



Name: _____ Class: _____

Read the text and answer the following questions.

King Arthur and Sir Lancelot

One of King Arthur's bravest men, was a knight called Sir Lancelot. Over the years, he became a great friend of Arthur's, but he also fell in love with the King's wife, Queen Guinevere. Arthur's enemies knew that Sir Lancelot loved Guinevere, and decided to cause trouble. Arthur's nephew, Mordred wanted to get rid of Arthur and become king himself, so when he spied Lancelot meeting Guinevere, he went straight to the king, claiming that Lancelot and Guinevere were traitors. Upon hearing of their treachery, the king had no choice, but to send his wife to her death, and be burned at the stake. Lancelot was able to escape, and on the morning of the execution, as the queen was tied to the stake and the torches lit, he charged to her rescue. He cut her free and rode away with her on his horse.

Arthur was secretly happy that Guinevere was safe, but he still had to fight Lancelot. Arthur immediately went in pursuit of Lancelot and Guinevere, and they were quickly found at Lancelot's castle in Wales. For months, Arthur and his men laid siege to it. Finally, an agreement was reached whereby Guinevere returned with Arthur, and Lancelot was exiled to France. Arthur was still angry with Lancelot, and followed him to France to get his revenge. Whilst he was in France, Arthur thought he could trust Mordred, and left him in charge, a big mistake. In no time at all, Mordred declared that Arthur had been killed, and Mordred became king and took Guinevere to be his queen.

On hearing of his nephew's betrayal, Arthur headed back to England. When he arrived back, a battle raged, day and night. Eventually, seeing Mordred, the two charged at each other, and Mordred who had picked up the sword Arthur had dropped, drove it into his skull at the same time as Arthur drove a spear into Mordred.

After Arthur's death, his sword was thrown into the lake. His body was placed on a barge, and it sailed off to the mystical island of Avalon.



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- 1** Who was Sir Lancelot?

- 2** What do you think “traitor” means?

- 3** Why did Mordred tell Arthur about Lancelot’s treachery with Queen Guinevere?

- 4** How do you think King Arthur felt about Lancelot’s treachery?

- 5** Why do you think King Arthur was secretly pleased that his queen was safe?

- 6** Where did Lancelot escape to after he rescued Queen Guinevere?

- 7** What do you think “laid siege” means?

- 8** Why was it a mistake to leave Mordred in charge of the kingdom?

- 9** What is a barge?

- 10** What happened to King Arthur’s sword after he died?

