

**Level 5-5**  
**King Arthur and**  
**the Black Knight**

**Workbook**

**Teacher's Guide and Answer Key**

# Teacher's Guide

## A. Summary

### 1. Book Summary

Long ago, King Arthur ruled over Britain. He was helped by a wizard named Merlin and the Knights of the Round Table. One day, Arthur and his men saw a knight who had been wounded by another knight they called the Black Knight. Arthur decided to go and fight the Black Knight himself. On the way there, Merlin joined him. At the castle of the Black Knight, Arthur and the Black Knight fought. The Black Knight nearly killed Arthur, but Merlin saved him.

Arthur wanted to fight the Black Knight again, but he had broken his sword. Merlin told him about a magic sword called Excalibur that was held by a woman's arm in the middle of a lake. Arthur and Merlin went to the lake and got the sword. Arthur then went back to the castle of the Black Knight and defeated him with Excalibur. Arthur let the Black Knight live after he agreed to let his two sons become Knights of the Round Table. That way, the Black Knight would never fight against the king.

On the way home, Merlin told Arthur that the sheath of Excalibur had even more power than the sword. Arthur said that with Excalibur and its sheath he would become a great king. Merlin told him that he would become a great king not because of Excalibur but because of his heart.

### 2. Chapter Summary

#### ► Chapter 1

Long ago, a great king named Arthur ruled over Britain. He was helped by a wizard named Merlin and the bravest knights in the land. They were the Knights of the Round Table. One day, Arthur and his knights were resting in a forest when a wounded knight appeared. The knight's clothes were covered with blood.

#### ► Chapter 2

The wounded knight's servant told Arthur what had happened. The knight was Sir Myles, and he had defeated six knights in the past two weeks. That day, Sir Myles and his servant came to a castle where they met three young girls. They told the girls that they were looking for adventure. The girls told them about a road that led to a stone bridge over a river where

they would find adventure. Following the road, the men came to a castle with an apple tree that had many shields hanging from it. There was another apple tree with a black shield and a hammer. A sign said that whoever struck that shield would be in danger. Sir Myles struck the shield, and a knight in black armor appeared. They fought, and Sir Myles was defeated. The Black Knight hung Sir Myles's shield on the apple tree and did not help him with his wounds.

### ► Chapter 3

Arthur was angry that this should happen in his kingdom. Griflet, a servant of one knight, asked Arthur to make him a knight so he could go and fight the Black Knight. Arthur thought he was too young, but he changed his mind when he saw that the young man was determined to fight. The young knight rode off to find the Black Knight. When he returned, he was wounded, too. An angry Arthur decided to fight the Black Knight himself. The next morning, he dressed in his armor and rode off on his white horse.

### ► Chapter 4

Arthur rode through the forest and finally met the three girls. They told him how to find the Black Knight. Along the way to the Black Knight's castle, Arthur saw three filthy men chasing an old man with a long white beard. The old man was Merlin. Arthur chased the three men away. Merlin told Arthur that he would help him in his adventure.

### ► Chapter 5

Arthur and Merlin came to the tree with the black shield, and Arthur struck it. The Black Knight came out and said that he would defeat Arthur and hang his shield on the tree. The two knights charged each other on their horses and both broke their spears. It happened again when they did it a second time. However, both men remained on their horses. The third time, only Arthur's spear broke, and the Black Knight's spear cut the king's side. Arthur's horse fell, but the king landed on his feet. He pulled the Black Knight from his horse, and they fought with swords. Arthur broke his sword, and the Black Knight cut him with his sword. Arthur fell to his knees.

### ► Chapter 6

Both knights were hurt. Arthur got back on his feet and continued to fight. At last, the Black Knight pushed Arthur down and was ready to kill him with a knife. Suddenly, Merlin appeared and struck down the Black Knight with his staff. After a long rest, Arthur was ready to go and fight the Black Knight again, but he had no sword. Merlin knew of a magic sword

that was held by a woman's arm in the middle of a lake. The two men rode to the lake to get the sword known as Excalibur.

### ► Chapter 7

At the lake, Arthur met a woman named Nymue who was the keeper of the lake. She told Arthur that only a man without fear in his heart could take the sword. She showed him a brass boat that would take him to the middle of the lake. Arthur took the sword easily from the lake. Now, he was ready to fight the Black Knight.

### ► Chapter 8

In the second battle, the two knights again broke their spears and had to fight on foot with swords. With Excalibur, Arthur easily defeated the Black Knight. He agreed to let the Black Knight live only if the Black Knight let his two sons be Knights of the Round Table. That way, the Black Knight would not fight the king in the future. The Black Knight agreed. As they rode away, Merlin told Arthur that the sheath of Excalibur had even stronger magic than the sword itself. Arthur said that with Excalibur and its sheath he would be a great king. Merlin replied that the sword would not make him a great king; only his heart would make him one.

## **B. Background and Themes**

★ **Honor:** The knights did not actually hate each other, but they fought for honor. That was why Arthur became angry that the Black Knight did not help the wounded Sir Myles.

★ **Courage:** Young Griflet and King Arthur went to fight the Black Knight even though they knew that many other knights had already been defeated by him.

★ **Wisdom:** Merlin knew that having Excalibur and its magic sheath would not make Arthur a great king. Only his pure heart would do that.

