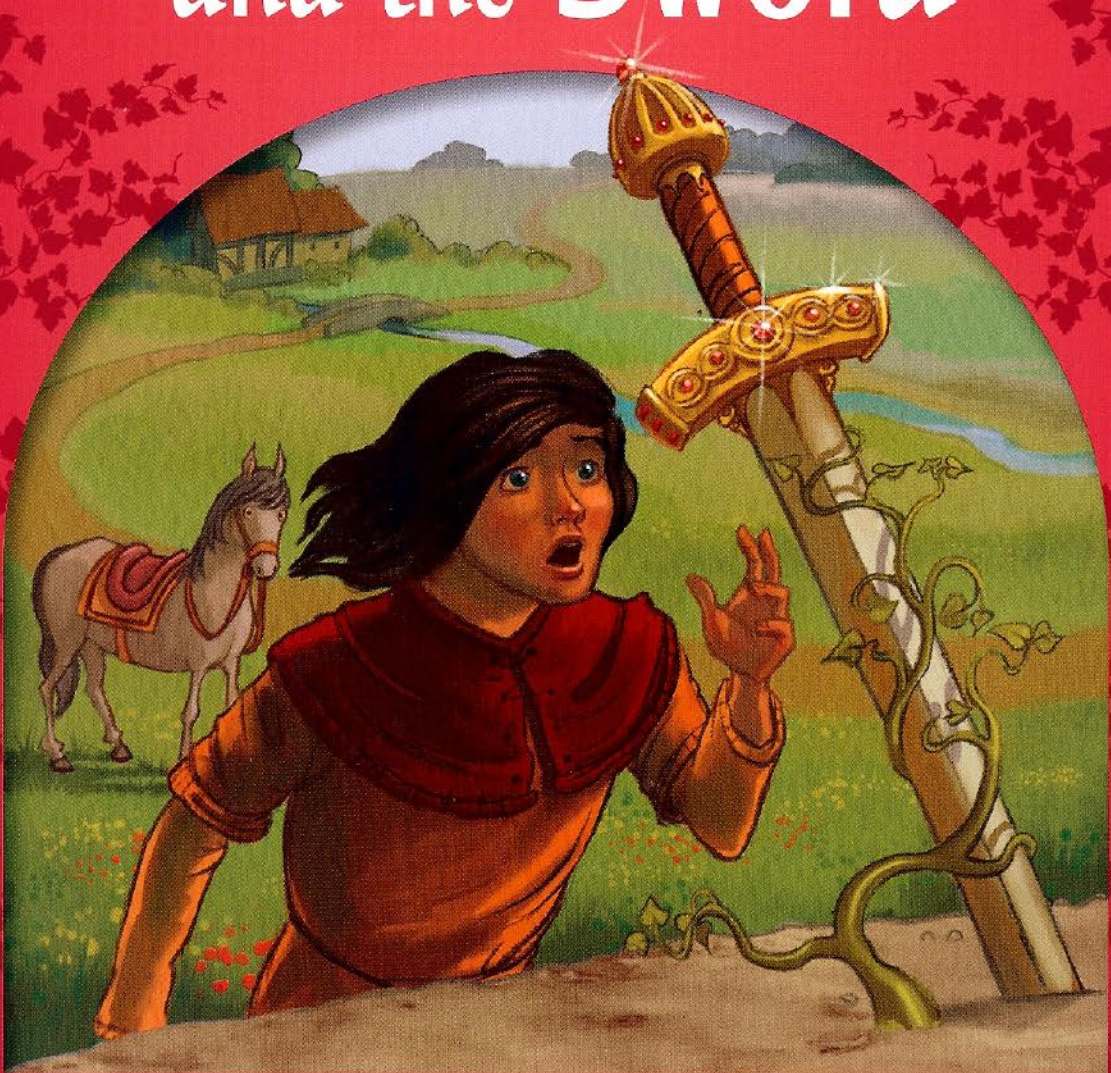


Classic Tales



Level 2

King Arthur and the Sword



OXFORD



King Arthur and the Sword

*Retold by Rachel Bladon
Illustrated by Andy Catling*



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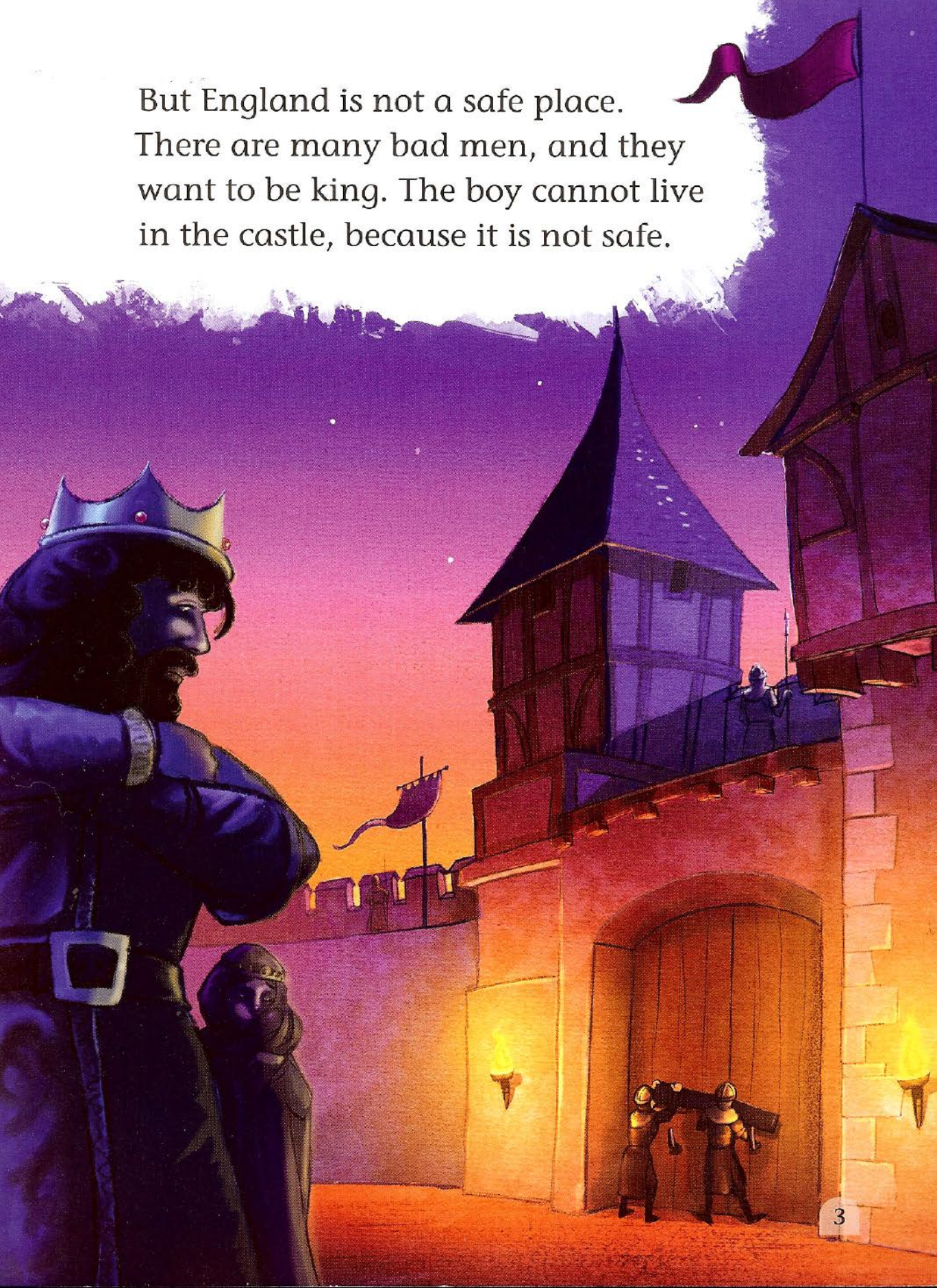
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Uther is the king of England. He is