1. What group of invaders, invited there by the wicked King Vortigern, settled in Britain and killed or drove out countless native Britons?

2. After many years of warfare with these ruthless invaders, who finally led the Britons to victory over the Saxons and brought peace to the southern lands?

   The three major cities in the south at this time were ____________, and ________________, (which was then called ________________), and ________________.

3. With whom did Uther fall in love?

4. Who was the Duke Gorlois?  
   What happened to him?

5. Where did Uther and Igrayne first meet?

6. Who watched over their love?

7. What happened to their child? (as far as we are told at this point in the story!)

8. Did Uther and Igrayne have any other children?

9. Name the children Igrayne had by Gorlois:

10. What was unusual about their youngest daughter?

11. What happened to the land following King Uther’s poisoning?

12. When the appointed time was at hand, _____________ finally returned from his sojourn in the deep, mysterious valleys of north Wales, which in those days was called ____________________.

13. At the city of ____________, Merlin met with the Archbishop and called for a great gathering of knights on which day?

14. Describe what happened in the middle of the service:

15. Round about the anvil they found letters of gold set in the great stone, and the letters read thus:

   (Note - you will have to memorize the above quote, word for word!)

16. Since none of the many knights present could remove the sword, what did the Archbishop decide to do?

17. Who came to participate in the New Year’s Day tournament?
18. How old was Arthur?

19. What had Sir Kay forgotten? ______________ What did he ask his brother Arthur to do for him?

20. When Arthur returned home and found the door locked, what did he do?

21. Was Arthur aware of the importance of what he had done? _________

22. How did Sir Kay respond to the sword?

23. How did Sir Ector respond?

24. What did Ector make Arthur do?

25. What could Ector and Kay not do?

26. When Arthur easily drew the sword from the anvil and stone a second time, what action did Sir Ector do, and what two things did he say to Arthur?

27. What was Arthur’s reaction to all of this?

28. Why was Arthur’s coronation put off until Easter, and then until Pentecost?

29. Before Arthur could be crowned King of all Britain, what high and holy honor did the Archbishop have to confer upon him?

30. After gathering together all the hosts of Britain, the pick of the knights both old and young, what great thing did Arthur accomplish?

31. Where did Arthur make his capital?

32. Why did Merlin come to take Arthur away to Caerleon in South Wales?

***** THE WONDOUS TRUTH REVEALED *****

1. Facing the hostile kings after a 15 day siege, what marvelous fact did Merlin reveal to them?

2. Why did Uther place the child into Merlin’s care?

3. Where did Merlin take the child? ___________________________________________________

4. Who are the Dwellers in Avalon? _____________________________________________

5. These Dwellers in Avalon cast a pure and great ______________________________ upon the child, a magic most strong. Three gifts they gave to Arthur:

   1) ____________

   2) ____________

   3) ____________

6. Even as Merlin speaks, he says that the Elves are forging ____________________ to be the sword of his right. Describe this magnificent blade:

7. What will be the name of Arthur’s kingdom? ____________ What two things does this name mean?
8. Silence followed this pronouncement, as all those gathered there felt they were at the beginning of a __________________________. What did all the people do next?

9. What did the Archbishop do next?  
   What did this signify?

***** The First of the Marvellous Adventures in the Wonderland of Logres *****

pp. 11 - 21

1. What happened at the end of the coronation feast?

2. Who was Gryflet?

3. What happened between Pellinore and Gryflet?

4. What did King Arthur do when he saw the wounded Gryflet?

5. On his way to meet Pellinore, what does Arthur run into in the forest?

6. What warning does Merlin give Arthur?

7. Outline the joust between Arthur and Pellinore:
   Joust # 1:
   Joust # 2:
   Joust # 3:
   Sword Duel # 1:
   ** Sword Duel # 2:

   Merlin’s Intervention:

8. How did Arthur respond to Merlin’s actions?  
   Why did Merlin interfere?

9. After three days spent recovering from his wounds, Arthur rode out again with Merlin at his side. What did Arthur complain about?

10. Why was Merlin not troubled by this?

11. Merlin now declares this to be the appointed hour that __________________ shall be placed in Arthur’s hand. Why could Arthur not have received the sword earlier?

12. Describe the place where Merlin takes Arthur:

13. What is this place called?

14. What lies beyond the hills?  
   What will happen there?

15. What lies beyond the plain, hidden in mist and mysterious waters?

16. Merlin commands Arthur to go down and speak to the ____________________________, while he waits for him on the hill.

17. What did Arthur see as he stood on the shores of the magic lake?
18. On what condition did the Lady of the Lake agree to give Arthur the sword?

19. Describe how Arthur receives the sword:

20. Where does Merlin next lead Arthur?

21. What question does Merlin put to Arthur?

22. How does Arthur respond?

23. How does Merlin respond to his answer?

24. Why does kin Pellinore ignore them as they pass by?

25. Describe the reaction of Arthur’s knights when he returns to Caerleon. Why are they so exceedingly proud of him?

FOR STUDY and DISCUSSION

1. a) Why do you suppose Malory has Merlin avoid using magic against the “churls” who attack him and lets Arthur rescue him instead?

b) Is Arthur’s stature as a leader and a hero lessened by his defeat at Pellinore’s hand?

c) Do you think it is appropriate that Merlin, a person of special powers and wisdom, rescues Arthur?

d) In what ways has Arthur proven himself worthy of Excalibur in this selection?