# Answer Key

## Part A Story Focus

### Before You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

#### ► Introduction

1. It is a legend.
2. Howard Pyle wrote such stories.
3. He was king of England.

#### ► Characters

1. King Arthur: brave, good, kind
2. The Black Knight: strong, fearless, mean
3. Merlin: magical, wise, funny

## **While You Read**

*(Answer may vary.)*

### **► Chapter 1**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. They are soldiers.
2. He is hurt.
3. I think it is his brother.

#### **B. Review Questions**

1. King Arthur ruled Britain long ago.
2. A wizard named Merlin and the Knights of the Round Table helped him.
3. They saw a wounded knight.

### **► Chapter 2**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. He is Sir Myles.
2. He is hitting something on the apple tree.
3. I think a monster lives there.

#### **B. Review Questions**

1. Three young girls told him about the place.
2. A knight dressed in black armor appeared.
3. He left him lying on the ground and did not help him.

### **► Chapter 3**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. He is King Arthur.
2. He is going to make the young man a knight.
3. I think he will go to fight the Black Knight.

#### **B. Review Questions**

1. He was angry because of what happened to Sir Myles.
2. A young servant named Griflet wanted to fight him.
3. He decided to find the Black Knight and defeat him.

**► Chapter 4**

**A. Preview Questions**

1. She is one of the girls that Sir Myles met.
2. She is telling him how to get to the castle of the Black Knight.
3. The armor protects the horse when Arthur fights on it.

**B. Review Questions**

1. He told her he was looking for adventure.
2. She invited him to eat with them.
3. He met Merlin.

**► Chapter 5**

**A. Preview Questions**

1. They are going to fight.
2. I think King Arthur is the better knight.
3. I think they are waiting for someone to die, so they will have food.

**B. Review Questions**

1. They used spears.
2. Only Arthur's spear broke.
3. The Black Knight was winning.

**► Chapter 6**

**A. Preview Questions**

1. He is going to kill Arthur with the knife.
2. He is going to hit the Black Knight with his staff.
3. I think he will fall to the ground.

**B. Review Questions**

1. Both of the knights were hurt.
2. He hit the Black Knight with it.
3. He fell to the ground and could not move.

**► Chapter 7**

**A. Preview Questions**

1. I think it has magic power.
2. He is going to ride the boat to get the sword.

3. I think Arthur will take it.

### **B. Review Questions**

1. She was Nymue, the Keeper of the Lake.
2. Only a man without fear in his heart could take the sword.
3. He and Merlin rode back to the Black Knight's castle.

## **► Chapter 8**

### **A. Preview Questions**

1. The two knights have just fought a battle.
2. It is Excalibur.
3. I think he will let the Black Knight go free.

### **B. Review Questions**

1. King Arthur did.
2. He agreed to let his sons become Knights of the Round Table.
3. He told Arthur that the sheath had more power than Excalibur itself.

### **Mini Quiz**

- a. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.  
→ If you eat an apple every day, you will be healthier.
- b. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.  
→ When you are away from someone for a long time, you develop a stronger affection for the person.
- c. Fortune favors the brave.  
→ If we are brave in our effort to do something, then we are more likely to succeed.



## After you read

*(Answers may vary.)*

### ► Pattern Practice

4. A: What material is your bag made of?

B: It's made of plastic.

5. A: What are his shoes made of?

B: They are made of leather.

### ► Challenge

1. Sir Myles is hurt.

2. The servant is riding on the horse behind Sir Myles.

3. King Arthur is surprised to see the injured knight.

4. One knight is turning to look at Sir Myles with a look of shock on his face.

## Part B Skill Focus

### Vocabulary Preview

#### A.

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. a  |
| 3. j | 4. c  |
| 5. h | 6. e  |
| 7. i | 8. g  |
| 9. b | 10. d |

#### B.

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. hurt  | 2. drop     |
| 3. spear | 4. filthy   |
| 5. beard | 6. servants |
| 7. blood | 8. defeat   |

## Reading Comprehension

### ► Beginning: Chapters 1–3

#### A.

1. T   2. T   3. F   4. F   5. T

#### B.

1. He is Sir Myles.
2. He is a knight.
3. He is in danger.
4. The Black Knight did not offer to help him.

#### C.

1. a   2. a   3. c   4. d   5. b   6. c

### ► Middle: Chapters 4–5

#### A.

1. T   2. F   3. F   4. T   5. F

#### B.

1. A Girl
2. Merlin
3. King Arthur
4. The Black Knight

#### C.

1. c   2. d   3. d   4. b   5. b   6. a

### ► End: Chapters 6–8

#### A.

1. F   2. F   3. F   4. T   5. T

#### B.

d → c → b → a

#### C.

1. a   2. b   3. a   4. d   5. c   6. d

## Think and Write

Main Idea: Battles between two knights

Event 1: First battle

Detail 1: Arthur's sword breaks.

Detail 2: Arthur is losing.

Detail 3: Merlin saves Arthur.

Event 2: Second battle

Detail 1: Arthur wins with Excalibur.

Detail 2: There is no blood on Arthur.

Detail 3: Arthur lets the Black Knight live.

Extra: Merlin kills the black knight.

## Vocabulary Review

1. country    2. appeared    3. servant    4. battled    5. hung  
6. filled    7. adventure    8. saved    9. struck    10. shining

## Summary

A.

2	1
4	3

B.

*(Answers may vary.)*

1. Arthur looked at the man with the long white beard.
2. The spears of both knights (were) shattered!
3. Suddenly, Merlin appeared on the lawn.
4. The sword was shining in the sunlight.

## Book Report

**Story** 1. decided    2. adventure    3. sword    4. staff    5. famous