a good king. He and his queen have a beautiful baby boy.



But England is not a safe place.
There are many bad men, and they
want to be king. The boy cannot live
in the castle, because it is not safe.

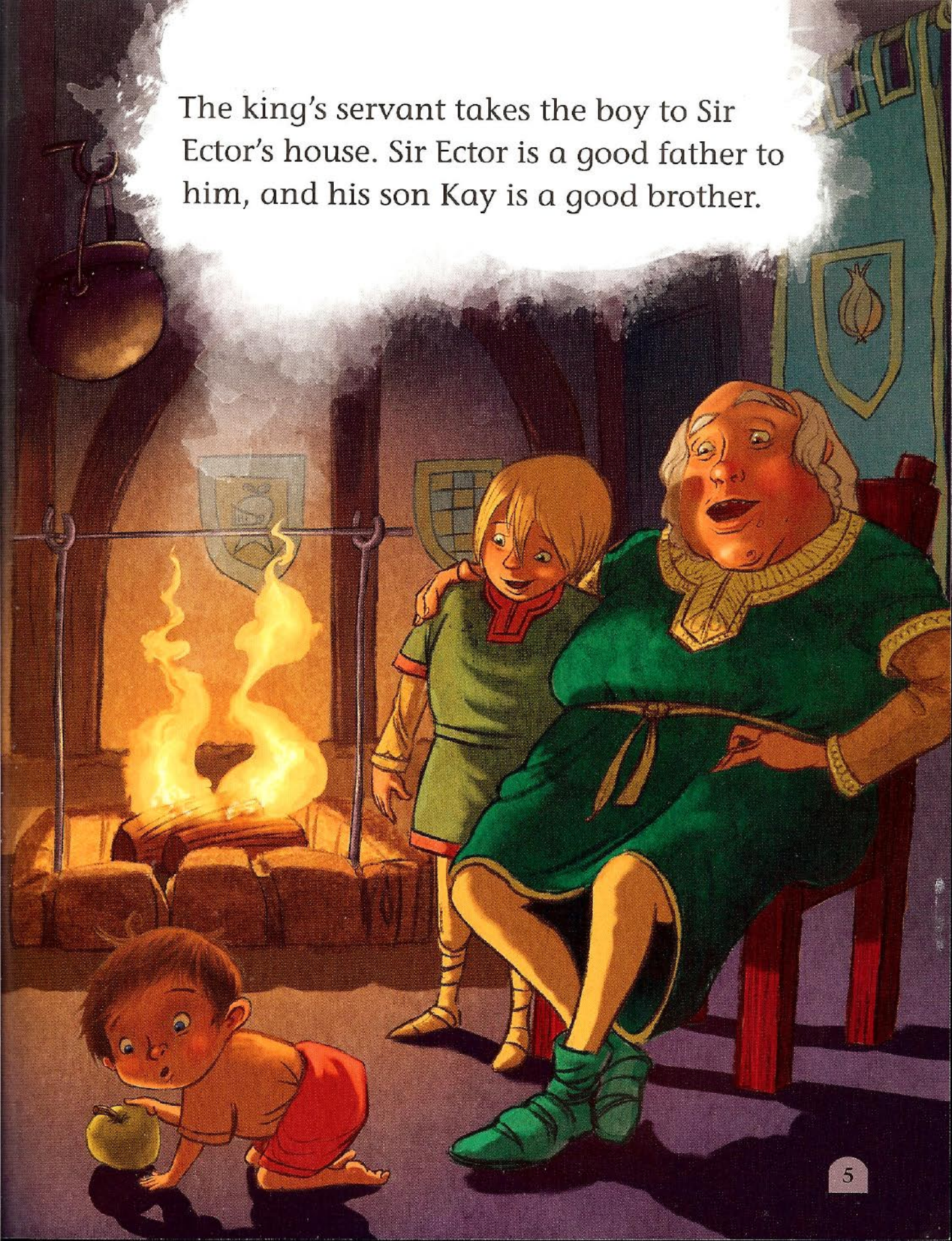


One day the king says to the queen, 'Sir Ector is a good man. He is a good knight. Our boy can live with Sir Ector and his son.'

