

1. **amity** → According to legend, the residents of Camelot lived for many years in peace and **amity**. Eventually, however, that harmony was destroyed by bitterness and anger.
2. **chivalry** → According to legend, King Arthur's knights lived by the code of **chivalry**. They were always brave and courteous, and they were quick to follow their duty.
3. **devout** → A knight of the Round Table was expected to be a **devout** Christian and to fulfill his duties to the Church.
4. **hereditary** → Although Arthur had the **hereditary** right to succeed his father on the throne, he proved himself worthy of the position, and so became king by accomplishment as well as by birth.
5. **medieval** → The stories of the Round Table and the brotherhood of knights in Camelot became very popular in the late Middle Ages. In fact, these stories may be the most popular of all the tales of the **medieval** period.
6. **potion** → The Arthurian legends are adventure tales, but they are also stories of magic—of spells that allow a person to change shape and **potions** that, once drunk, ensure undying love.
7. **prowess** → A knight of the Round Table was expected to show his **prowess** in battle. He had to be especially skilled at fighting with a lance on horseback.
8. **quest** → The knights of the Round Table go on a **quest** for the Holy Grail. After much searching, Sir Galahad is successful in finding it.
9. **sovereign** → The historical figure on whom the legendary King Arthur is based was probably not a **sovereign**. Instead, he was a local ruler who became a king only in legend.
10. **venerable** → Perhaps the most famous magician in all of literature is the **venerable** Merlin, a major figure in the legends of King Arthur. Surprisingly, the honorable old magician makes some foolish mistakes in several versions of the tales.

Directions. Scan the definitions in Column A. Then think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct vocabulary word in Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided; then write the vocabulary word on the line preceding the definition.

COLUMN A

- _____ **11.** word: _____
n. bravery; daring; strength; unusual skill or ability
- _____ **12.** word: _____
adj. deserving respect because of age, dignity, or character; honored above others; worthy of reverence
- _____ **13.** word: _____
adj. belonging to the Middle Ages; characteristic of the Middle Ages; gothic
- _____ **14.** word: _____
adj. of or passed down by inheritance from an ancestor; transmitted from parent to child
- _____ **15.** word: _____
n. friendship; peaceful relations, as between countries
- _____ **16.** word: _____
n. a liquid with special powers, especially one used as poison, medicine, or magic
- _____ **17.** word: _____
adj. deeply religious; sincere; earnest; heartfelt
- _____ **18.** word: _____
n. a medieval code of knighthood; a code of honor and courtesy
- _____ **19.** word: _____
n. a ruler; king; queen; emperor;
adj. highest in power or rank
- _____ **20.** word: _____
n. a hunt or search; a journey in search of;
v. seek

COLUMN B

- (A) Even though Arthur was able to pull the sword *Excalibur* from the stone, many nobles at first refused to accept him as their **sovereign**. However, he was eventually crowned king.
- (B) King Arthur chose a round table in order to promote **amity**. He did not want the knights fighting over who had the place of honor at the head of the table.
- (C) Morgan le Fay, Arthur's sister, has magic powers. In some versions of the tales, she uses her spells and **potions** for good, but in other versions her charms are spoken and her liquids brewed primarily for evil.
- (D) Merlin was a mighty magician whose **proWess** with magic was known far and wide; few others possessed his skill.
- (E) When Lancelot goes on a **quest** for the Holy Grail, he discovers that it is not his destiny to find it.
- (F) No tale in all of **medieval** literature is sadder than that of the Lily Maid of Astolat who dies for the love of Sir Lancelot. In the Middle Ages, few stories had happy endings.
- (G) Princess Elaine's beauty and Sir Lancelot's courage prove to be **hereditary**: Galahad inherits his mother's looks and his father's bravery.
- (H) Sir Galahad, perhaps the most faithful and **devout** knight in Camelot, was also the purest of heart.
- (I) The code of **chivalry** required that Sir Gawain accept the challenge of the Green Knight, but it took exceptional courage to fight a being who could carry his head in his hands!
- (J) When the wounded Arthur left Camelot, he ordered the **venerable** Sir Bedivere to throw Excalibur, the magic weapon that had served him so well, into the lake.