

# Lesson: Knights, Quests, and Character

## Introduction: Welcome to Camelot! (10 mins)

What makes a hero? What qualities define a great leader? The legends of King Arthur have captivated readers for centuries with tales of bravery, magic, loyalty, and betrayal. Today, we'll step into this world to meet its famous characters and explore the code they lived by.

**Discussion Starter:** What do you already know or find most interesting about King Arthur and his knights?

## Activity 1: Reading & Character Deep Dive (30-40 mins)

Read the selected excerpt(s) focusing on one or two major characters (e.g., Arthur pulling the sword, Merlin's guidance, Lancelot's arrival). As you read, jot down notes in your journal answering the following:

- Who is the main character in this section?
- What challenges do they face?
- What important decisions do they make?
- What do their actions, words, and thoughts tell you about their personality (brave, wise, flawed, loyal, etc.)? Note specific examples from the text.
- Who are the supporting characters and how do they interact with the main character?

**Example Focus:** If reading about Arthur pulling the sword, focus on his initial humility, his destiny, and how others react to him becoming king.

## Activity 2: Chivalry & Creative Response (20-30 mins)

The Knights of the Round Table followed a code of 'chivalry'. Based on your reading, what do you think this code included? (Think about honor, protecting the weak, loyalty, courage, courtesy).

**Choose ONE creative response:**

1. **Modern Code of Chivalry:** Write a short (5-7 points) 'Code of Conduct' for people today inspired by Arthurian chivalry. How would those ideals translate to modern life?
2. **Character Sketch:** Choose one character you read about. Draw a portrait of them OR write a detailed paragraph describing their appearance, personality, strengths, and weaknesses based on the text. Add a key quote if possible.
3. **Alternate Perspective:** Briefly rewrite a small part of the story from the perspective of a different character (e.g., Merlin watching Arthur, or Guinevere observing Lancelot).

## Wrap-up & Reflection (5-10 mins)

Share your creative response. Discuss:

- Which character did you find most interesting and why?
- How are the ideals from King Arthur's time (like chivalry or leadership) still relevant today, or how have they changed?
- What other stories or characters do these legends remind you of?

**Looking Ahead:** Consider reading another version of the legends or researching a specific knight or quest that interests you.