***The Once and Future King* Before Reading Research and Presentations**

**English 2E, Lycke**

There are many common symbols and themes that can be taken from the stories of King Arthur and applied to life in the world today. While the story of King Arthur is fictional, it has provided the world with ideals about conduct for centuries. You will work in a group to research and summarize the key factors involved in one of the categories below. You will need to present your findings to the class in both written (at least 3 paragraphs) and visual (at least 5 images) forms. Give credit to all sources in MLA format.

You will work with a small group to create a presentation that you can use to teach others about King Arthur’s legend and the messages it provides to people in today’s world. Dig deeply for some information related to the topic.  Here are some places to start: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo_saxons/arthur_01.shtml>

<http://www.pbs.org/mythsandheroes/myths_four_arthur.html>

**Topics**

* TH White

Research and report on the life of TH White in general and this novel specifically.  What is the timeframe of this work, his other works, awards, etc.  What was/is the reaction to this novel by critics and readers?  This should be a thorough investigation of his life and impact on literature.

* History and Legend of King Arthur

Who was King Arthur? Where does the legend come from, and what is the historical connection? Who else wrote about Arthur besides TH White? What do we know about the evolution of the legend and its impact on literature and lives in the British Isles? What is the impact of the legend on contemporary culture?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo_saxons/arthur_01.shtml#four>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xZZpE7svu8>

* Women in King Arthur’s Legend and in the Middle Ages

King Arthur’s story is dominated by male characters. Who are women related to the legend and what are their roles? What was it like for real women of the 5-6th centuries?

<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/text/marsh-women-of-the-arthurian-legend>

<http://www.academia.edu/6129549/The_Role_of_Women_in_the_Arthurian_Material>

<https://www.bl.uk/the-middle-ages/articles/women-in-medieval-society>

* Camelot and The Holy Grail

What and where is Camelot? What is its significance in the legend? What is the Holy Grail and how did it come to Camelot? What is its significance today?

<http://d.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/theme/camelot>

* Excalibur and Merlin

What is Excalibur, how does it figure into the story of King Arthur, and what does it represent for our lives today? Who is Merlin? What is his connection to Arthur and What other literary allusions to Excalibur and Merlin are there?

* Knights of the Round Table

How was the Round Table established and what is the Knight’s code of honor? How are these ideas useful for people today?

* Early Middle Ages: 5-6 century Britain

Historically speaking, what was it like in the early Middle Ages in Britain? What was daily life like for ordinary people and for royalty?

<https://www.bl.uk/the-middle-ages>

<http://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages>

* Early Middle Ages (Medieval Times) in the World

What was happening in the world during this time? What did the map of the world look like (hint—new countries have been formed and old ones dissolved since then)? What of significance was happening in key places around the world (religion, politics, science, etc.)? What was invented and discovered during this time period?

<http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780191735486.timeline.0001>

<https://www.bl.uk/the-middle-ages>

<http://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages>