who saved the Queen when he defeated Sir Mador in a battle.

2. Based on this line, do you think Sir Meliagraunce has those traits or values that are usually associated with a knight? Why or why not?

Answers may vary, but may include that he does not have the traits or values of a knight because he is described as being a coward.

3. What does the word yield mean?

It means to give in to, or to surrender to.

4. Based on what you learned in Unit 2, The Middle Ages, how is the word page being used here?

It is being used to refer to a young boy who is preparing to become a knight.

5. What does the phrase on fire with pride mean?

That the page was acting quickly because he was proud to be helping the queen.

6. Why does Sir Meliagraunce tell his knights to shoot at Sir Lancelot’s horse rather than at Lancelot himself?

He didn’t think they would be able to hurt Sir Lancelot.

7. Who is the “Queen’s champion” referenced in line 7, and how does Sir Meliagraunce feel about his arrival?

It is Sir Lancelot, and Sir Meliagraunce is nervous about his arrival.

8. How does Sir Lancelot break the rules of knighthood in this scene?

It is against the knights’ rules to ride in a cart, but his horse was shot by Sir Meliagraunce’s men, so Lancelot wants to ride in the cart. He also broke one of the rules of knighthood by killing one of the cart drivers.

Lesson 11: Chapter 19, “The Civil War”

1. Based on the title, what do you think might take place in this chapter?

Answers may vary, but should include evidence of an understanding of the term civil war.

2. What values of the knights of the Round Table are described here?

Love, brotherhood, justice, and self-sacrifice

3. What does the author say is the lasting effect of the Round Table?

It was so important, and the values were so connected to the Round Table, that whenever anyone shows love, brotherhood, justice, and self-sacrifice, they think of the knights of the Round Table.

4. What brought about the end of the Round Table?

a war between King Arthur and Sir Lancelot

5. How were the character traits displayed by Gawaine and his brothers different from the traits generally displayed by other knights?

Gawaine and his relatives were ambitious, jealous, and not concerned with justice. Other knights of the Round Table were not jealous of one another, and they always tried to be just, or fair.

6. **Are the actions that are described in these lines examples of values held by most knights? Why or why not?**

Answers may vary, but may include that they are not examples of values held by most knights, because they are not fair, or just; the knights are planning an attack on a fellow knight of the Round Table in a time when he will be outnumbered and unarmed.

7. **What is meant by the line an open declaration of war?**

It means that if they take that action, it is a clear sign that they want to have a war with King Arthur and the Round Table.

8. **Why does Sir Lancelot believe that King Arthur will have to punish him?**

Lancelot is responsible for killing thirteen knights in the palace; he knows that he has broken the code of chivalry.

Lesson 14: Chapter 21, “The Last Battle and the Death of Arthur”

1. **What do you think is meant by the last line in this chapter: Here lies Arthur, King that was and King that shall be?**

Answers may vary, but include that the character traits and values demonstrated by King Arthur would be traits that would live forever in others who had good character and good values.

Unit quiz key

1. a 2. a 3. d 4. d 5. b 6. b 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. b 11. b 12. d