

Arthur Across Ages

Trace how one legendary king changes with each period.

9.T.PM.1.a "Examine an archetypal story, myth, event, or figure as it is represented in two or more different time periods. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows how Arthur is portrayed, then number the three details 1, 2, and 3 to track the time periods. Use your marks to compare what changes and what remains important.

A King Retold

- ① In the twelfth century, Geoffrey of Monmouth presented Arthur in *Historia Regum Britanniae*, a Latin history of Britain that blended legend and invention. Geoffrey's Arthur is a powerful warrior-king who defeats enemies across Britain and Europe. His court is grand, and his victories make him seem larger than ordinary people. Yet the story also contains danger. While Arthur campaigns abroad, his nephew Mordred seizes power and Guinevere. Arthur returns to fight Mordred. Mordred is killed in the final conflict; Arthur is gravely wounded and taken to Avalon. This medieval version uses Arthur to imagine a strong ruler for a troubled island.
- ② About three centuries later, Sir Thomas Malory shaped English Arthurian tales into *Le Morte Darthur*. Malory begins with Uther Pendragon, then follows Arthur's birth, hidden childhood, and rise to the throne. The Round Table does not begin with Arthur. King Leodegrance owns it and gives it to Arthur when Arthur marries Guinevere. Malory still celebrates knights in battles and quests, but he gives more attention to personal loyalties. Lancelot's love for Guinevere breaks trust within the court. Mordred uses that division to challenge Arthur. In this late medieval version, the fall of the kingdom grows from choices made inside Arthur's own circle.

- ③ In the nineteenth century, Alfred, Lord Tennyson retold Arthur’s last days in “The Passing of Arthur,” part of *Idylls of the King*. Tennyson’s Arthur is less a conquering hero than a weary leader whose ideal fellowship has failed. He tells Sir Bedivere that “the old order changeth,” suggesting that societies must change even when people fear loss. The poem concentrates on Arthur’s final journey toward Avalon and on Bedivere’s struggle to obey him. Written during the Victorian period, this version uses the old legend to question duty, change, and the survival of ideals after a political community collapses.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- ① Compare the main source of danger to Arthur’s kingdom in Geoffrey’s version and in Malory’s version.

- ② How does the passage show a change from Geoffrey’s warrior-king to Tennyson’s leader? Use one detail from each version.

- ③ Which version connects Arthur’s story most directly to change in society? Give one piece of evidence from the passage.

- ④ In Malory’s version, how does Arthur receive the Round Table, and what does the passage’s focus on relationships suggest about this version?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 100 to 130 word pitch for a present-day Arthur adaptation. Name one earlier version from the passage that influences your adaptation, identify the archetypal role you keep, and explain two changes that reflect a current concern.

Adapt a shared figure

Write your complete 100-130-word pitch here. Compare the earlier portrayal with your new one, preserving an archetypal role and explaining two purposeful changes.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows how Arthur is portrayed, then number the three details 1, 2, and 3 to track the time periods. Use your marks to compare what changes and what remains important. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the main source of danger to Arthur's kingdom in Geoffrey's version and in Malory's version.	In Geoffrey's version, Mordred seizes power while Arthur is campaigning abroad. In Malory's version, broken trust within Arthur's court, especially the relationship between Lancelot and Guinevere, creates a division that Mordred uses.
2	How does the passage show a change from Geoffrey's warrior-king to Tennyson's leader? Use one detail from each version.	Geoffrey presents Arthur as a powerful warrior who wins victories across Britain and Europe. Tennyson presents him as a weary leader whose ideal fellowship has failed.
3	Which version connects Arthur's story most directly to change in society? Give one piece of evidence from the passage.	Tennyson's Victorian version connects most directly to social change. Arthur's statement that "the old order changeth" suggests that societies must change.
4	In Malory's version, how does Arthur receive the Round Table, and what does the passage's focus on relationships suggest about this version?	Arthur receives the Round Table from King Leodegrance when he marries Guinevere. The focus on relationships suggests that Malory is especially concerned with loyalty, trust, and choices within the court.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My streaming drama, Round Table 2040, takes its main influence from Tennyson's Victorian Arthur. Like Tennyson's leader, Arthur is an idealistic ruler watching a fellowship weaken, so the archetypal role of the fallen king remains. First, the Round Table is a city council that publishes its meetings online. This change reflects today's concern about public trust and misinformation. Second, Mordred gains followers by spreading edited videos rather than by claiming a throne through force. This change shows how digital media can divide a community. At the end, Arthur leaves office, but Bedivere preserves the council's original goals for future citizens to study.

Accept comparisons that accurately use details from the passage and explain how Arthur, conflict, or theme changes across periods. For Part 3, accept varied modern settings if the response names an earlier version, retains an archetypal role, and explains two purposeful updates. Source check: Geoffrey, *History of the Kings of Britain*, Book XI, chapter 2, distinguishes Mordred's death from Arthur's wounds and removal to Avalon. Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, Book III, chapter 1, describes the Round Table marriage gift. Tennyson, *The Passing of Arthur*, presents the dissolved fellowship and changing order. These are literary portrayals, not verified events in a historical Arthur's life.