

# **“KING ARTHUR : CHAPTER ONE THE SWORD FROM THE STONE”**

## **SYNOPSIS**

**(English)**

### **Scene 1: The French Court**

Merlin introduces himself, speaking in French. He explains that he has come to tell the Lords and Ladies of the French court the story of how young Arthur became the new King of Britain.

### **Scene 2: Sir Ector's House**

Merlin arrives to see his old friend Sir Ector. He has a favour to ask. Merlin wants Sir Ector to look after a young boy and raise him with his own son Kay. Merlin tells Sir Ector nothing about the boy except that his name is Arthur.

### **Scene 3: A schoolroom ten years later**

Arthur and Kay are now ten years old. We find them in a lesson with their schoolteacher. Arthur is a keen and clever pupil but Kay is a bit slow and very bored with school. Kay wants to be a knight, not a schoolboy.

### **Scene 4: Sir Ector's house**

Young Arthur asks Sir Ector to tell him about his real parents. Sir Ector says he cannot tell him because he doesn't know. But Sir Ector accidentally tells Arthur that it was Merlin the wizard who brought Arthur to Ector's house.

### **Scene 5: The cathedral in London, seven years later.**

The Archbishop complains to Merlin that since the death of King Uther there has been too much fighting in the land. He says that Britain needs a new King. The Lords cannot agree who should be King. They all shout at each other. Merlin tells them to step outside.

### **Scene 6: the cathedral steps**

Outside the cathedral is a big stone with a sword in it. There is some writing around the base: “who shall pull the sword from the stone is the rightful King of England”. Everyone tries but no-one can pull the sword from the stone. The Archbishop says that there will be a grand tournament on New Year’s Day. The winner will get the chance to try to pull the sword from the stone.

### **Scene 7: The forest**

Merlin disguises himself as a poor old man and meets Arthur and Kay, who are practising their sword fighting in the forest. Merlin suggests that Kay goes to the tournament to try his luck.

### **Scene 8: The forest**

Arthur thinks the old man might be crazy, but Kay wants to go to the tournament so Arthur agrees.

### **Scene 9: a London Lodging House**

Mrs Grimley, the hotel owner, shows Arthur and Kay around their room. She is very proud of her hotel ... but remember we are in the middle ages.

### **Scene 10: London**

Arthur and Kay talk about how different London is from the countryside. Kay buys some of the latest fashionable shoes whilst Arthur wants to visit the new Tower of London.

### **Scene 11: The tournament**

Kay is getting ready when he realises he’s forgotten his sword. He sends Arthur to go and borrow one.

### **Scene 12: The cathedral steps**

Arthur is desperately looking for a sword when he sees the sword in the stone. Without stopping to read the words on the base, he pulls the sword from the stone and runs off.

### **Scene 13: The tournament**

Arthur presents the sword to Kay.

### **Scene 14: The tournament**

Kay steps up to fight Sir Annick. Sir Annick recognises the sword from the cathedral stone and thinks that Kay has pulled it out. Sir Annick thinks Kay is the rightful King. Kay panics and pretends that he did pull out the sword. Everyone rushes off to the cathedral.

### **Scene 15: the cathedral steps**

The crowd want proof that Kay pulled the sword from the stone. Sir Annick puts the sword back in. Kay tries hard but he cannot pull it out. Merlin steps out of the crowd and asks Kay who gave him the sword. Kay admits it was Arthur. Arthur draws the sword from the stone. Everyone agrees that Arthur is the new King but Arthur asks Merlin to explain how this can be.

### **Scene 16: FLASHBACK**

Merlin tells a story: King Uther had to fight many battles with the rebellious Dukes of his Kingdom. One night he called Merlin to his tent. King Uther told Merlin that he had fallen in love with the Lady Igraine, the beautiful wife of the Duke of Cornwall. Uther commanded Merlin to cast a spell to transform him into the exact double of the Duke so he could spend the night with Igraine. Merlin agreed, but on condition that if a child was born of this night that it would be given to Merlin.

### **Scene 17: FLASHBACK**

Uther, disguised as the Duke, rode to Igraine's castle. Igraine believed that Uther was her husband and they spent the night together. Uther rose at dawn and rode away on his horse. Just moments after he left, a messenger came to Igraine with the news that the Duke had been killed the night before in the battle.

### **Scene 18: the cathedral steps**

Arthur realises that he is the son of Uther and Igraine and so is the rightful King Of England. Arthur asks Merlin to make Kay a knight, and Merlin does. Merlin prophesies that Arthur will establish a court at Camelot and will sit at a round table with his many brave knights. The people celebrate their new King.