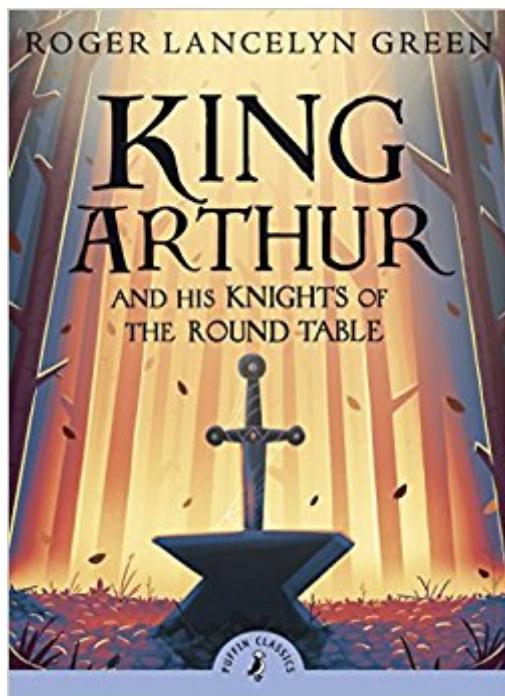


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King Arthur And His Knights Of The Round Table (Puffin Classics)



Synopsis

They're Puffin Classics for a reason, it's because they're the best. Step up to the Round Table and join the knights of the Realm! King Arthur is one of the greatest legends of all time. From the magical moment when Arthur releases the sword in the stone to the quest for the Holy Grail and the final tragedy of the Last Battle, Roger Lancelyn Green brings the enchanting world of King Arthur stunningly to life. One of the greatest legends of all time, with an inspiring introduction by David Almond, award-winning author of *Clay*, *Skellig*, *Kit's Wilderness* and *The Fire-Eaters*.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: NC1130L (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 685 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,238 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval #5 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Fairy Tales #5 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Retold out of the old romances, this collection of Arthurian tales endeavors to make each adventure--"The Quest for the Round Table, " "The First Quest of Sir Lancelot, " "How the Holy Grail Came to Camelot, " and so forth--part of a fixed pattern that effectively presents the whole story, as it does in *Le Morte D'Arthur*, but in a way less intimidating to young readers. (All Ages) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Roger Lancelyn Green was born in 1918 and lived in Oxford and at his family home in Cheshire,

which the Greens had owned for more than 900 years. He loved storytelling and was fascinated by traditional fairy tales, myths and legends from around the world. He was a professional actor, a librarian and a teacher. His retellings include Egyptian, Greek and Norse legends, plus a retelling of Robin Hood. He also wrote many books for adults, including a biography of his friend C. S. Lewis, creator of the The Chronicles of Narnia. Roger Lancelyn Green died in 1987.

This is a good sized, thick book with torn edge paper. It has the feel of an adult book, but is meant for kids. The illustrations are black and white and often are made to look like manuscript illuminations (but B&W) and many have a Celtic intertwined motif that I find enjoyable. Arthur was a Celt, after all, and the English were Angles, Saxons, and Jutes who invaded fertile farmlands which they took for their own forcing the Celt inhabitants to Wales and Cornwall, both with little desirable farmland. I laugh when I see Hollywood calling Arthur King of England. He fought the English bitterly if we believe he existed at all. Arthur became popular after the Viking Normans conquered England and Arthur was celebrated as the fighter of the people who took the Celts place, and were now being displaced. Compare with Robin Hood (Saxons were the good guys and Normans were the bad guys) for the other side of the story. There are 14 chapters here that cover the usual suspect in Arthurian lore. If I had to criticize it at all, I would say it is a little cramped in presentation and presents itself as if it has more inertia than a more modern book. Personally, I like that but some might view this as a bit dated. Guess what? It is old-fashioned, and closer to the feel of the original stories.

A tale of love, chivalry and the greatest adventures of a band of gallant knights and a great compassionate and brave King and the queen who destroyed the greatest realm in Christendom, and ended the saga of Sir Lancelot the bravest and most noble knight of all and set in motion the dissolution of the historic fellowship of King Arthur and the knights of the round table

This wasn't my favorite. I'm not quite sure if it was the language or just that I thought the stories were toned down from the original. Also, I was amazed at how often everyone "smote" each other. I like the King Arthur stories, but it can become a bit repetitive after a little while. A lot of damsels in distress who are wandering through the forest and then of course the smiting of each other. Even with all the smiting, the fighting wasn't very descriptive which is why I think it feels toned down. However, the story is a classic and one that I think every avid reader should read. There's plenty of chivalry, maidens in distress, magic, and wizards.

With so many modern twists on Arthurian legend in the offering, it's refreshing to find an offering that brings back the nobility of the original stories.

This is difficult to review. The plus side is that the book itself is free on kindle--which is always a good thing! However, the greatest flaw is that this is Knowles' version of the Arthurian legend. Just a heads up for anyone reading this review, the Legend of King Arthur varies quite a bit from author to author. The most famous version the story is, arguably, the version that was presented by Malory. However, this version was written by Knowles who happened to be a Victorian architect. While it certainly has its merits, it also is written in a strange prose/style that can be hard to follow...and, more importantly, distracting at times. The story is basically a series of encounters than deeply developed characters that you might expect to find in a novel. As a result, the story reads a bit disjointed and is actually quite boring. Honestly, while the version is free, there are better versions of the same story.

I've always been intrigued by this period of time and the castles, jousts, and adventures that go with it, and this book reminded me why with its descriptive details and engaging characters. In this version, far more takes place away from King Arthur's castle than within it, but the unifying element of all the various adventures is the return to the Round Table in time for Pentecost and other religious holy days. One thing that totally surprised me was the regularity with which stories began with the knights going to Mass to begin their daily adventures. It stood in stark contrast with all the fighting and bodily injury that followed each day, but it also made a connection between these stories and the Crusades. The individual chapters are quite long, but there are numerous breaks on the pages to provide relief along the way.

King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table by Roger Lancelyn Green is a retelling of the King Arthur stories for children. The stories follow many years in the course of the Kingdom of Logres from Merlin's creation of the round table to the downfall of the kingdom due to the relationship between Launcelot and Guinevere (which is dealt with very appropriately for child readers). The epilogue leaves the reader wondering if King Arthur is truly dead or not and whether, one day, Logres will return. Sometimes the stories are a little graphic, but for the most part this is a great collection of stories.

I liked it, but I wish it had more to it... it felt like half of the Disney movie "The Sword in the Stone".... yet I know it had well beyond far more in it than the Disney movie did... I just wish that there was more to it all (stories, lessons, etc.)... with that being said I am still searching for a "version" with more to it (I was a history major and philosophy & anthropology minor in college, so take what I'm saying with AT LEAST a grain of salt)....

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