
Part I - The Winning of Kinghood

Chapter 1

Identity and Characterization

Sir Kay - elder son of Sir Ector of Bonmaison; the Trustworthy Knight, a young knight of valor and promise

Arthur - younger son of Sir Ector

Individual and Society

1. How does the situation resemble the story of the selection of David as king of Israel?

Ans: A younger brother, least expected as a contender, is the choice of God and of the prophet. High character and faithful service in the family also suggest his selection.

2. How does Sir Ector show himself to be approved?

Ans: In the combat he and his sons fight with bravery and skill.

Author's Technique

1. Might there be significance that the great event with the sword was to be held on Christmas Day?

Ans: Yes, it would seem to suggest a connection with the birth of the Christ as the Savior and King of the World.

2. How was it that young Arthur drew the special sword from the iron anvil?

Ans: He did it humbly and inadvertently, not in pride or seeking of office.

3. What is the author saying to us in this important detail?

Ans: Perhaps he is saying that the most meaningful part of being a worthy and honorable man is this humility and earnestness that Arthur had.

4. Why is Sir Kay disturbed?

Ans: While Arthur is glad for his older brother's success, Sir Kay seems to show jealousy and envy when he perceives what has happened.

5. What does Sir Kay do to reveal the true nature of his heart?

Ans: He is overcome by envy and determines to lie. He plans to claim the honor that belongs to Arthur.

Vocabulary

worthies - men who were respected

Court of Chivalry - the ruling court of knights and noblemen

pavilion - usually a big tent that housed a nobleman's people

escutcheons - a shield with the family coat-of-arms on it

tourney - contest or tournament

crupper - the rump of the horse or a leather strap covering the rump

Part I - Chapter 2

Identity and Characterization

1. In what way does the author demonstrate the dark side of Sir Kay's character?

Ans: He continues to lie and attempts to have the honor of the sword for himself.

2. Who does young Arthur turn out to be?

Ans: He is the babe grown up. He is Pendragon's son.

3. What further reveals Arthur's good heart and fine integrity?

Ans: He says that he would rather have his father than be king.
