

THE SWORD OF THE LAKE

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

Learning Outcomes

- To recognise the story as a part of a larger text.
- To recognise the story as a legendary tale
- To note that the king was the chosen one
- To identify the character traits of the protagonist



Pre-reading

This focusses on *assessment for learning* because it prepares students for the things a medieval king is in possession of.

Generate a discussion on the role of a king in the olden days/medieval times.

[A king's most important role was to maintain order and keep the peace in his kingdom.

He had to, leading from the front, fight foreign invaders and keep the nobles in his court from fighting each other.]

Let students do the matching exercise and answer the question.

Ask students what each of the objects is used for, by a king.

READING

Students read to comprehend, predict and analyse

You can help develop prediction skills while reading the story of the Excalibur. As students make predictions, they will link the new information to prior knowledge and analyse where they had missed or how accurate they were in their predictions.

This strategy will stimulate students' interest and help them stay focussed.

Draw a table on the board like the one given. (You may add more depending on the ability of your class.) Let students copy in their

notebooks. Alternatively, you may have this done as pair-work and handout copies of the table to each pair. Let students deliberate on the predictions together and write their responses. Read each of the statements and ask the students if they agree or disagree with it. Allow time for discussion. Let them state their rationale for the disagreement. Let students compare after reading the target text.

The emphasis is not on right answers but to develop communication and prediction skills.

Statements	Agree	Disagree (Why?)	Was I right (✓) or wrong (X)
1. The lady in the picture is King Arthur's daughter			
2. The lake was dangerous			
3. King Arthur did not want to be polite, instead he ordered her.			
4. King Arthur had to fulfil some conditions before taking the sword from the arm.			
5. Sir Bedivere kept the sword and fought many battles with it.			

Play the audio / Read the text and pause at relevant points to explain / check comprehension.

1. Begin by asking students to study the first image and respond to Statement 1 in the table. Help them with relevant questions if required, to lead them towards their answers. (Example: *Who do you think is the lady? What could she be saying? Could it be about a sword?*)

- *King Arthur ...can get it.*

Ask students:

Do you think a king needs a sword? Why? (It is a part of his armour. He would be defenceless if he did not have one.) What did Merlin say to the king? Do you think Arthur should listen to him?

2. Let students fill in their second response.

(**Note:** Merlin was a magician who was a trusted friend and advisor of King Arthur)

- *So, they...give you the sword.*

3. Let students fill in the third response.

Ask students:

How did Merlin know about the Lady of the Lake? Allow free response and let students hypothesise. Under what condition would Arthur get the sword?

Is Merlin a good advisor to King Arthur? (Suggested answer, please accept any logical response) Yes, Merlin was a good advisor to King Arthur. When Arthur needed a sword, Merlin helped him. He took Arthur to a large lake and told him how to get the beautiful sword held by the arm in the middle of the lake.)

- *The maiden came...maiden had vanished.*
4. Stop after *'that sword is mine. It is called Excalibur.'* Let students respond to the fourth statement.

Continue with the reading and explanation.

Ask students:

What did the maiden tell Arthur? Why did she readily offer to give him the sword? Was the arm following the maiden's orders? Why do you think so? (Yes; because the maiden said the Excalibur belonged to her.) Do you think the lady has magical powers? (Yes) What tells us that she does? (She was able to control a sword which was in the middle of a lake; she vanished into thin air...)

- *King Arthur always...will live forever.*

Stop after "throw it back into the lake." Let students fill in the final response.

Continue reading the text.

Talk to the class

- about Sir Bedivere's intentions.
- How Arthur knew that he was lying.
- what made the knight do the king's bidding.
- Arthur's disappearance from the world.

Ask students:

Why do you think Sir Bedivere wanted to keep the sword? What made him obey the king? (The king went into a rage and commanded him) How did the king know that Sir Bedivere had thrown the sword into the lake? Sir Bedivere was King Arthur's most trusted knight— do you think he was being true to the king?

How do you say these words in your home language?

