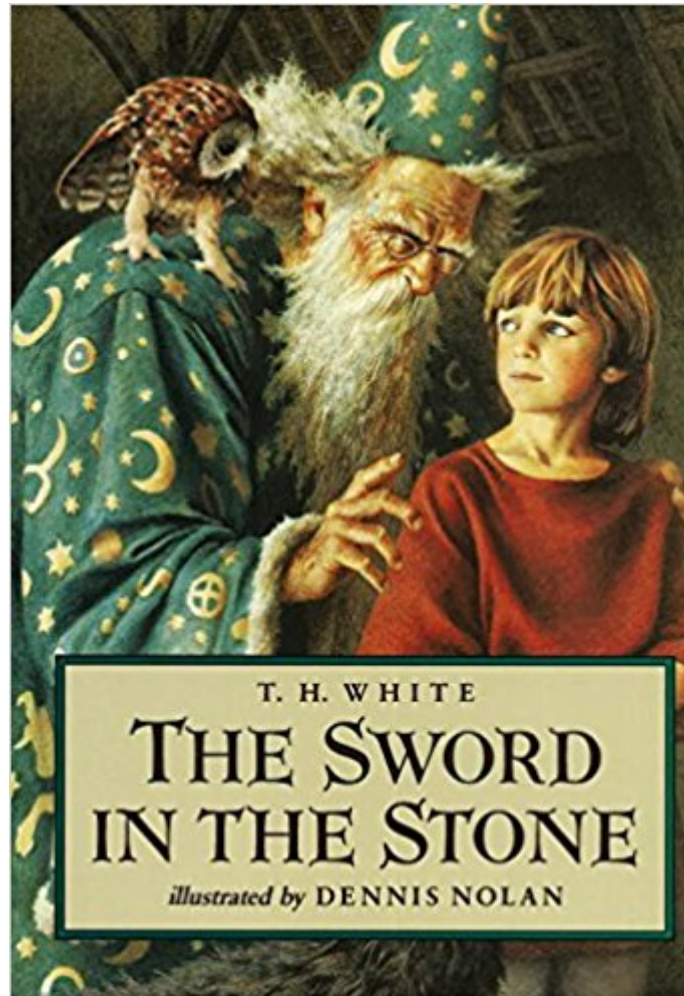




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The Sword In The Stone



Synopsis

"Learn. That is the only thing that never fails."--Merlyn the Wizard
Before there was a famous king named Arthur, there was a curious boy named Wart and a kind old wizard named Merlyn. Transformed by Merlyn into the forms of his fantasy, Wart learns the value of history from a snake, of education from a badger, and of courage from a hawk--the lessons that help turn a boy into a man. Together, Wart and Merlyn take the reader through this timeless story of childhood and adventure--The Sword in the Stone. T.H. White's classic tale of the young Arthur's questioning and discovery of his life is unparalleled for its wit and wisdom, and for its colorful characters, from the wise Merlyn to the heroic Robin Wood to the warmhearted King Pellinore. Golden Kite Honor artist Dennis Nolan has loved The Sword in the Stone since childhood, and he imbues White's tale with magic and mystery in his glowing illustrations. Readers who know Arthur or are meeting him for the first time will delight in this beautiful rendering of one of the greatest stories of all time.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Neville Jason's approach, he says, is to be humble to the material he is working with and to let the powers of absorption work. It is apt that in this classic retelling of the King Arthur legend, the wizard Merlin often teaches the boy Arthur (aka Wart) by changing him into other creatures--a fish, a bird--to learn by absorption, by being, with empathy being the least of the lessons taught. It is a perfect fit of sensibilities. Jason, who was awarded the Diction

