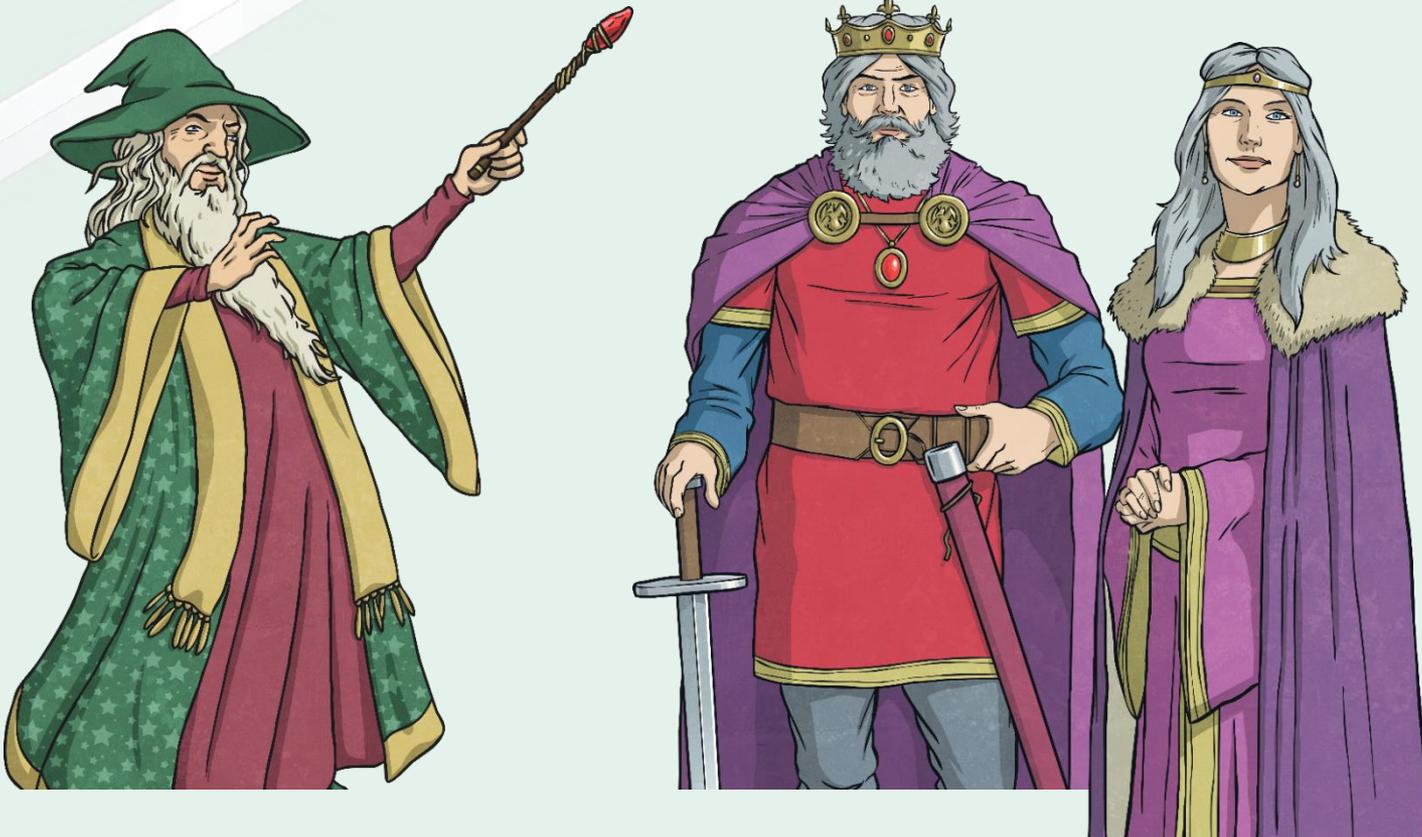


The Legend of King Arthur

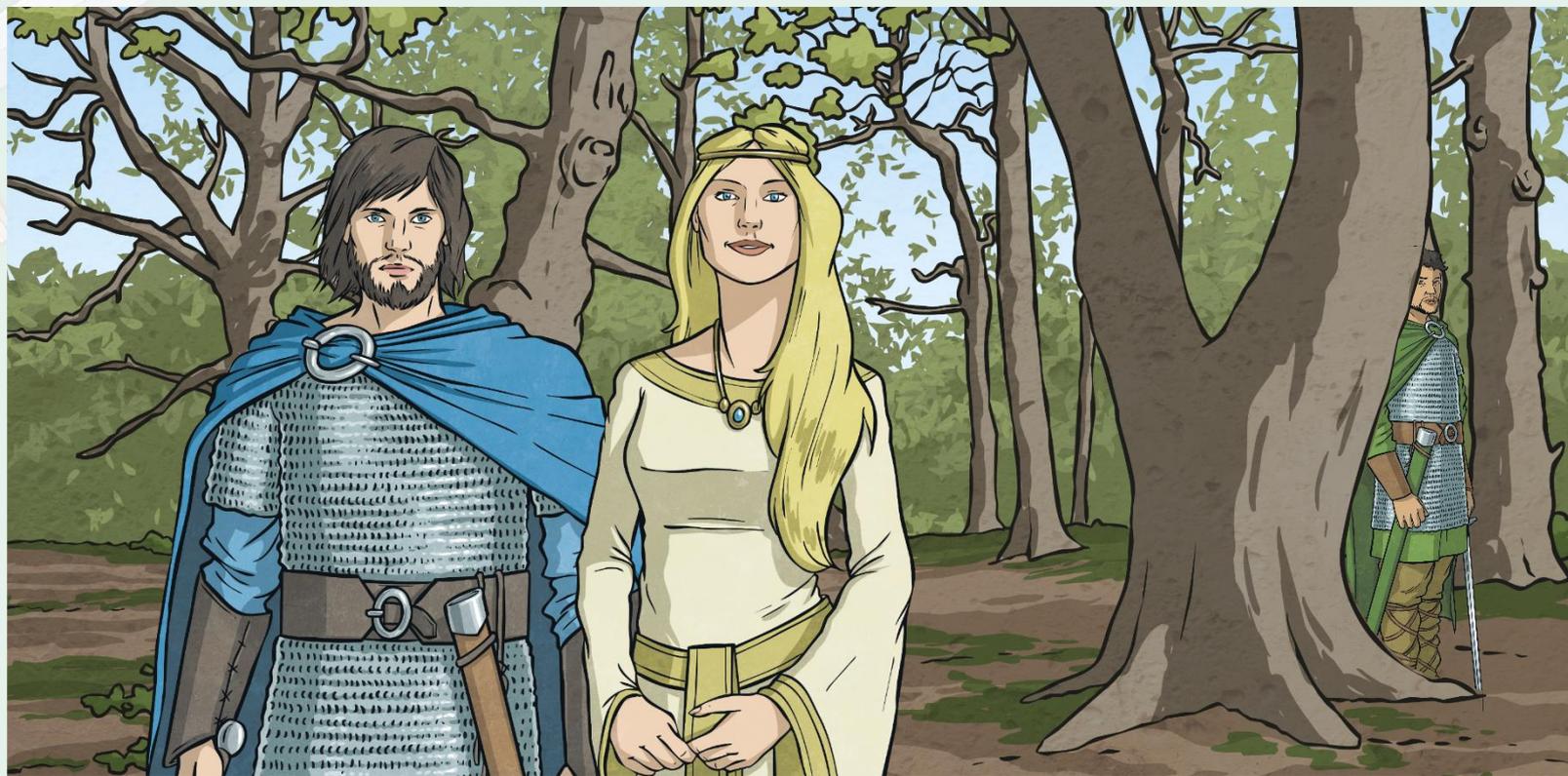


Arthur then settled his royal court at Camelot. He married Guinevere, the beautiful daughter of King Leodegrance. To celebrate the wedding, King Leodegrance gave Arthur and Guinevere a large round table, which Arthur used to meet with his bravest and most trusted Knights. These Knights were known as 'Knights of the Round Table'.