- king
- sword

Post-reading

Let students identify the character traits of King Arthur based on the text.

Let them identify the words that describe Arthur as:

- **Sensible:** A king should have a sword
- **Polite:** *Sweet maiden...*



- **Brave:** *King Arthur always carried ...faithfully*

- **A good leader:** *at the end of a long and glorious reign; the memory of his great and noble deeds will live forever.*

GRAMMAR

Difference between plural and possessive

Recap plurals with the class.

Proceed to possessives.

Explain

- what an apostrophe is by drawing it on the board.
- that an apostrophe is used with a noun to show that something belongs to that noun.

Example: *The boy's books; Janet's bicycle; My pet squirrel's home.*

Now let students point out the difference in the 's' with plurals and the possessive 's'.

Brainstorm for a few example sentences that point out the difference.

Let a few students come to the front and show any one possession of theirs like a book, pencil case, bag etc.

Conduct a choral drill in class.

Arun's bag; Gita's pencil; Sonu's water-bottle...

VOCABULARY

Collocations

Explain to the class

- that a collocation is a set of two or more words that often go together.
- that these combinations sound right and people use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations may be unnatural and not sound right.

Example:

Correct	Incorrect
<i>A quick meal</i>	<i>A fast meal</i>
<i>A quick shower</i>	<i>A fast shower</i>
<i>A tall man</i>	<i>A high man</i>

WRITING

Extending a paragraph

This focusses on *assessment as learning* as it helps students work on a few more details to an existing text. The hints and support words nudge students into the writing task with ease.

Explain to the class that

- when we write about ourselves, we use pronouns like, *I, we, us, our* and so on.



- the story teller is mostly the main person in the narrative.
- such narratives help build a rapport (connect) with readers as we share our personal experiences and feelings directly with them and help readers understand us.

Tell students that while writing the paragraph,

- to be descriptive.
- to make their character interesting by using words that will describe them and their feelings well.



SPEAKING

Interpreting a sequence of pictures

This focusses on *assessment as learning*. Students learn to analyse and interpret images and relate stories. They learn to sequence events and convey the right ideas using linkers while they tell the stories.

Let students

- study the images given in the Reader.
- use the right expressions, describing words and verbs.
- provide names for the characters if they wish to.
- look for any message conveyed in each of the stories.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

The Sword of the Lake

Pre-reading

A. 1. throne 2. crown 3. sword 4. shield

B. *Free response.*

Comprehension

- A.
1. Arthur went to a large and magical lake to get the sword.
 2. Merlin told Arthur that he could get the magical sword which was held by an arm dressed in rich silk which rose out of the waters from the middle of the lake. He told the King that he would need to talk to the Lady of the Lake politely and gently in order to get the sword from her.
 3. The Lady of the Lake told Arthur to use a barge that stood on the shore and row it to the middle of the lake on his own. She told him that he could then take her sword and the scabbard.
 4. King Arthur asked Sir Bedivere to return the sword to the lake because he knew that his long and glorious reign was coming to an end and that he was dying.
 5. Arthur asked Sir Bedivere to help him to the waterside because it was time for Arthur to leave the world. In the lake, there were three ladies in a barge waiting for Arthur. The barge took Arthur away and he was never seen again.

- B.**
1.
 - a. Merlin was talking to King Arthur. They were on the banks of the magical lake.
 - b. They had just seen an arm dressed in rich silk rise out of the water of the lake. The arm was holding a beautiful, gleaming sword.
 2.
 - a. Arthur said this to the Lady of the Lake.
 - b. The Lady said that the sword was hers and it was called Excalibur. She also told him that he could have the sword if he rowed the barge to the middle of the lake and took the sword and the scabbard from the arm.
 3.
 - a. Arthur said this to Sir Bedivere.
 - b. 'It' refers to Excalibur. It was to be thrown into the magical lake.
 - c. King Arthur was angry because Sir Bedivere had lied to him about throwing the sword into the lake. He knew that Sir Bedivere was not following his orders and this made him very angry and impatient.
- C.**
1. Suggested answer (accept any logical response): Sir Bedivere knew that the sword was noble and powerful. He knew Arthur had never been wounded when the sword was with him. So, Sir Bedivere found it difficult to throw such an important and powerful sword into a lake.
 2. Suggested answer (accept any logical response): Arthur did forgive Sir Bedivere. *'He also knew that it was time for him to leave the world. He asked Sir Bedivere to help him to the waterside.'*