So the king says to his servant, 'Take my boy to Sir Ector. But do not say, "This is the king's son." Tell nobody.'



The king's servant takes the boy to Sir Ector's house. Sir Ector is a good father to him, and his son Kay is a good brother.



The boy, Arthur, is soon big and strong. He is the king's son, but he does not know it. He loves Sir Ector, and he loves Sir Ector's son Kay.

Sometimes Sir Ector takes the boys to a tournament. They like to see the beautiful horses, and the strong knights.

'I want to fight in tournaments,' says Kay, 'when I'm older.'





King Uther is dead.

One day a servant comes to Sir Ector's house.

'King Uther is dead,' the servant says.

Sir Ector falls to his knees, and he cries for the king of England.

'Come tomorrow to the big stone on the road to London,' says the servant. 'All the king's knights must go there.'



So, the next day, Sir Ector goes to the big stone on the road to London. Merlin and all the knights of England are there.

Merlin is a good man. He is a friend of the kings of England, and he knows many things.

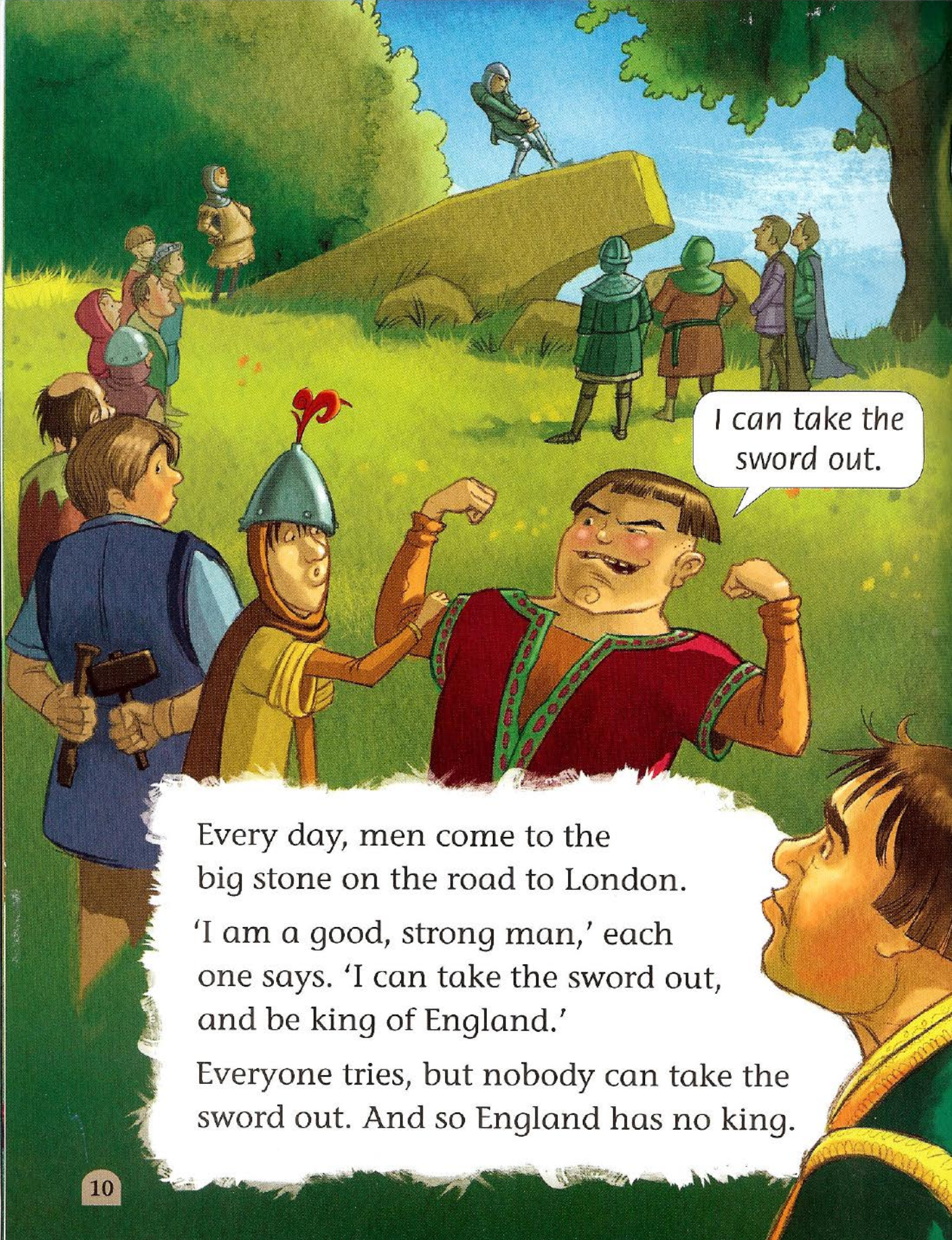
There is a sword in the stone. It is a beautiful sword, with jewels on it.

‘Only the king of England can take this sword out of the stone!’ Merlin says. ‘Who wants to try?’

