

# 27 Apostrophes

## King Arthur

King Arthur was dying. He'd lost the great battle and many of his knights were dead. Only Launcelot's friends, brave Sir Lucan and Sir Bedivere were left.

Camelot's castles were visible in the mist, as the two knights carried the King's body to his last resting place. They found a little deserted chapel. The King's voice was faint and he sighed as he looked up at the last Knights of the Round Table.

'We're all that's left,' he said. 'Don't feel sad. There is one final duty that you, Sir Bedivere, must perform for me.'

'Anything, my King,' said the Knight. 'I'm here to serve you.'

'My time's short. Take my sword Excalibur which I pulled from the stone when I was a boy. It must be returned to the Lady of the Lake. Walk yonder a mile from here and you'll find a large lake. Throw the sword into the water. Return and tell me what you see.' The king turned in pain as he produced the magnificent Excalibur. It was the most powerful sword in the world, and had magical powers. Its hilt was covered in precious stones.

Sir Bedivere said, 'My Lord. You're my King,' and lifting the sword delicately in his hands, he walked away over the mountains.

He found the lake as the King had said but just as he was about to throw the sword into the dark waters, he heard a voice in his ear.

'Don't throw this power away. It could be all yours. How will the King know? He's almost dead.'

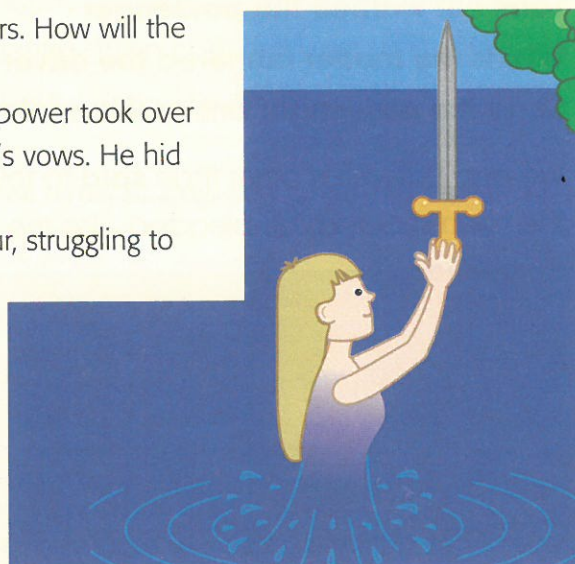
Sir Bedivere thought for a while and the voice's power took over his mind. He betrayed his King and broke his knight's vows. He hid the sword in a bush and returned to the King.

'What did you see my brave knight?' asked Arthur, struggling to raise himself from the ground.

'Nothing, my liege, but the water's ripple as I threw in the sword.'

'Liar and traitor! You have betrayed all knights' trust!' screamed the King.

He knew that the Lady of the Lake's bargain was to reclaim her gift to him.



### Chat challenge

Why do writers use apostrophes?

Are they really useful in sentences?

Do apostrophes always come before an s?

What would happen if you removed the apostrophes – would it make a difference to your understanding of the passage?

What problems would this cause?





## Comprehension

- 1) Name the only two knights left.
- 2) Where did they take King Arthur? Why?
- 3) What does he ask Sir Bedivere to do?
- 4) What happens when he tries to do it?
- 5) What does he tell King Arthur?
- 6) How does the King react?



## Objective focus

- 1) Identify where apostrophes are used in the passage. Sort the examples into two columns: for **Showing possession** and **Letters left out**.
- 2) Write out the shortened forms of the following words with their apostrophes.
 

a. cannot	c. what has	e. they have
b. it is	d. I have	f. they are
- 3) Match up the words in the two columns. You will first have to use the words **of the** and then put in an apostrophe, e.g. the frame of the picture – the picture's frame.
 

a. the frame	_____ dresses
b. a dog	_____ anchors
c. two ships	_____ book
d. the ladies	_____ picture
e. the author	_____ paintings
f. many artists	_____ collar



## Links to writing

- 1) Put the apostrophes in two different places in these examples and explain the difference in meaning.
 

a. the cats kittens	c. the girls dresses
b. my brothers books	d. the farmers fields
- 2) You have to teach other children in the class about apostrophes. Create a character **Super Apostrophe** to make things fun. Write his adventures with words. Remember – you have to tell people where, how and why to use apostrophes.