

# Arthurian Legend: Key Characters

British Literature

LES

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# King Arthur

- Hero from British legends
- May have been based on a Celtic warrior whom the British admired & created tales about, describing his bravery
- **Camelot** is his castle
- **Excalibur** is his sword





# Uther Pendragon

- Arthur's father
- Merlin assisted him with the seduction of Arthur's mother, **Igraine**, by changing Uther's appearance



# Merlin

- Magician
- Counselor to Arthur
- Human mother; demon father
- Supernatural powers
- Imprisoned in a magic forest by Lady of the Lake



# Morgan Le Fay

- Arthur's half-sister
- Sometimes presented as multiple people
- Mother of Mordred (by Arthur)
- Knows magic
- Depicted as an evil witch & villain



# Mordred

- Arthur's son
- Result of incest
- Destined to kill Arthur





# Sir Gawain

- Arthur's nephew
- Fights the **Green Knight**
- Knight of the Round Table
- Epitomizes the ideals of chivalry & loyalty



# Sir Ector

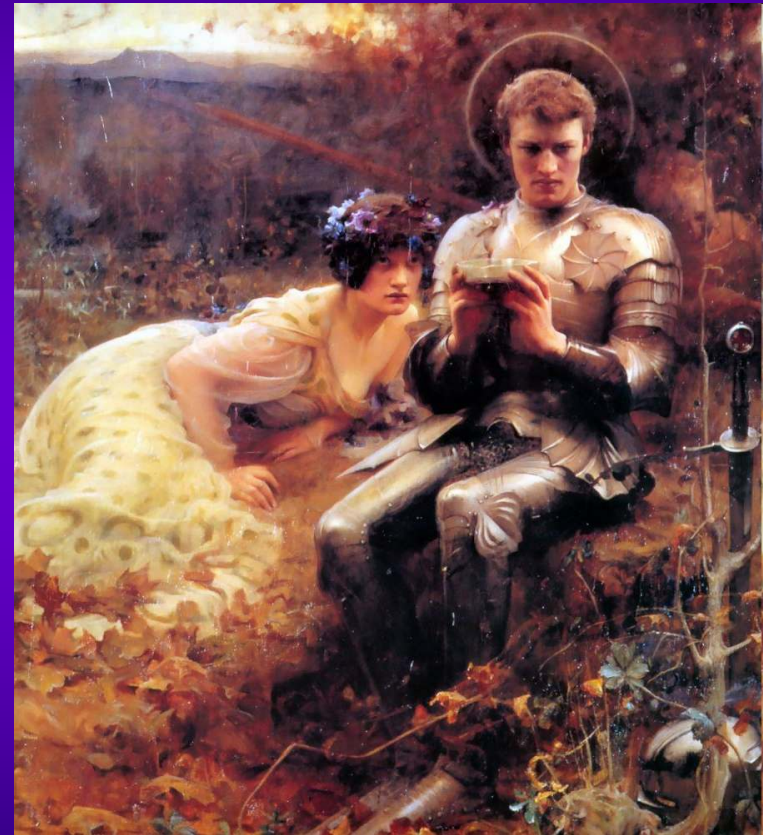
- Arthur's foster father  
(after Merlin takes Arthur from his parents)
- Also father of **Sir Kay**  
(Arthur's foster brother)





# Sir Percival

- Father was a knight (died)
- Raised in the wild by only his mother
- Joins the Round Table after seeing a group of knights pass through the forest



# Sir Lancelot

- Foremost knight of the Round Table
- Had an adulterous relationship with Guinevere
- Credited as causing the downfall of the Round Table



# Sir Bedivere

- Returns Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake when Arthur dies





# Lady of the Lake

- Supernatural being
- Gives Excalibur to Arthur
- Stepmother & teacher to Lancelot
- Viviane/Nimue
- Romantically involved with Merlin



# Guinevere

- Daughter of King Leodegrance (keeper of the Round Table)
- Arthur's queen
- Lover of Lancelot



# Holy Grail

- Quest for the Holy Grail is the greatest adventure of the Knights of the Round Table
- Many knight attempt to attain the grail, but fail
- Lancelot's adultery makes him too impure
- Lancelot's son **Galahad** attains the Grail due to his purity





# Avalon

- Mysterious island
- Where Excalibur was forged
- Arthur is taken here by a mysterious black boat (symbolic of death) after being mortally wounded by Mordred