One knight comes to the stone. He pulls and he pulls, but the sword doesn’t move.

Then another knight tries, and another. But nobody can take the sword out of the stone.

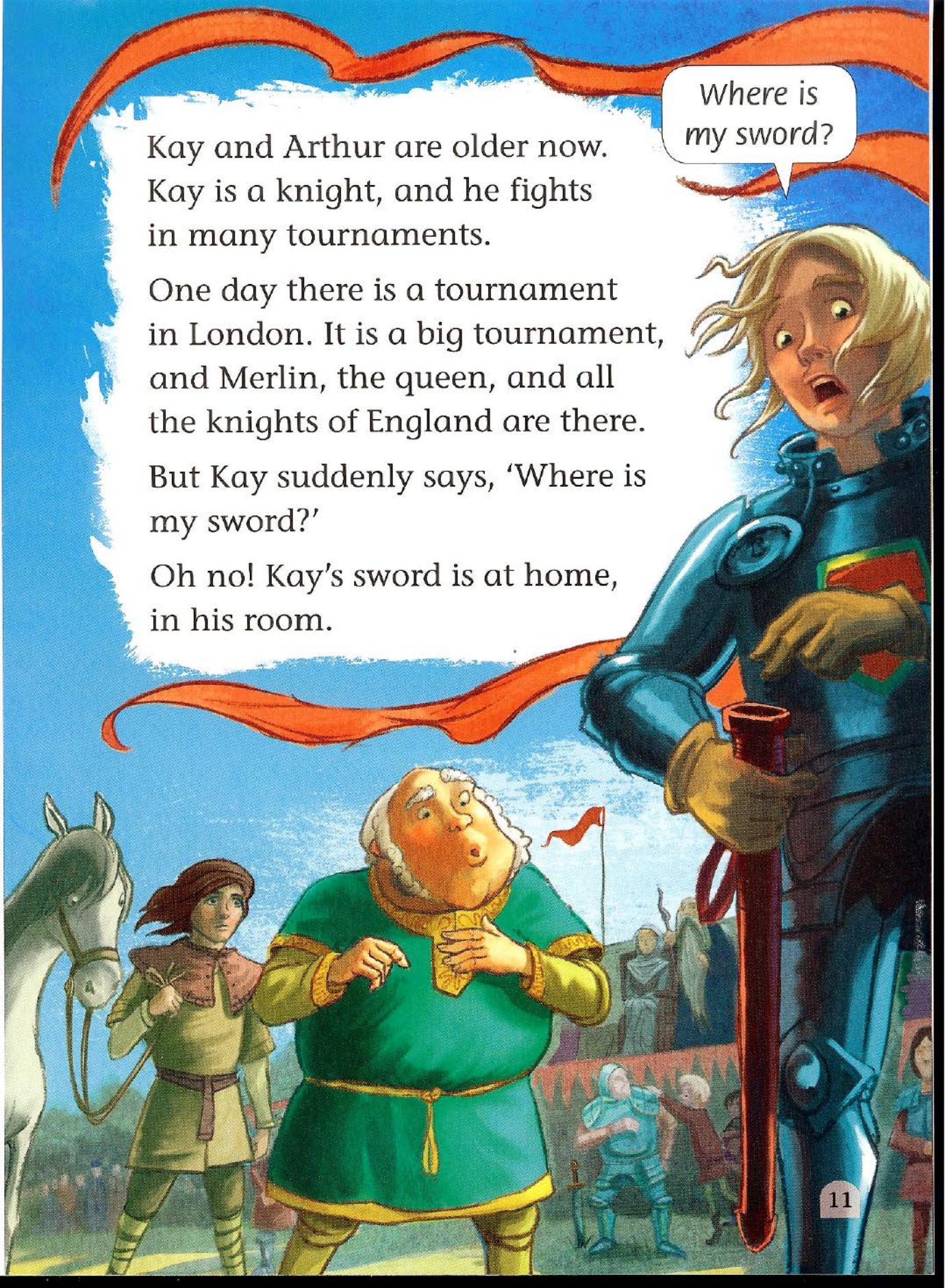




I can take the sword out.

Every day, men come to the big stone on the road to London. 'I am a good, strong man,' each one says. 'I can take the sword out, and be king of England.'

Everyone tries, but nobody can take the sword out. And so England has no king.



Where is
my sword?

