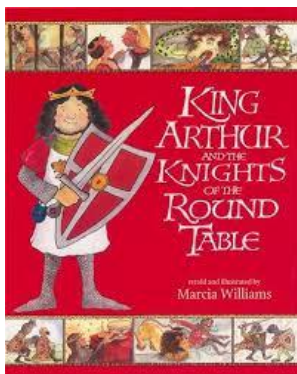


Arthurian Legends

Legends usually tell of heroes and brave deeds and are often based on characters who may really have existed around whom myths and stories have been woven. One of the most enduring of these is King Arthur. Thought to have been a leader of the Britons against the Saxons, early stories about him appear in Geoffrey of Monmouth's 1136 Celtic 'history' of Britain. Further stories about him, the Knights of the Round Table, the search for the Holy Grail, and the sorcerer Merlin were added from a variety of sources, particularly French and Welsh (The Mabinogion). The stories were gathered together by Sir Thomas Malory in *Le Morte d'Arthur* (1485) and have been told in myriad ways since.

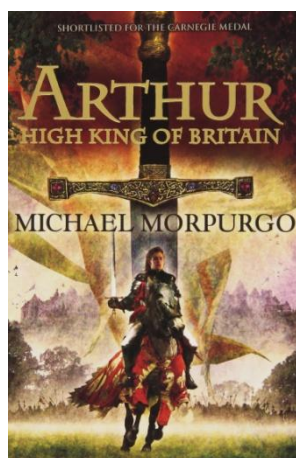
The legends surrounding King Arthur continue to seize the imaginations of writers and filmmakers.



King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table by
Marcia Williams
Walker 9781406318661

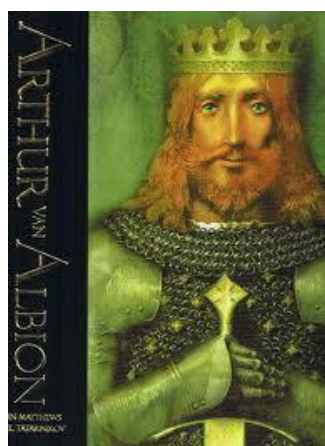
The legends are here played out in comic strip format in Marcia Williams' signature style. While the captions tell the stories in dramatic yet economical language ('the king bemoaned the loss of the sword he had drawn from the stone'), the characters often make humorous asides within the pictures ('Magic me another, Merlin'). Stories include Lancelot and Elaine, Galahad and the search for the Holy Grail.





Arthur High King of Britain by Michael Morpurgo,
illustrated by Michael Foreman
Egmont 9781405239615

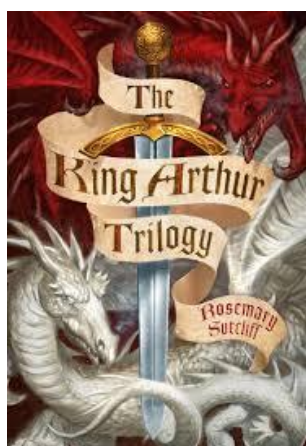
In this retelling from ‘another place, another time’ Michael Morpurgo retains the magic of the epic story with its chivalry, romance and battles, and betrayals. Alongside these, it shows the sadness and vulnerability of Arthur’s own heart. The tales are told simply, in accessible language, and Michael Foreman’s illustrations have a mystical, ethereal quality.



Arthur of Albion by John Matthews, illustrated by Pavel Tatarnikov
Barefoot 9781846864704

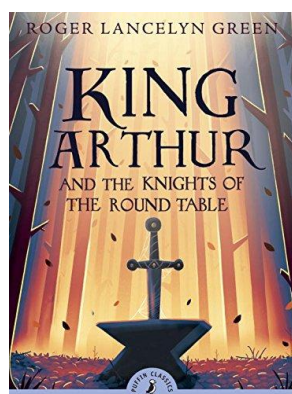
The emphasis in this attractive volume, which includes lesser known stories in addition to the more familiar, such as ‘Sir Gawain and the Green Knight’, is on action rather than romance, on ‘the thronging people, the mighty battle horses, the fluttering banners, and above all the knights, who rode in and out of the gates on errands of adventure.’ The paintings are reminiscent of those in a Book of Hours (see <http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/rh> for the most famous example) and the impression of a link with medieval history is enhanced by each story beginning with an illuminated letter.





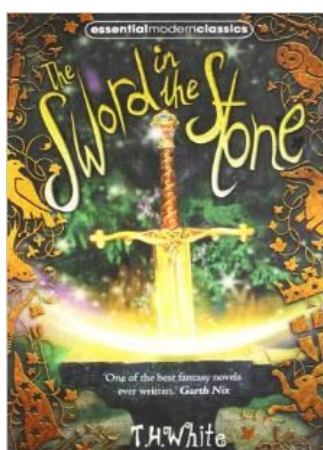
The King Arthur Trilogy by Rosemary Sutcliff
Red Fox 9780099401643

Exquisitely wrought retellings of these stories of romance and valour. Read them aloud to savour the beauty of the language. The trilogy starts with 'The Sword and Circle', telling of the beginnings of the Round Table and including 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight' and 'Tristan and Iseult', moves on to the quest for the Holy Grail in 'The Light Beyond the Forest' and ends with the last days of Arthur and of Camelot in 'The Road to Camlann'.