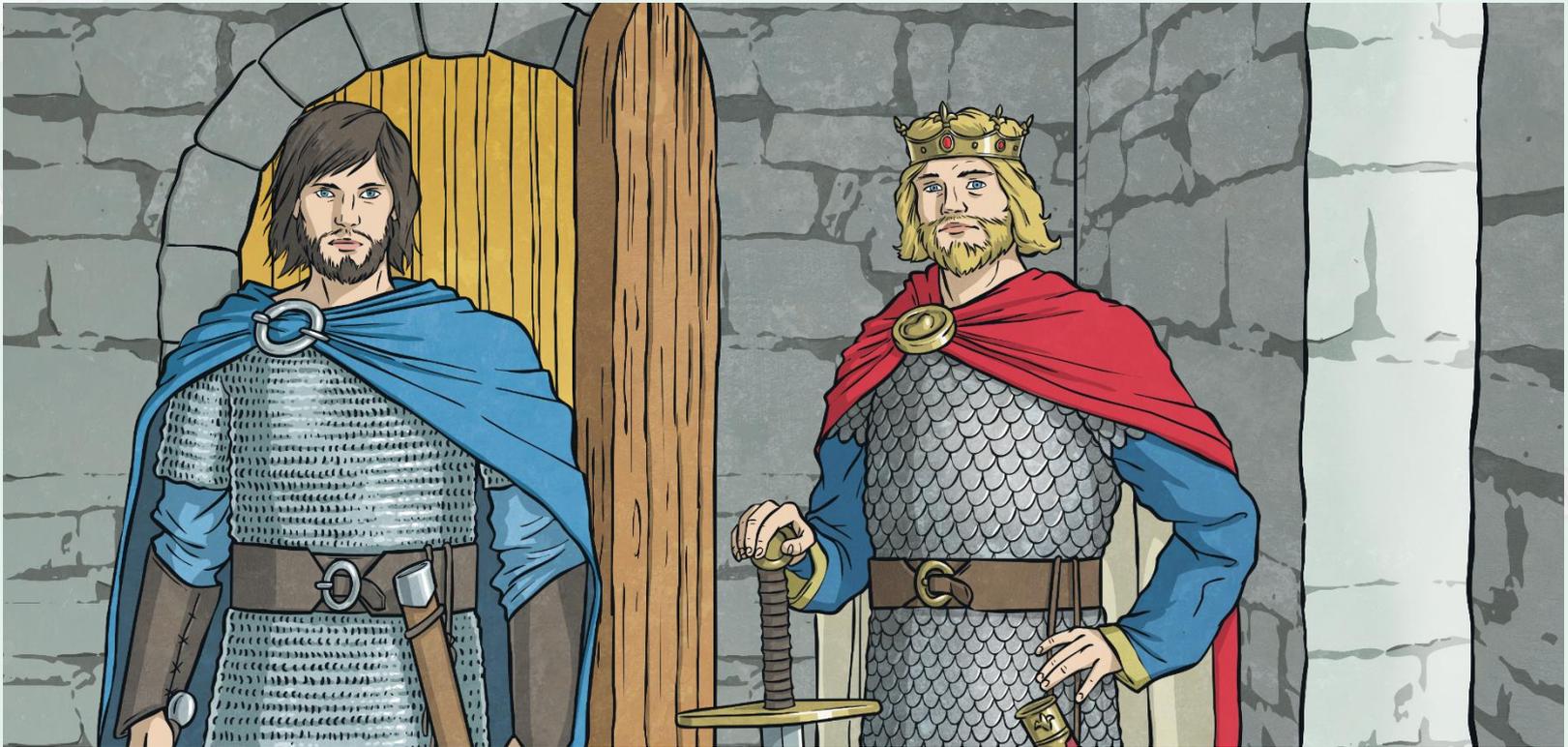


The Knights had many adventures: they fought dragons, rescued damsels in distress and even tried searching for the 'Holy Grail' (the cup that Jesus was said to have used during the Last Supper). The bravest knight of all was Sir Lancelot.

Sir Lancelot and Guinevere fell in love and would meet in secret, away from the palace. At first, Arthur knew nothing of this, but his nephew Mordred, a jealous and evil knight, found out about them and told Arthur.