2. What do you learn from this selection about the medieval standards of conduct which the code of chivalry demanded? How does this confirm what you already have learned from Chaucer’s description of the Knight?

3. What difference in setting, tone, character, and theme can you distinguish in Beowulf and Morte D’Arthur?

(text pp. 45–48, and Xerox copy)

books two and three: the round table and the quest for the holy grail

1. What two meanings does the term Round Table have when used in reference to the tales of King Arthur?

2. The earliest mention of the Round Table occurs in ______________________, in the year _______. According to this book, how did the Round Table come into being?

3. In the year 1205, the English priest ____________ adapted Wace’s book into an English version called, simply, _______________. How does this version of the Round Table differ?
4. Yet another source states that __________ the Magician had the table built for Arthur's father, King ___________________________. Later, Leodegan gave the table to _______________ after Arthur married ___________________________, Leodegan's daughter.

5. According to the different versions, the Round Table could seat how many people?
   Wace: ______________  Layamon: ______________  * Malory: ______________

6. What was the name of the empty seat at the Round Table? __________________________________________________________________

7. What was it in memory of?

8. Who was it reserved for?

9. What would happened to any other knight who sat in it?

10. How did it come to be occupied, and who did so?

11. How did the Knights of the Round Table come to be?

12. Many of the Knights of the Round Table achieved fame in their own right. Discuss the adventures of Sir Tristram:

13. Name some of the other famous Knights of the Round Table:

14. What was the QUEST for the HOLY GRAIL?

15. Who finally found it?
   Why were they the only ones able to do so?

16. What were some of the factors bringing about the decline of the fellowship of the Round Table?

17. The Round Table has been preserved to our own day as the symbol of a knightly fellowship dedicated to chivalric conduct. A replica of King Arthur’s Round Table can still be seen today at Winchester Castle.

***** BOOK FOUR: THE DEPARTING OF ARTHUR *****

“SLANDER and STRIFE”
THE TALE of LANCELOT and GUINNEVERE

Part I (pp. 289 - 303)

1. Following the end of the Quest for the Holy Grail, of what prophecy was King Arthur reminded?

2. How did Sir Lancelot behave following the Quest? Why?

3. What did Queen Guinnevere notice?

4. What reasons did Lance give for his actions (or lack thereof)?

5. Guinnevere, in her distress, commanded Lance to do what?

6. What happened when Guinnevere went riding in the forest?

7. Who rescued her?
8. Although King Arthur thanked Lance before all the court for rescuing his queen, Guinnevere, on the other hand, chose to thank him _____________________________.

9. Who overheard her whispered comment?
Who did he tell about this?
What do they plan to do?

10. In her garden, Guinnevere not only thanks Lance for rescuing her from Sir Melliagraunce, but she also begs his _______________________ for her _______________________. At this point, they openly confess their love for each other, even though they know that it must be kept secret. Still and all, in spite of the danger, Guinnevere asks Lance to visit her _______________ in her ______________ later that _______________, and Lance agrees.

PART II --- The Plots of Sir Mordred
(pp. 304 - 315)

1. Later that same evening, who all met in an upper room at the Castle of Camelot?

2. How are all these knights related?

3. Who tried to convince Sir Agravain and Sir Mordred not to tell King Arthur of the night’s meeting between Lance and Guinnevere? What were his reasons?

4. Which 3 knights decided not to take part in the plot?

5. King Arthur refused to believe Agravain and Mordred until they could to what?

6. how did Arthur feel toward Lancelot? Why?

7. Did Arthur already know of the affair?

8. how many knights does Arthur command the plotters to take with them?

9. What warning does he give them in the event they cannot prove their accusations?

10. ** Describe the scene Sir Gawain finds a few hours later when he goes in search of the King:

11. Who tried to war Sir Lance of Sir Agravain’s trap?

12. Why did Lance have no choice but to go?

13. Although Lance carried his sword and cloak to the Queen’s chambers, what did he not take?

14. Lance and Guinnevere had not been together for many minutes when ____________ and ____________ came to the door and cried, “You ____________, Sir Lancelot, now you are caught!” Why do they do this, instead of just breaking in the door immediately?

15. Because he had no ____________, Lancelot told his captors that he would ______________ quietly if they would _____________________________________________.

16. Describe what happened when Lance finally opened the door. How did he manage to get a suit of armor?

17. Describe the fight that follows:

18. Who is the only knight who escapes Lancelot’s wrath?

19. Before Lance leaves, what does he promise Guinnevere?

20. Who rode away with Lance? What did they plan to do?

21. Who tells Arthur what has happened?

22. What comment does Arthur make about Lance and the fellowship of the Round Table?

23. Mordred reminds the King that the Queen is now guilty of _____________________, and according to the King’s own law she must _______________________________.!
24. How does Arthur react to this?