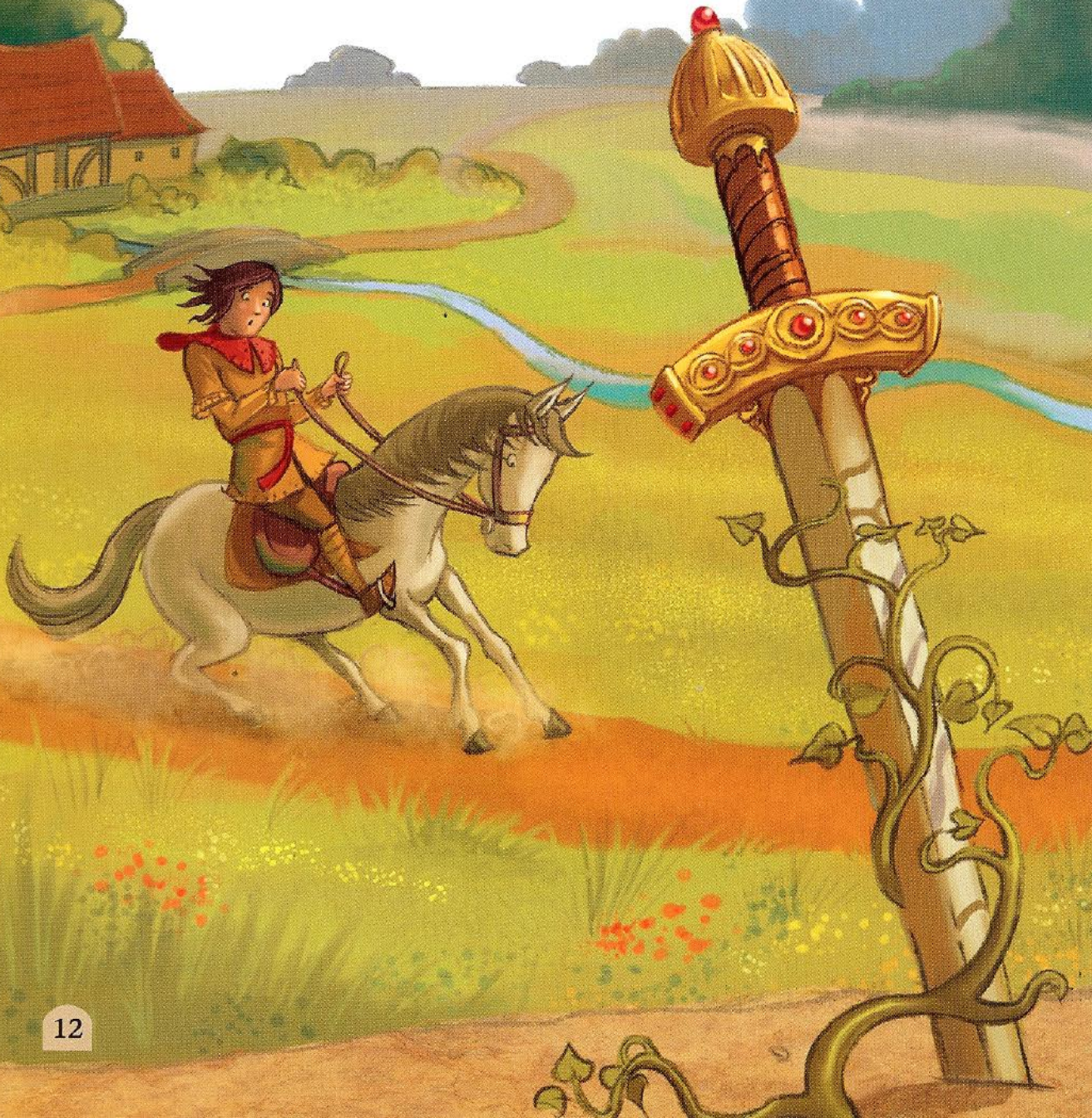
Kay and Arthur are older now. Kay is a knight, and he fights in many tournaments.

One day there is a tournament in London. It is a big tournament, and Merlin, the queen, and all the knights of England are there.

But Kay suddenly says, 'Where is my sword?'

Oh no! Kay's sword is at home, in his room.

‘I can ride home, Kay,’ says Arthur. ‘I can ride home fast, and get your sword!’ He starts to ride home very fast. But on the road, he sees a big stone. There is a sword in the stone. A beautiful sword, with jewels on it.





'Kay can fight with this sword,' Arthur thinks. 'Then I can put it back after the tournament.'

Arthur pulls the sword, and it comes out of the stone. Then he rides to the tournament.



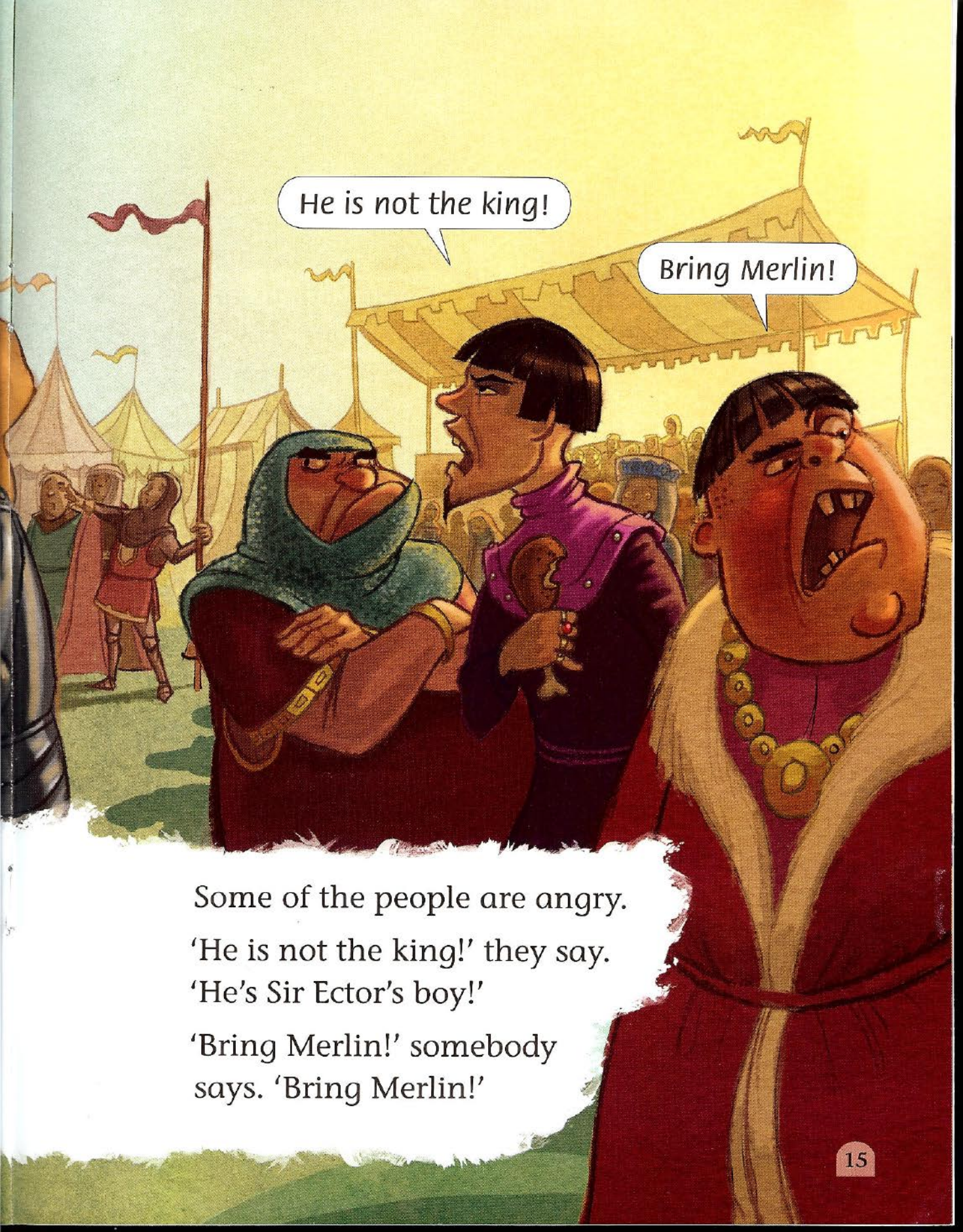
Here's a sword, Kay!

