

STEPPING STONES™

a chapter book

CLASSIC

# Knights of the Round Table



adapted by  
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## The Sword in the Stone

It was a cold, windy night. The moon shone on a huge stone castle built high on a hill. It was the castle of King Uther of England.

All at once a strange shining mist began to move and swirl near the castle gate. Then the mist was gone. In its place stood an old man. He wore a dark robe and a tall pointed hat. He had a long white beard. And strange silvery eyes.

The old man looked toward the castle. The gate opened and two women came out. One carried a tiny baby wrapped in a golden cloth.

The old man held out his arms. Without a word, the woman gave him the baby. The shining mist came again. When it cleared, the old man and the baby had vanished.

Where had they gone?

Deep in a forest many miles away stood a smaller castle. It belonged to a knight called Sir Ector. He was known for his goodness and honesty.

Sir Ector was climbing the stone steps to his room. But a golden mist surrounded him. And then a strange old man was there. He had a baby in his arms.

"Merlin!" Ector cried. Ector knew the old man well. He was Merlin. The master of magic. The most powerful wizard in the world. Ector feared Merlin. But he trusted him too. Merlin used his powers for good.

"Why do you come here?" Ector asked.

Merlin held out the baby. "I bring you this child. I ask you to raise him as your own son. I cannot tell you why. Name him Arthur. And tell no one how he came to you."

Gently Ector took the baby. "I will do all that you ask," he said.

In an instant Merlin had disappeared. But Ector could still hear him whisper, "*Tell no one.*"

Ector looked down at the baby. "All will be well, Arthur. I will love you just as I love my own son, Kay," he told him. Then he frowned. "But who are you? What is your secret?"

Sixteen years passed. Arthur became a strong, handsome boy. He was studying to be a knight like his older brother, Sir Kay.

Long ago, mythic England was a kingdom of wizards and witches, fire-breathing dragons and dreadful giants. Who could rule this magical land? Who could overcome the powers of evil? It was the destiny of King Arthur and his noble knights to protect and serve the people of Camelot. Whether celebrating at the legendary Round Table or traveling far and wide to help the poor and the weak—danger, tests of honor, and adventure lay in wait for these fearless heroes!



"The reading level and large print puts these time-honored adventures within reach of children. . . . The simple vocabulary retains the spirit of the courtly heroics and the colorful pomp of the medieval circumstances."

—*School Library Journal*