Grammar

- A.**
1. Basha has a bag full of books.
 2. Dimple keeps her pencils in two different boxes.
 3. Rohan loves mangoes.
 4. Samar has been to many countries.
 5. Abha is collecting leaves for her project.
 6. There are a few giraffes in the zoo.
- B.**
1.
 - a. Rahil loves her two brothers.
 - b. Ashok is wearing his brother's shirt.
 2.
 - a. There are many parrots in our garden.
 - b. There is an egg in the parrot's nest.
 3.
 - a. Ms Kalra's daughters study in different schools.
 - b. She went to her youngest daughter's school today.
 4.
 - a. Srimon's eyes are dark.
 - b. Jyotsana has blue eyes.
 5.
 - a. This is my sister's school bag.
 - b. Manjit has two sisters.
 6.
 - a. Derek has bought some new kittens.
 - b. This kitten's fur is very soft.

Vocabulary

1. Jaya and Tenzin are planning a surprise party for Charu. They have to keep it a secret from her.

2. Supriya likes all the books in the store. She will have to make a decision and buy only two.
3. Sayan left the library early. He wanted to get home soon.
4. I will not be playing in this match. My job is to keep score.
5. Did you get a haircut?
6. Suhana did so well in her project. It is clear that she made an effort.
7. Hansel and Gretel got lost in the forest.

Listening

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. T

Writing

Free response

Punctuation

1. Jimmy hasn't eaten anything.
2. We'll go to the library tomorrow.
3. I'll call you when I reach home.
4. Walk slowly, don't run.
5. I'm going to Jaipur this evening.
6. Raghu isn't feeling well.

ANSWER KEY TO WORKSHEET 9

- A.** 1. dishes 2. lunches 3. lights 4. lamps 5. goats
 6. peaches 7. leaves 8. boats 9. bridges 10. nurses
- B.** 1. Amy is wearing her sister's sweater.
 2. Dilip forgot to bring his books.
 3. Latika is missing her sisters.
 4. Abhishek is playing with Imran's basketball.
 5. Darsheel loves his toys.
 6. The lion's roar was scary.
- C.** 1. Get 2. made 3. keep 4. keeps 5. got 6. made
- D.** *Free response*

QUESTION BANK

The Sword of the Lake

A. Answer in brief.

1. What did King Arthur and Merlin see when they rode to the lake?

Ans: When King Arthur and Merlin rode to the lake, they saw an arm dressed in rich silk rise out of water in the middle of the lake. In the hand was a beautiful gleaming sword.

2. What did Sir Bedivere do at first, when Arthur asked him to throw the sword into the lake?

Ans: When King Arthur asked Sir Bedivere to throw the Excalibur into the lake, he did not want to throw it away. He took it from Arthur and hid it.

B. Answer in detail.

Explain how Sir Bedivere was forced to throw the sword into the lake.

Ans: When Sir Bedivere came to King Arthur and said that he had thrown the sword into the lake, Arthur asked him what he saw after he threw the Excalibur. Sir Bedivere replied that he saw nothing but the winds and the waves. King Arthur knew that Sir Bedivere was lying and commanded him in a fit of rage to do his bidding which he was forced to obey.

C. Choose the right answer.

When King Arthur reached the water side,

- an arm came out and took him away.
- he threw the sword into the lake.
- three ladies took the king away in a barge.

Ans: c

D. Match the following

1. Arthur	a. sword
2. Merlin	b. king
3. Excalibur	c. knight
4. Bedivere	d. wizard

Ans: 1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c