



WHAT'S THE Story?

THE WISHBONE-ESQUE
BOOK CLUB YOU NEVER
KNEW YOU WANTED

King Arthur Legends

King Arthur of Brittan, or Arthur Pendragon as he is sometimes called, is the hero of a plethora of medieval legends of Welsh and English origin. These legends make up a body of literature called the Matter of Britain. While it is unknown whether Arthur the character was inspired by a real person, the figure and his mythos has prevailed in history and literature since the time of his origin. Some of the most famous stories of Arthur include his acquisition of the magical sword Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake, his formation of the Knights of the Round Table, and his quest for the Holy Grail.

But it is not just Arthur and his own deeds that endure in the Arthurian mythology. The knights of Arthur's court such as Sir Lancelot and Sir Gawain, his wife Guinevere, and the masterful magician Merlin are all figures that have prevailed in popular culture, each becoming the heroes of their own tales. The romances, fights between good and evil, and mythical quests have all been incredibly influential.

Because of the epic scale of Arthurian tales, it is no wonder that the most popular adaptations of this mythology are often found on screen. There are epic action films like *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* and *First Knight*, Musicals like *Camelot*, animated films like *The Sword in the Stone* and *Quest for Camelot*, and even genius comedies like *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (which has an equally funny stage version in *Spamalot*). There are equally famous novels and series reimagining the Arthurian tales as well, including Marion Zimmer Bradley's *The Mists of Avalon*, T.H. White's classic *The Once and Future King*, and the modern high school drama *Avalon High*.

What is a Retelling?

Whenever an existing story inspires a movie, book, television show, video game, or play, it goes through a process called adaptation. Retellings adapt stories by changing elements to fit a new context. For example, a retelling may change its source material to fit a new type of medium, a different genre, or a new era. Despite changes, retellings inherently carry story elements from the source material.

Retellings and adaptations have been around as long as stories have been told. Many classic myths and fables had hundreds of versions before being put into print. Retellings are part of our collective history, existing in every culture, medium, and time period.

The What's The Story Book Club seeks to understand how classic stories influence our past and continue to expand how we think, feel, and experience the world through adaptations and retellings.

Each month we choose a well-known myth, fairy tale, or piece of literature. We discuss the original, or best-known versions of the story. Then you choose a retelling that you wish to experience. Your choice can be any genre or medium, as long as the story relates to that month's source material.

As you read or watch your retelling, take note of what elements you recognize from the original story, what elements are changed, and anything you find interesting about the adaptation. We will discuss each version that our group chose when we meet again.



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Children's Fiction

Merlin: The Book of Magic by T.A. Barron
The Dark is Rising (series) by Susan Cooper
The Wizards Dog by Eric Gale
A Tail of Camelot by Julie Leung
A Dog in King Arthur's Court by Audrey Mackaman
The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great by Gerald Morris
The Legend of King Arthur-A-Tops by Mo O'Hara

TV/ Movies

The Adventures of Merlin (TV Series)
Army of Darkness (1992)
Camelot (1967)
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1995)
Excalibur (1981)
First Knight (1995)
A Kid in King Arthur's Court (2003)
The Kid who Would Be King (2019)
King Arthur : legend of the sword (2017)
Quest for Camelot (1998) (Hoopla)
Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Scooby Doo! The Sword and the Scoob
Shrek the Third
Sword in the Stone (1963)
Tristan and Isolde (2006)

eMaterial on Libby or Hoopla

Enchanted Guardian by Sharon Ashwood
Queen of None by Natania Barron
Avalon High by Meg Cabot
The Circle Cast by Alex Epstein
The Sword and Mr. Stone by John Gaspar
The Death Catchers by Jennifer Kolger
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by Weston Ochse
Crystal Cave (series) by Mary Stewart
The Book of Mordred by Vivian Van Velde
Pendragon: The Quest for King Arthur by Andy Winter
Young Merlin Trilogy by Jane Yolen

YA Novels

The Adventures of Mary Nobleman by J.T. Joseph
Once and Future (series) by Amy Capetta
Legendborn by Tracy Deonn
Sweet Black Waves by Kristina Perez
The Other Merlin by Robyn Schneider
Merlin's Shadow by Robert Treskillard
Cursed by Thomas Wheeler
The Guinevere Deception (series) by K. White

Adult Fiction

The Pendragon Murders by J.M. Blair
Lamp Black, Wolf Grey by Paula Brackston
The Mists of Avalon by Marion Bradley
The Winter King (series) by Bernard Cornwell
When Maidens Mourn by C.S. Harris
The Killing Way (series) by Tony Hayes
Dragon's Child (series) by M.K. Hume
Jordan by Susan Kearney
Gwenhwyfar: The White Spirit by Mercedes Lackey
Guenevere (series) by Rosalind Miles
Guinevere by Sharan Newman
Half Sick of Shadows by Laura Sebastain
By Force Alone by Lavie Tidhar
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain
Swords and Sorcerers by Various
Sword Stone Table by Various
The Once and Future King by T.H. White

Other Media

Muppet King Arthur by Paul Benjamin (graphic novel)
Once and Future (series) by Kieron Gillen (ecomic Hoopla)

Awesome things that Phoenix Public Library doesn't own

Camelot 3000 by Mike W. Barr ecomic
Dragonheart (1996)
First Knight (Roku)
Spamalot
Transformers The Last Knight (Hulu)

