

*"A little while after his birth at dark Tintagel, Uther, who hearkened to my words, gave the child into my care, and I bore him to Avalon, the Land of Mystery."*

## Reading Notes

<b>Camelot</b>	capital of Arthur's kingdom; modern-day Winchester, England
<b>Uther Pendragon</b>	king of Briton; father of Arthur
<b>Igrayne</b>	mother of Arthur; unfaithful wife of Gorlois
<b>Avalon</b>	Land of Mystery; place where Merlin took Arthur as an infant
<b>Excalibur</b>	Arthur's sword with magical scabbard
<b>Logres (Lów-gris)</b>	the name given to the land over which Arthur ruled
<b>King Pellinore</b>	killed knights for traveling on a road; nearly killed Arthur, and then began to chase the "Questing Beast"
<b>Britons</b>	a Celtic people inhabiting Britain before the time of the Roman invasion
<b>Saxons</b>	Germanic tribe that invaded Britain in the 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> centuries

## Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each **bold** word or phrase.

1. set a rich **pavilion** over it \_\_\_\_\_ ornate tent
2. bowing his head in **reverence** \_\_\_\_\_ awe; respect
3. did **homage** to Arthur \_\_\_\_\_ a ceremony by which a man acknowledged himself the vassal of a lord; special honor

## Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Describe the state of Britain just before King Arthur claims the throne. \_\_\_\_\_ Britain had never been in a worse condition. Knights were fighting among themselves, and the Saxons were conquering much of the land.
2. Where does Merlin take the baby Arthur, and what gifts does he receive there? \_\_\_\_\_ Merlin takes him to Avalon. The fairies promise that Arthur will be the best knight, the greatest king in Britain, and that he will live a long time.
3. What is Arthur's first goal as king? \_\_\_\_\_ He plans to drive the Saxons out of Britain.
4. What is King Pellinore doing that causes a problem? \_\_\_\_\_ He sets up a pavilion by the road and kills any knight that passes.

5. How does Arthur come to possess Excalibur? Merlin takes Arthur to a lake. Arthur gets into a boat and takes the sword from a hand stretching out of the water.
6. Why is Arthur's scabbard worth more than his sword? While he wears the scabbard, Arthur will not die of blood loss.

## Discussion Questions

1. Who said the quotation? Merlin To whom? angry kings and knights
2. Look at the picture on the page preceding Chapter 1 in your book. Who is in the picture? What castle is in the background? What is happening?
3. If you had to divide this chapter into two different parts, where would you divide it, and why?

## Enrichment

1. Scholars debate the historicity of King Arthur. It is not implausible that a warlord led a successful uprising against barbarian settlers around 500 A.D. Perhaps that man was Arthur. There is no evidence that disproves such a thesis. Think of what evidence would convince you that the legends of Arthur are true or false. Write a paragraph explaining what such evidence would look like.
2. Write a summary of Arthur and Merlin's relationship. Why is it significant?