

Class VIII

English literature

A King's Tale

• Summary of the story:

The story is about the legendary King Arthur of England. During the rule of his father King Uther Pendragon, the English people were very happy but unfortunately soon after the birth of Arthur, the king and queen died. The enemies of the king were finding an opportunity to seize the throne. Two wise counsellors of king Uther named Merlin and Ulfius met Sir Ector and handed him the child. They ordered him to bring him up as his own child. There was no law and order in the country. Eighteen years had passed. One day a sword was found fixed on a large stone in a churchyard. It was inscribed that the person who could pull the sword was the rightful king of England. Everyone tried but failed. Arthur was successful and became the king. When Arthur lost the sword in a battle, Merlin took him to a valley where Arthur found a magnificent sword rising from a lake called 'Excalibur'. Arthur, being honest and a fearless king possessed it. People lived in peace. When the king grew old he returned the gifted sword to the lake and instructed his subjects to put him on a barge. He sailed away in a barge and with heavy hearts his subjects bade him goodbye.

Word Chart

Word	Synonym	Antonym
Tending	Looking after	Neglecting
Heir	Successor	Predecessor
Counsellors	Advisers	-
Seize	To grab or capture	Release
Barons	Lords, nobleman	-
Knight	A warrior, specially of the Middle Ages	-
Rivalry	Relationship between two opponents	Harmony
Inscribed	Carved on wood or stone	-
Jostled	Moved by pushing	-
Enchanted	Charmed	-
Hazardous	Dangerous	Safe
Perished	Died	Revived
barge	A richly decorated boat or state vessel	-

• **Important Questions and Answers:**

1. How was the life of people during Uther Pendragon's rule?

Ans: The people of Britain lived a peaceful and happy life, tending their flocks and tilling their fields.

2. Why did Merlin and Sir Ulfius entrust Sir Ector with the royal baby?

Ans: Sir Ector was a loyal subject and a true knight. Hence Merlin and Sir Ulfius entrusted Sir Ector with the royal baby to be brought up safely as his own son.

3. Why was Britain in the grip of lawlessness?

Ans: When the King Uther Pendragon died, trouble broke out in Britain. Barons fought among themselves to capture the throne. Travellers were robbed and peasants were unhappy.

4. How did Arthur get the Excalibur?

Ans: When King Arthur lost his royal sword, Merlin took him to a lake in a valley of flowers. A beautiful arm with golden bracelets rose from the water and handed him a magnificent and enchanted sword named 'Excalibur'.

5. What did Arthur do when he became the king of England?

Ans: King Arthur brought back peace and prosperity. He was gentle and just to his subjects.

Home work

• **Answer the following questions:** (to be done in your classwork copy)

1. Who were King Arthur's parents?
2. Who was Merlin and Sir Ulfius?
3. Where was the sword found?
4. What was inscribed on the stone?
5. What did the knights promise?
6. Describe the pavilion.
7. What type of text is 'A King's Tale'?

Note:

- ❖ Drop your queries regarding the chapter in comment box, if any.
- ❖ Mention your NAME, CLASS, SEC, ROLL NO.
- ❖ Provide your CONTACT NO. (we shall directly contact you if required)