Prize by Sir John Gielgud at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, delivers fully developed characters with such warmth and spark that listeners are instantly transported to Sir Ector's castle. Originally written in 1938, this audiobook is perfect for any J.K. Rowling fan, as its humor, intellect and playfulness feels as contemporary as a Harry Potter novel. In fact, Rowling has described White's Wart as Harry's spiritual ancestor. Combined with the brilliant performance by Jason, what more could a fantasy fan want? (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Veteran Shakespearean actor Jason reads this classic tale relaying Merlin's tutelage of young Arthur. Devoid of music or sound effects, the audio allows listeners to step back and savor Jason's conversational reading. His atmospheric, melodious British accent makes it seem as if White himself is telling the story over a spot of tea. Jason represents characters ranging from bizarre beasts to outlandish eccentrics. He masterfully expresses the wry humor and charming chivalry of White's 1938 homage to Thomas Mallory's epic Arthurian legend. Includes a booklet with historical background and text notes. A wonderful family listening experience, especially for Potter and Pullman fans wishing to experience the roots of British fantasy. Grades 4-8. --Mary Burkey --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As a huge fan of Disney's "The Sword in the Stone" movie, I was excited to read this book. I knew that it would likely be significantly different from the animated movie, but I was curious about White's original story. I ultimately enjoyed it! "The Sword in the Stone" was a charming story with interesting characters who went on interesting adventures. The Wart, Merlin (Merlyn) and Archimedes were a little different than their movie counterparts, but I found myself liking each of them in the book. (It was only Kay, Wart's brother, who seemed to have undergone a more major character change for the movie.) "The Sword in the Stone" was a rather easy, light read. I read it during lunch over the course of several weeks. It was easy to read one chapter (usually depicting one of Wart's adventures, from beginning to end), put the book down, and pick it up another day. Perhaps it can't be considered extremely exciting, but it's certainly intriguing enough for the reader to want to finish the book.

The Once and Future King, which is built upon and uses text from the Sword in the Stone, is one of my favorite books. Much like the Hobbit is a sometimes silly preamble to the Lord of the Rings, The Sword in the Stone is the less serious story of King Arthur as a boy that sets the stage for the novel,

The Once and Future King. And like the Hobbit, while it can be occasionally silly- a deadly serious and powerful story is just below the surface. White was clearly impacted by the struggle to hold views of evolution and a God-centered world view, and was also clearly impacted by the tensions of war torn Europe. He weaves some fun stories of Robin Hood, life in a hawk mew, and light-hearted jousting in with all his explaining and metaphorizing, though. I can't imagine not liking the vivid imagery and exotic story-telling, and if you are a fan of any of the other initialed British writers you'll certainly feel at home with T.H. White. Read the Sword in the Stone- it won't take much time, but then by all means read The Once and Future King one day for the real masterpiece.

This is an amusing work for children, though entertaining for all ages, with a number of interesting mediaeval words, like 'austringer', 'alaunt' 'solar room' and 'fewmets'. The novel offers a good many insights into life in feudal households and the unfolding of the seasons in rural England. White gives interesting insights into haymaking, jousting, the path to knighthood and archery. But the story is heavy with anachronisms, so that Robin Hood who resisted the tyranny of King John in the 12th and 13th centuries becomes a friend and teacher of Wart who is to become king of England in the fifth century. There are amusing allusions to an electric company and to the Encyclopaedia Britannica and to spectacles worn by King Pellinore and Merlin, though none existed before the 15th century. There is also an excessive reliance on shape changing, so that the Wart becomes a fish, two types of bird and a badger. The book is most valuable for its psychological examination of the preparation of boy for the throne of England, implying that Merlin was divinely appointed to develop and inform Arthur to be king. It may be the book is a justification of the Divine Right of kings to rule, at least at the court of Camelot. However, one serious failing with the book is White's outward insistence that Kay, Arthur's foster brother and eventual seneschal, is essentially a good person. But all the evidence is that Kay is mean, selfish and envious. Otherwise, the book is gently thoughtful though the descriptions of slaughter and killing and violent contests may be troublesome to squeamish parents and teachers who try hard to bowdlerise the writers they approve for their children's reading. ã ã The Sword in the Stone

This is a substantial, thick book for kids but word worthy for an adult. The illustrations are of the photo-realistic style, like many Tolkien illustrations, and some include creatures sprung from great imagination. Of course, having been written by master word smith T H White helps. All in all, a delightful book for a somewhat older child, I'd say. I can hardly wait until the grandkids get old enough.

Wow! Gorgeous edition! Well worth the money. I needed this book for my son's required reading list this summer and can't recommend this version highly enough! Shipping was fast too! The book came a day ahead of the time scheduled

Got this used but in excellent condition. The illustrations are beautiful. I'm so so glad to have this original version of the book, since it's different than the version that is included in THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING.

We got this book for my son's assigned summer reading from his school. The book itself is good and discussion worthy, and will make a good classroom topic, hitting upon some controversial topics. The book itself has some wear, but for the cost was a pretty good value. It had a bit of a musty smell, like it came from an old school or library. But, hey; it was used, so we weren't expecting perfection. I'd buy from this seller again. And, my son would recommend the book to others for a good read.

Good bits and pieces with puckish, nerdish humour. Not believable as a whole, neither as fantasy or history.

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