This boy is
the king!

Arthur takes the sword to Kay and says, 'Here's a sword, Kay! You can fight with this sword. Then I can put it back.'

But the people at the tournament all stop and look.

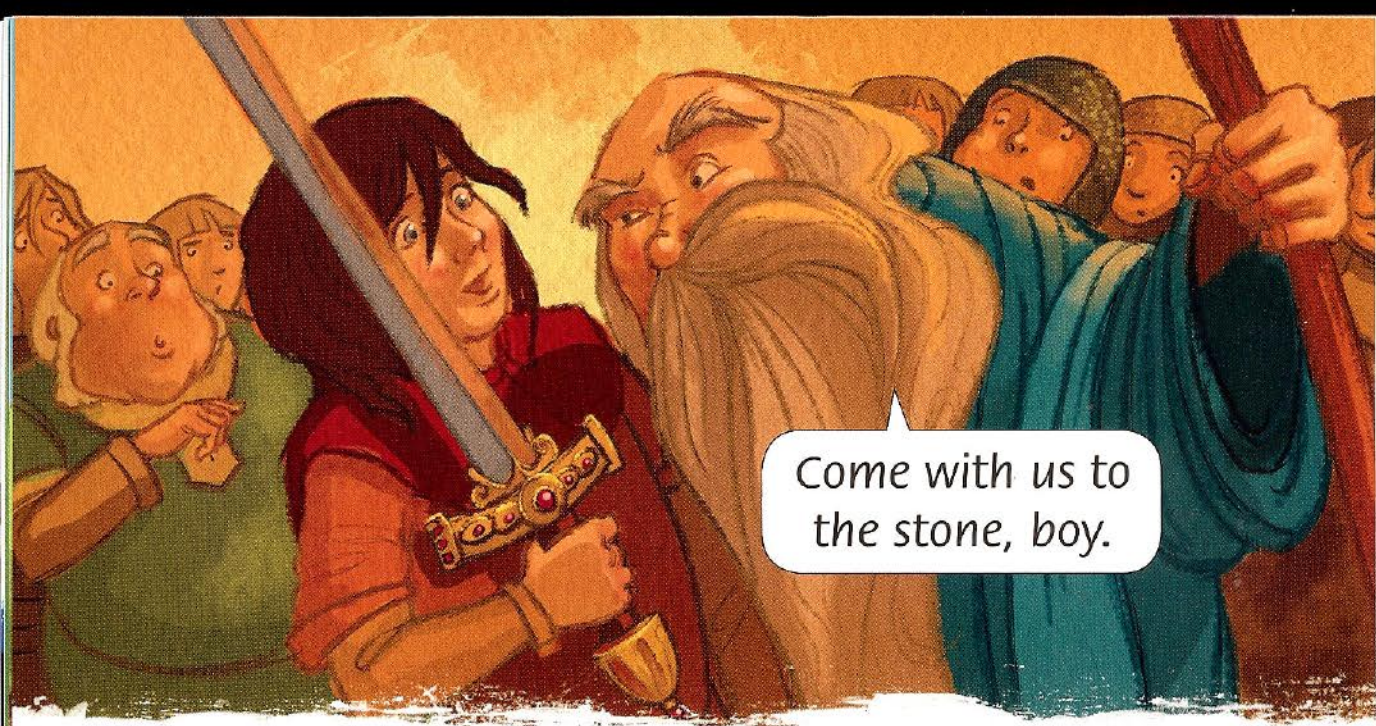
'It's the sword!' one person says. 'The sword from the stone! This boy is the king! He is the new king of England!'



He is not the king!

Bring Merlin!

Some of the people are angry.
'He is not the king!' they say.
'He's Sir Ector's boy!'
'Bring Merlin!' somebody
says. 'Bring Merlin!'