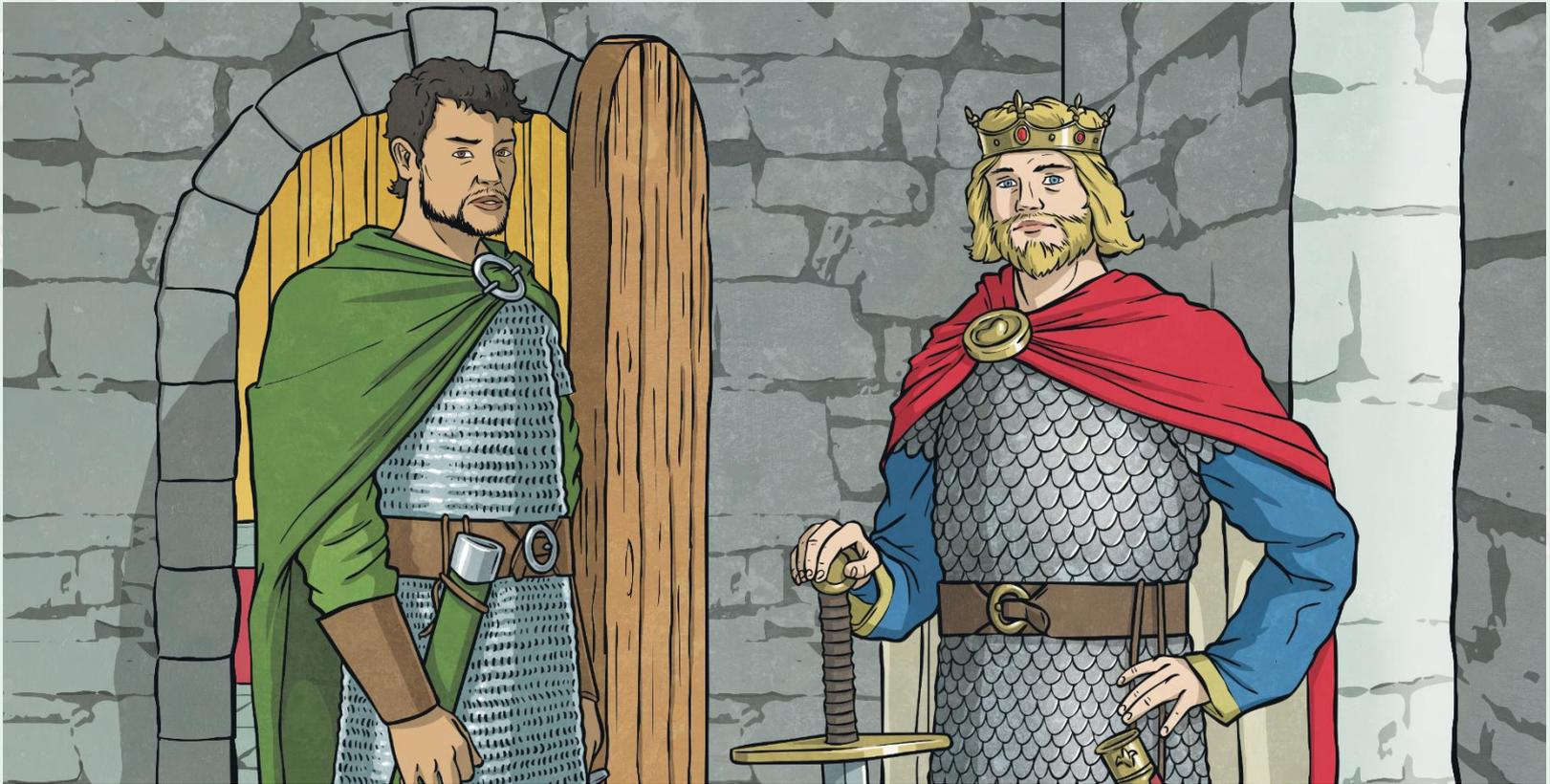


Arthur was furious and went to find them. Guinevere was captured and taken to the court but Sir Lancelot escaped to Brittany. It was ruled that Guinevere should be executed for her treason against the King. Upon hearing this, Sir Lancelot returned to rescue her and they fled, once again, to Brittany. Arthur pursued them and left Mordred in charge of his kingdom while he was away. Arthur killed Sir Lancelot but could not kill Guinevere as he loved her. Instead, he sent her to live in a nunnery for the rest of her days.

