

The Sword in the Stone Quiz

Directions: Read the play *The Sword in the Stone* in the April/May 2015 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What effect does Uther Pendragon’s death have on England?

- (A) Merlin uses his magic to keep the country calm while they wait for Uther’s heir to appear.
- (B) Fighting breaks out over who will be the next king. The Saxons continue to invade.
- (C) The noblemen begin a quest for the true king.
- (D) There are more jousting tournaments than ever before.

2. What does *destiny* mean in the sentence “He does not yet know his destiny”?

- (A) luck
- (B) surprise
- (C) fate
- (D) failure

3. Which of the following best describes Merlin’s character?

- (A) loyal
- (B) energetic
- (C) weak
- (D) frightening

4. Which line from the play supports the answer to question 3?

- (A) “I’m afraid even I cannot keep death away, my lady.”
- (B) “I was quite safe. I find that I am treated with a certain . . . respect.”
- (C) “Listen carefully. You must arrange a tournament . . .”
- (D) “. . . for your own protection, I took you from the castle when you were a baby.”

5. Why does Arthur first pull the sword from the stone?

- (A) He wants to be the king.
- (B) He knows it will impress Merlin.
- (C) He needs to find a sword for Kay to use in the jousting tournament.
- (D) He thinks it’s the most beautiful sword he has ever seen.

6. When Arthur first finds out he is the new king, you can infer that he feels ____.

- (A) cocky
- (B) nervous
- (C) excited
- (D) confused

7. Which line from the story supports the answer to question 6?

- (A) “Being king takes more than skill on a horse.”
- (B) “I only meant to borrow it.”
- (C) “Father? Kay? Why are you kneeling?”
- (D) “We will turn this country into a heaven on Earth!”

8. Which of the following best describes the mood at the end of this play?

- (A) dark
- (B) hopeful
- (C) creepy
- (D) comical

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the play.

9. Why does Merlin set up the sword in the stone to reveal the new king, rather than simply telling the people who it is?

10. What character traits does Arthur have that will make him a good king?