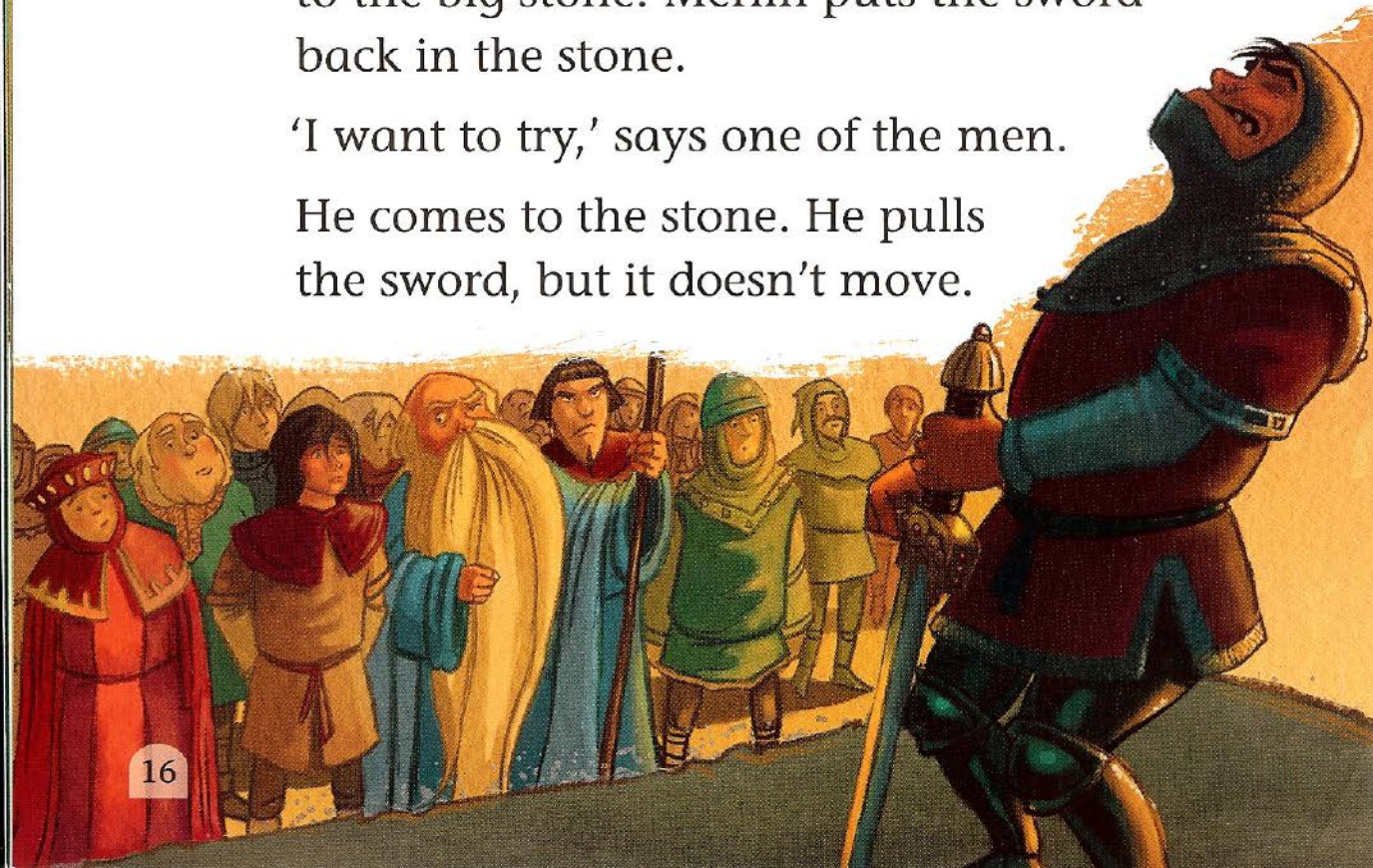
Come with us to
the stone, boy.

Merlin sees the sword, and he says,
'Come with us to the stone, boy.'

So Merlin, Arthur, and all the people go
to the big stone. Merlin puts the sword
back in the stone.

'I want to try,' says one of the men.

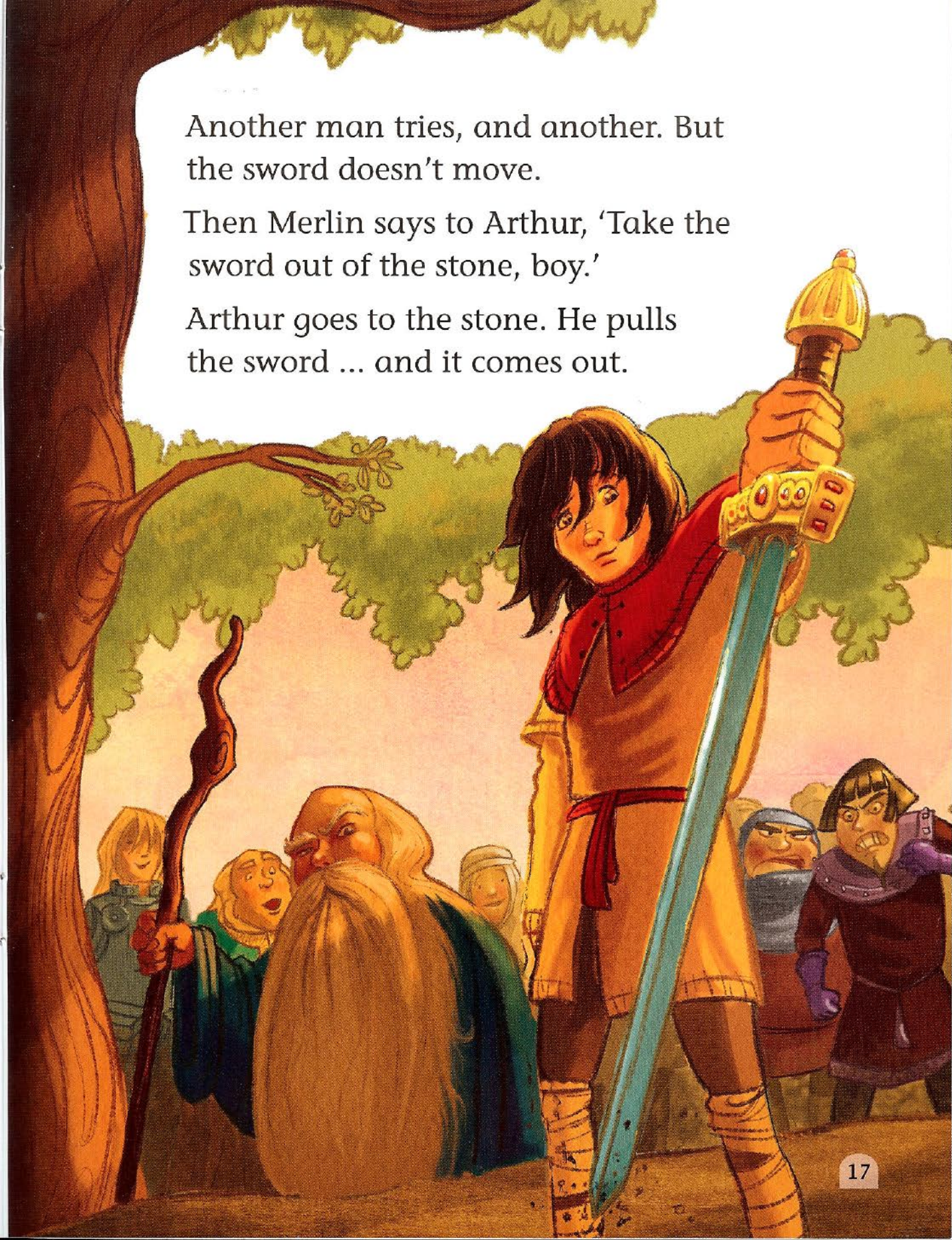
He comes to the stone. He pulls
the sword, but it doesn't move.



