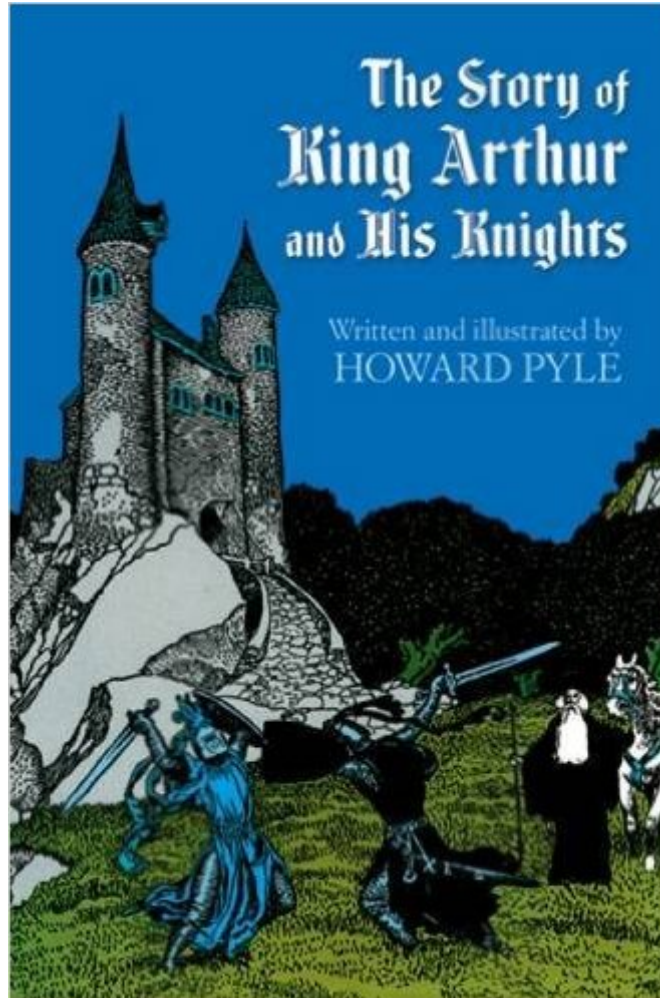


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# The Story Of King Arthur And His Knights (Dover Children's Classics)



## Synopsis

In this enchanting version of the story of King Arthur, the renowned American illustrator and storyteller Howard Pyle displays his unique talent for capturing and stimulating the imaginations of the young. Inventively retold and vividly illustrated, these stories describe the perilous and thrilling adventures of King Arthur and his knights in that glorious age of chivalry and honor. After showing how Arthur established his right to the throne by drawing the sword from the anvil, the author then relates the story of Arthur's battle with the Sable Knight and his securing the sword Excalibur — "the most beautiful and the most famous sword in all the world." He tells of Arthur's confrontations with the Duke of North UMBER and Sir Pellias, describes King Arthur's wooing and wedding the Lady Guinevere, and tells of the establishment of the Round Table. Tales are told, too, of Arthur's knights, including Merlin the Wise, Sir Pellias (or the Gentle Knight) and of course, Sir Gawaine. One of the key points in the book is Arthur's search for the answer to the riddle "What is it that a woman most desires?" with his life at stake. This is the definitive children's version of the Arthurian legend, for generations a special favorite with youngsters of all ages. Its reputation, richly deserved, rests as much upon the illustrations as on the delightful tales themselves. And no wonder, for as an illustrator of children's books, Pyle had no peer. Bold and unforgettable as only Pyle's skilled hand could make them, these drawings convey at a glance the whole aura of that splendid age and help to make this a book that boys and girls will cherish for years to come. These stories have inspired numerous film adaptations, including the 2017 release *Knights of the Roundtable: King Arthur*, directed by Guy Ritchie and starring Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law, Eric Bana, Djimon Hounsou, and Annabelle Wallis.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1430L (What's this?)

Series: Dover Children's Classics

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; New edition edition (June 1, 1965)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486214451

ISBN-13: 978-0486214450

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,076,467 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #176 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #3076 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology #4820 in Books > Children's Books > Classics  
Age Range: 8 - 14 years  
Grade Level: 3 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Although Howard Pyle was born in Delaware, he is best known as purveyor of myth and legend to several generation of British and American children -- and their parents. Published in 1902, THE STORY OF KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS (Unabridged) is probably the most comprehensive of the Arthurian legends available in one volume--certainly the most comprehensive for kids. We follow Arthur during his "Sword in the Stone" period, then on to adulthood with a nod at the romantic complications that the play/movie "Camelot" focused on, then later an older Arthur and his followers articulate the legend of the grail (spoofed by Monty Python and reverently presented by a score of other writers). Although 1902 was just past the end of the "Decadent" movement in English arts and literature, this volume displays no cloying irony or clever design a la Aubrey Beardsley. It was, after all, meant for children, although very small children should have it read to them by an understanding sibling or adult. In fact, what I appreciate most about it is its full-body quality that appeals to me as an adult just as it did as a child. Is calling this tome "unabridged" a mere marketing ploy? Fortunately not. So many kids' books -- this one included -- have been abridged, then dumbed down, and frequently illustrated so profusely that they come across more as a kind of black-and-white Classics Comic than the real thing. And rarely does the book jacket or publishing page admit as much! Of course, I'm not totally averse to abridging a long and challenging work for the sake of the children, and there have been a couple of intelligent shortenings of Pyle's work. But the publishers of this book wisely chose to indicate it is unabridged -- a novel exception these days and a happy one.

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