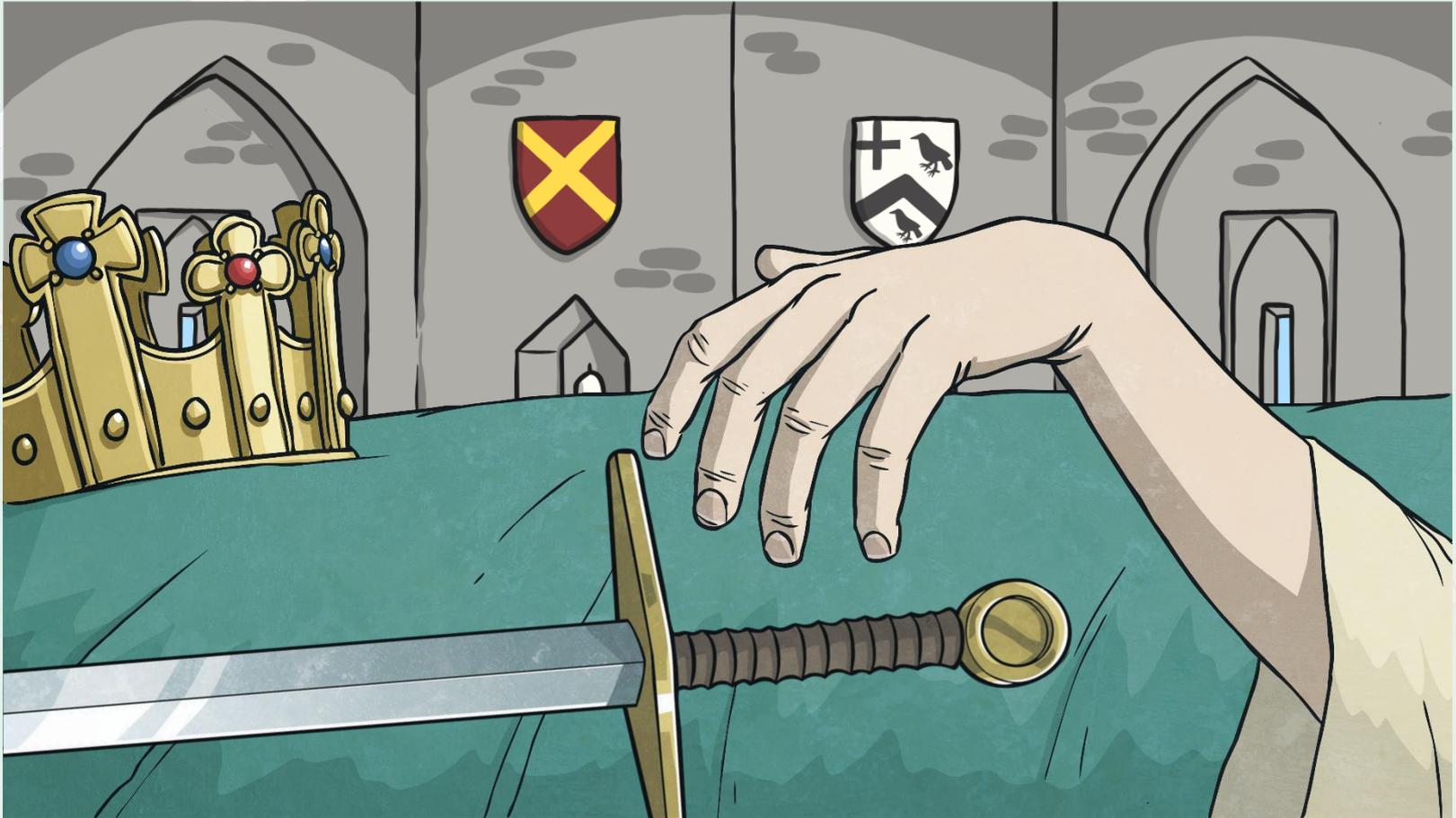


Whilst Arthur was away, Mordred proclaimed himself to be High-King. When Arthur heard of this, he returned to Britain with his army. The armies of Arthur and Mordred then fought an enormous battle.