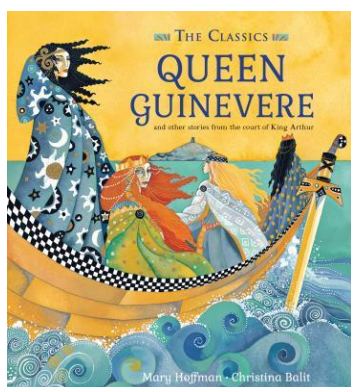
King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table by Roger Lancelyn Green
Puffin Classics 9780141321011

These classic retellings of the legends commence with the advent of Arthur, move on through tales of the Knights of the Round Table such as Launcelot, Tristram and Gawain, the quest for the Holy Grail and end with Arthur's departure to Avalon. This edition has an introduction by David Almond.



The Sword in the Stone by T H White
Collins Essential Modern Classics 9780007263493

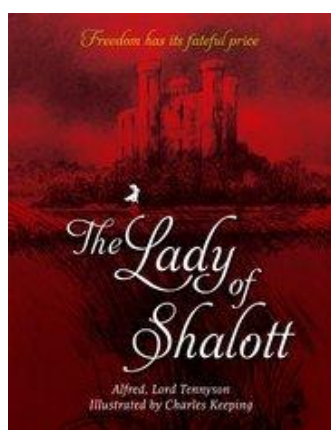
The first book in the trilogy *The Once and Future King* and made into an animated film by Walt Disney. It tells of the boyhood of Arthur, here named Wart, and his initiation into magic by Merlin. This edition includes an introduction by Garth Nix.



Queen Guinevere and other stories from the court of King Arthur by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Christina Balit

Frances Lincoln 9781847807168

A fresh perspective is provided by these retellings which are all from the viewpoints of the women within the stories. The book begins with Arthur's mother, Igrayne, and takes in Guinevere, Nimue who traps Merlin, and Ragnell, the loathly lady, transformed by Gawain's gallantry. Christina Balit's illustrations recall stained glass windows in their use of colour and Art Deco style in their patterns and fluid figures. Originally published under the title *Women of Camelot*, this new edition in the Frances Lincoln Classics series is due out in November 2015.

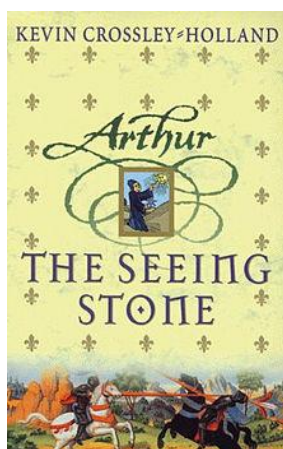


The Lady of Shalott by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, illustrated by Charles Keeping

Oxford University Press 9780192794437

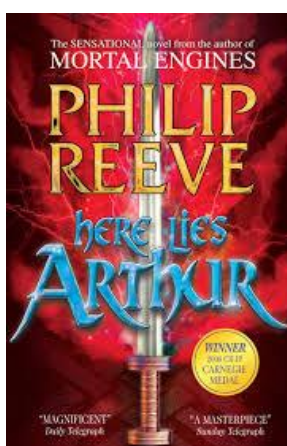
This classic narrative poem is loosely based on the Arthurian legend of in which a lady is locked in her tower by a powerful curse and can look at the world only through a mirror. However, when she sees Sir Lancelot pass by, she feels compelled to leave the tower which leads to her doom. Charles Keeping's ink illustrations perfectly complement the poem's mood. See <http://www.theladyofshalott.co.uk> for information about a film adaptation of the poem.





Arthur. *The Seeing Stone* by Kevin Crossley-Holland
Orion 9780752844299

Arthur lives on the edge of manhood , on the border between England and Wales, as the twelfth century turns into the thirteenth. By means of a stone, the obsidian, given to him by Merlin, he sees into the life of that earlier, legendary, Arthur. The short chapters, written in poetic prose, move the reader swiftly through the book, the first in a trilogy.



Here Lies Arthur by Philip Reeve
Scholastic 9781407132754

Philip Reeve demonstrates how the legends about Arthur could have emanated from rumours perpetrated by the spin doctor Merlin. When Gwyna becomes servant to the bard Myrrdin, she sees how trickery and storytelling - not magic and valour – are used to transform Arthur from just another brutal war-band leader to hero and future King of Britain. Gwyna herself changes from girl to the Lady of the Lake to boy while caught up in Myrrdin’s plan to make Arthur a legend and so unite the country.