

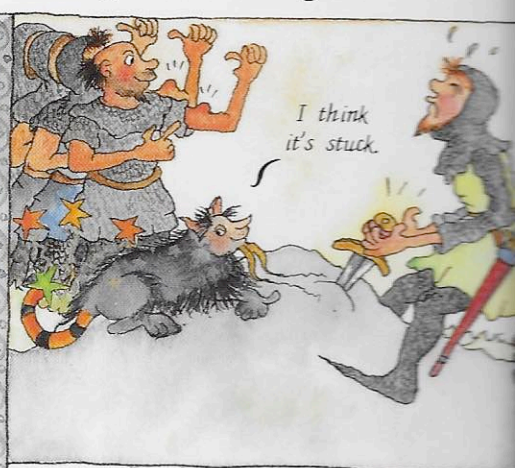
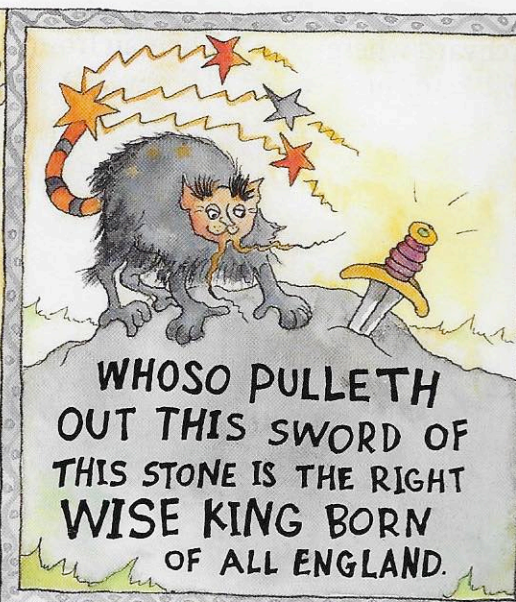
# KING ARTHUR



Long ago, when forests were still enchanted, a warrior King named Uther Pendragon ruled Britain. When Uther died many imposters, including his stepdaughter Morgan le Fay, tried to claim his throne. So Merlin the Magician decided to use his powers to ensure that Uther's true heir gained the Kingdom.



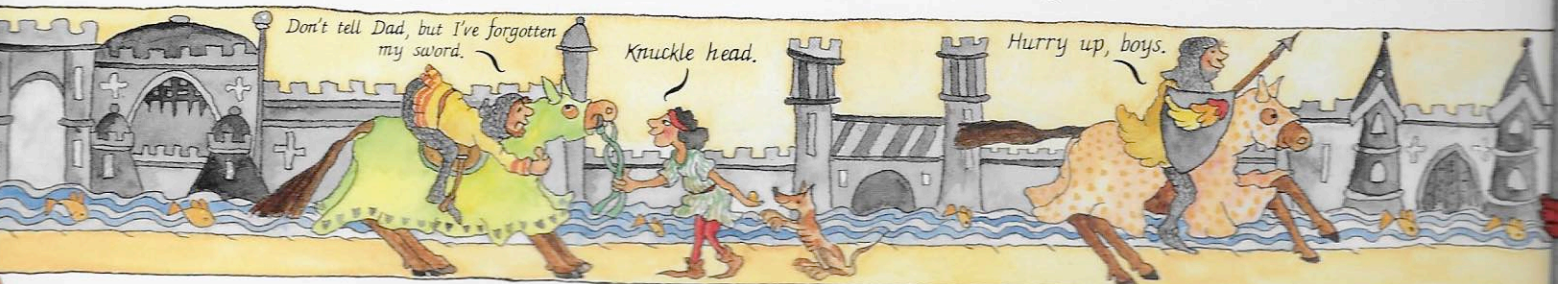
During the Christmas service, Merlin magicked a great stone with a sword set in it.



After the service all the knights and nobles tried to remove the sword, but none succeeded.



As there were many fine knights who had not attended the service, messengers were sent to summon them.



A tournament was arranged so these knights could try to draw the sword. One such knight was Sir Ector, who came with his sons, Sir Kay and Arthur. It was Sir Kay's first tournament and in his excitement he had forgotten his sword. Arthur offered to return to their lodgings and fetch it, but he found the house locked.



Not yet! Wait for the crowds!

Fancy sticking a sword in a stone.

Remembering he'd seen a sword in a churchyard, Arthur decided to borrow it. Without reading the words on the stone, he withdrew the sword easily.



No chance.

Have you been telling porky pies?

Surprised, Sir Ector went to the churchyard where Arthur replaced the sword. Neither Sir Ector nor Sir Kay could pull it out again.



But you're my dad.

No, son.

Time to reappear.

Then Sir Ector told Arthur that he was really King Uther's son, brought to him sixteen years ago by Merlin to nurture and keep safe.



Look, Dad, I'm King!

In that case Britain's in trouble.

Sir Kay, knowing the significance of the sword, told his father that he had withdrawn it himself, and so must be the rightful King.



That's my boy!

But he's just a beardless youth.

Our King.

Arthur for King!

Then, in front of a gathering crowd, Arthur tried. The sword slid smoothly from the stone. The awestruck onlookers fell to their knees.



Arthur for King!

A knight's OK, but a king!

Don't worry, I'll be there to help.

Although Arthur was only sixteen years old, everyone cheered for him to be King. So in preparation, he was first dubbed a knight.



I will be Queen.

CORONATION DAY

Then the following week a grand coronation took place and all who stood for justice paid homage to Arthur Pendragon, their rightful King.