25. Who tries to talk Arthur into waiting for more evidence before condemning them both to death?

26. Why is the King so amazed that this man is not eager for vengeance?

27. Why does Gawain feel no anger?

28. Which three knights refuse to take part in Guinevere’s execution? How do they show their reluctance?

29. Describe the events surrounding the shameful scene of Guinevere’s punishment:

30. Who did Lancelot unintentionally kill as he rescued the Queen?

31. Where did Lance and his followers ride away to? What was the name of his castle there?

*** *** *** Following a ______ week siege of Joyous Garde, Arthur and Lancelot make a truce wherein _______________ will return to Arthur, and Lancelot promises to __________ the kingdom of Britain and to never return until he is needed. Arthur then forgives them both, and Lancelot leaves to go to his castle of Benwick, which is in Amorica (France). [It is during the siege that _______________ kills _______________ in battle.]

For Study and Discussion

1. Read again the answer to question # 10 from the selection above. Discuss the foreshadowing and/or symbolism of that moving scene.

2. If one person were to be blamed for the dissolution of the fellowship of the Round Table, who would it be? Why?

3. One reader has remarked, “In his approach to the events that he describes, Malory places the ideal of chivalry above normal human emotions.” Do you agree? Explain why you do or do not.

WRITING

1. Prepare a script, a prose narrative, or an imaginary conversation of a confrontation between King Arthur and Sir Lancelot, keeping in mind that Arthur had liked Lancelot and did not want to see the fellowship of the Round Table dispersed.

2. Follow the suggestions in # 1 above, but make the confrontation between King Arthur and Queen Guinevere.
** ** ** ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ ** ** **

[Sir Mordred has taken advantage of King Arthur’s distraction with Lancelot & Guinnevere to gather an army of rebels who prefer his easy and lawless rule rather than the high service of the good king. It is here, with Mordred’s final attempt to overthrow his father, that our story continues…]

(pp. 316 - 324)

1. Where are Arthur and his army encamped?

2. What prophecy had been foretold about this place? (see p. 18)

3. Whose opposing army awaits less than a mile away?
   How is he related to King Arthur?

4. That night Arthur could not sleep, … for he feared that this was the _______ of all his _________, which __________ had foretold, when the realm of __________ should _______________________________.

5. Who appeared to King Arthur in a dream?
   What warning did he give Arthur about the battle to come?
   What did he advise Arthur to do? Why?

6. Did Arthur take Gawain’s advice?
   Who did he send to make the treaty?

7. When Arthur & Mordred both met on the field to sign the treaty, what action did each take that shows they mistrusted each other?

8. What causes the truce to be broken?
   What is an adder?

9. How long did the battle last?

10. Who were the survivors on King Arthur’s side at the end of the day?
    Who survived on Mordred’s side?

11. Who does King Arthur blame for all this sorrow & destruction?

12. When Arthur asks for his spear in order to fight Mordred, what advice does Sir Lucan give him?

13. How does Arthur respond to this suggestion?

14. King Arthur chooses to fight Mordred with his spear, which is named _______, rather than his sword, Excalibur. What is the reason for this? (think!)

15. Describe the fight between the two men:

16. Who won the fight? _______________ What happened to Mordred?__________________

17. Sir __________ & Sir ________________ carried the wounded Arthur to a deserted _________ not far from the mysterious ________ where the mist lay ____ like _______ in the last rays of the setting sun.
   And then Sir Lucan fell down & ________.

18. How was Bedivere related to Lucan?

19. What does King Arthur now command Sir Bedivere to do?

20. What is the name of that dark lake? (look back in your notes - it is the same lake where he received Excalibur)

21. What happened when Bedivere took Excalibur to do his king’s bidding?
   What reason did he have for disobeying his king?

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22. When Arthur commanded him a second time to return Excalibur to the lake, what did Bedivere do?

23. What happens the third time Arthur commands him?

24. What does Bedivere’s betrayal tell us about Arthur’s kingship at this point in the story?

25. Arthur now requests Bedivere to help him move down to the shore of the mysterious ______, where a white ________ comes out of the mist to meet them.

26. Who are the 3 fair ladies on the barge?

27. Where are they taking him?
   For what purpose?
   Why must Bedivere stay behind?

28. What promise does King Arthur make to Sir Bedivere?

29. What is Arthur’s final request of Bedivere?

30. This is the last word anyone heard from Arthur. He was alive at the time, and though many years have passed, yet some men say in many parts of England that King Arthur is ______ ________, but had by the will of Our Lord Jesu ________________; and men say that he shall ________________.

31. What words are written on King Arthur’s memorial tomb?

For Discussion

1. What might be some reasons for the incredible, long-lasting appeal of this legend? Why has it captured the imagination of so many?

2. Can you find any parallel links between King Arthur’s story and that of Jesus Christ? List some of them.

Writing

Essay topic: The Value of Humility, as Seen in the Life of King Arthur
Consider why it was necessary for Arthur to learn humility, and how his humility affected his life and actions throughout his reign. Include his roles as an individual, a war leader, a king, and a husband.

** Be sure to look up the definition of humility. Do not confuse it with humble or being humiliated!