Another man tries, and another. But the sword doesn't move.

Then Merlin says to Arthur, 'Take the sword out of the stone, boy.'

Arthur goes to the stone. He pulls the sword ... and it comes out.



'He is the king!' the people say.

'I am not a king,' Arthur says.

'My father is Sir Ector.'

Now King Uther's servant comes to

Arthur and falls to his knees. 'Sir

Ector is not your father,' he says.

'You are the son of King Uther.'

'And now you are king of
England,' says Merlin.

'We have a king!' the people
say. 'England has a king!'

And now you are
king of England.

You are the son
of King Uther.





So from that day, Arthur is king of England. He lives in Uther's castle, with Merlin and his mother, and with Sir Ector and Kay.

Soon King Arthur has a beautiful queen, Guinevere. He is a good king and the people love him. And he always carries the beautiful sword – the sword from the stone.



Exercises

1 Write the names.

Arthur Kay King Uther ~~Sir Ector~~ Merlin Guinevere

- 1 The servant takes King Uther's baby boy to Sir Ector.
- 2 _____ wants to fight in tournaments when he's older.
- 3 _____ is a friend of the kings of England.
- 4 A servant tells Sir Ector, '_____ is dead.'
- 5 _____ pulls the sword out of the stone.
- 6 England soon has a new queen, _____.

2 Answer the questions.

- 1 Who's this? It's Arthur.
- 2 Can he pull the sword out of the stone? _____
- 3 Does he take the sword to Kay?

- 4 Is he Sir Ector's son?

- 5 Is he King Uther's son?

- 6 Is he the new king of England? _____



3 Match and write the words.

safe beautiful strong bad baby big



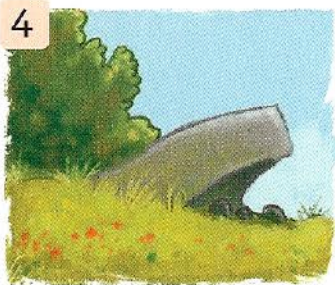
a beautiful horse



a _____ knight



a _____ boy



a _____ stone



a _____ place



a _____ man

4 Make sentences about the story. Then number them 1–5.

1 Arthur arrives at the tournament ...

with Merlin and all the people.

Arthur goes to the stone ...

and he lives in Uther's castle.

All the people at the tournament ...

and it comes out of the stone.

Arthur pulls the sword, ...

with the sword from the stone.

Arthur is the new king of England, ...

stop and look.

Picture Dictionary

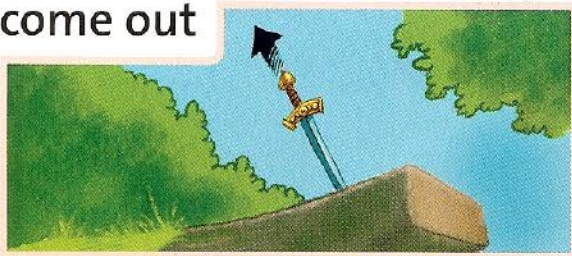
castle



horses



come out



jewels



cry



king



dead *He is dead.*



knees



fight



knight



pull



servant



put back



stone



queen



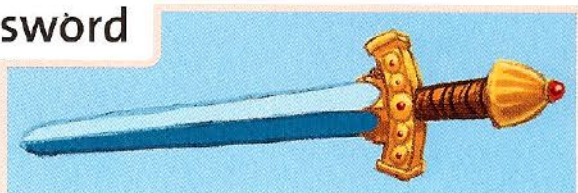
strong *He is strong.*



ride



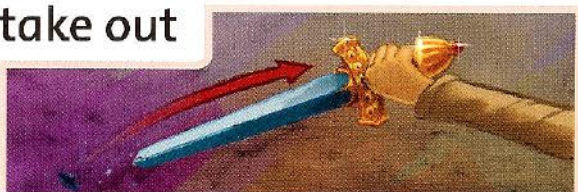
sword



road



take out



safe *She's safe.*



tournament

