

## “Merlin and the Dragon” Notes

Vocabulary:

ruthless: without pity

bedraggled: hanging limp and wet; dirty

insolence: disrespect

recognition: knowing again

quest: a journey in which a prize or challenge is sought after

hero: are usually born in unusual circumstances or secret, their true parents might be unknown, often trained by a wise, old man, must prove himself by a feat of strength or intellect

Footnotes:

none for this story

Story Notes:

- this story is called a frame story - a story in which the characters tell another story within the first one; Arthur and Merlin are the outside story, and Emrys is the inside story.

-Arthur seeks out Merlin because he is having bad dreams; he is anxious about being king just because he pulled the sword

-Arthur feels his crown is too heavy - symbolic of his fear of being king

-Arthur listens intently as Merlin tells the story because he is still a young boy who loves stories

-Setting - rugged mountains of Wales

-Emrys is having trouble sleeping too; his dreams of stones and dragons

-he is teased by the village boys for being fatherless and strange; his “magical”

-Emrys is taught by a wise, old man who knows he is a son of a princess and whose grandfather was king.

-Vortigern, our villain, arrives in the village. Emrys noticed a red dragon on his banner. The man wants to build a tower; he uses the villagers to build it.

-Emrys has a dream that the tower crumbles because two dragons lay beneath: one red and one white. Sure enough, the tower crumbles the next day. Vortigern blames the villagers for their poor work and has them rebuild the tower again - but it also crumbles.

-Vortigern consults his fake “magicians” and they tell him he must kill a boy spawned by a demon. The villagers tell Vortigern that it's Emrys.

-The wise old man tells Emrys to trust his dream when the soldiers come for him. Emrys tells Vortigern that rather than kill him, he should listen to Emrys's dreams.

-Emrys tells Vortigern he must drain the water and kill the two dragons sleeping in the stone eggs.

-The stonecutters crack the eggs 3 times (magic fairytale number!) and out merged a white dragon and then a red dragon.

-Before Vortigern can kill them, the dragons fly into the air and fight. Finally, the white dragon caught the red by the throat and killed it. Before Vortigern could kill the white dragon, it flew away.

-Emerys predicts that, like the red dragon, Vortigern will be defeated.

-Vortigern tells Emerys if the tower doesn't stand this time, he's a dead man.

-That night, through the hawk's eyes, Emerys sees that an army is marching on Vortigern - an army led by a "white dragon." He tells Vortigern that this will happen, but before Vortigern can harm him, that very army calls Vortigern to meet his fate. Vortigern's men desert him when they see the army, and Vortigern refuses to give up.

-The "inside" story stops and the "outside" story resumes with Arthur and Merlin. Arthur asked what happened.

-Merlin tells him the Uther Pendragon - Arthur's father - defeated Vortigern. Before this point, Arthur didn't know that Uther was his father. Knowing this makes Arthur more confident that he deserves to be king not just because he pulled the sword from the stone.

-Merlin confesses that he was the young boy Emerys. He pulls a dragon's tooth out of his belongings to prove it. He reminds Emerys to trust yourself - that is worthy of the crown.

Figures of Speech in the story:

similes = uses "like" or "as" to compare two things that are usually not compared

alliteration = deliberate repetition of the same beginning letter of word

personification = giving human qualities to inanimate objects

Find the Figures of Speech:

4 similes:

\_\_\_\_\_ (822)                      \_\_\_\_\_ (826)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (825)                      \_\_\_\_\_ (826)

3 alliterations:

\_\_\_\_\_ (822)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (824)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (824)

Personification:

\_\_\_\_\_ (822)