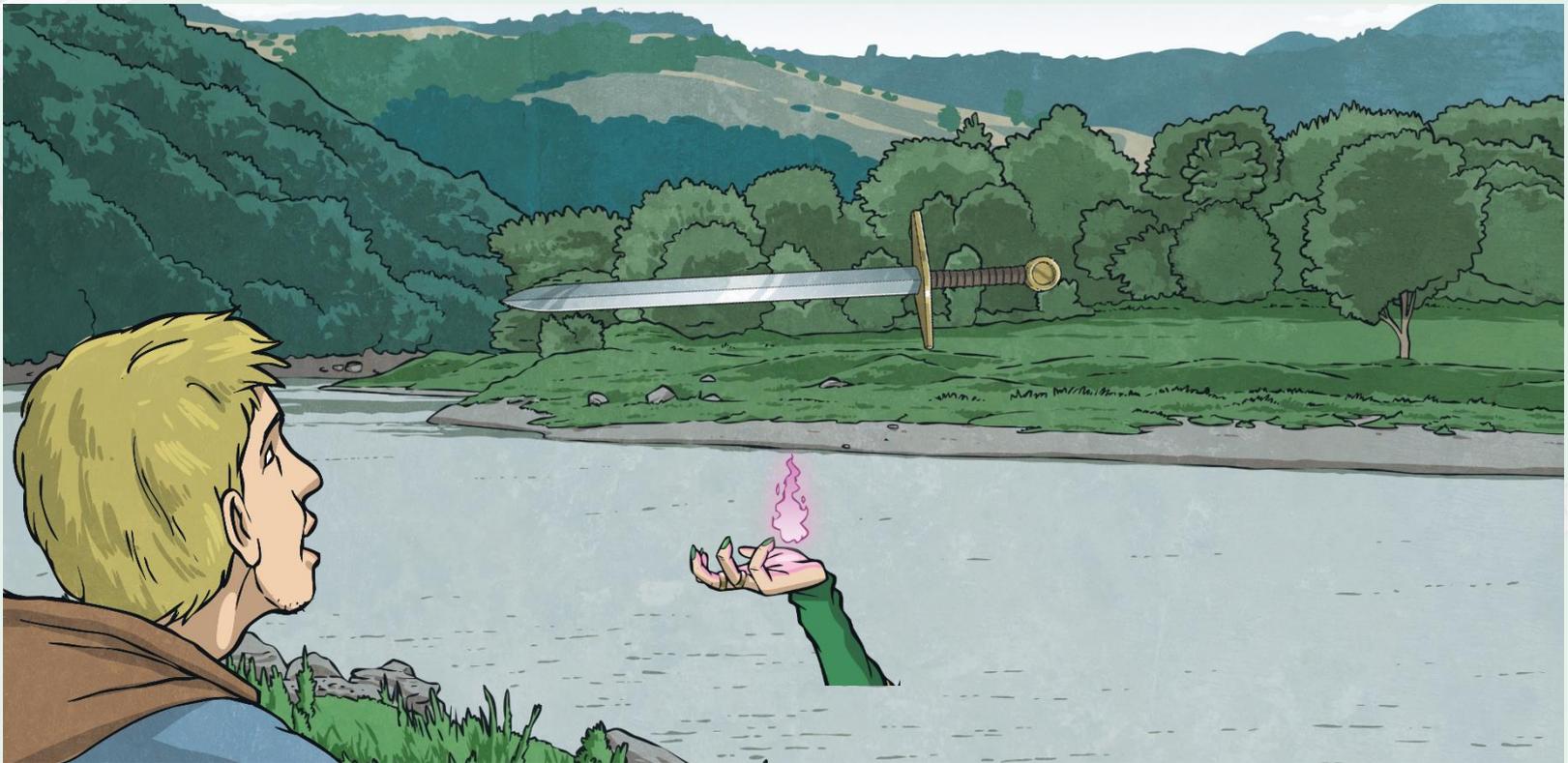
At the end of the battle, only Arthur, Mordred and a few brave knights remained alive. They fought fiercely, but Arthur killed Mordred with his sword Excalibur.



Unfortunately, Arthur himself was mortally wounded. He knew he would die very soon, so he gave Excalibur to his knight Sir Bedivere and told him to return it to the Lady in the Lake.



Sir Bedivere could not bear to throw Excalibur into the lake, so he hid it instead. When he returned to Arthur, he told him he had thrown it into the lake. Arthur did not believe him and told him he **had** to return Excalibur to the lake. Sir Bedivere relented. He went to the lake and as he threw Excalibur in, he was astonished to see a hand emerge from the water to catch the sword. It was the hand of the Lady of the Lake.



When he returned to Arthur, he told him what he had seen. Arthur knew that now, Excalibur had been returned to the Lady of the Lake. A boat then appeared on the lake, and Arthur was placed into it. It then sailed away to the isle of Avalon, where he died soon after. His body was never recovered. It is said that he rests, awaiting the call of the Britons, and will return in their time of greatest need.



Can you find these features in the legend of King Arthur?
Give detail in your answers and an example from the story.

1. A quest
2. A hero
3. A quest or a journey to be undertaken
4. Good and evil
5. The resolution
6. An example of something that has been embellished.

What does **embellished** mean?

embellished: make (a statement or story) more interesting by adding extra details that are often untrue.



Identify key features of legends.