



The King and the Sword - Corrigé

You **may** know Arthur Pendragon, Excalibur, the knights of the Round Table... However, can you tell what part of the story is reality and what part is fiction? Many historians **attempted** to separate the truth from the myth. For instance, some of them discovered that a chief named Arthur **might have lived** in Wales during the 5th century AD.

Nevertheless, the most famous stories about Arthur **must have been written** by Robert de Boron - a 12th century French poet. **The latter** was the first to explore the story of Excalibur, King Arthur's magic sword.

In de Boron's literature, the throne of Great Britain was **empty** and the **kingdom** needed a king. Thus, Merlin made a stone appear by magic and he **stuck** a sword in it. On its **blade**, you could read: "The one who will have the power to **pull this sword out** shall become king". Of course, Arthur **achieved** this exploit.

Robert de Boron is not the only one who wrote about the legend of Excalibur. Sir Thomas Malory, a 15th century English knight narrated a different story. **According to** him, the Lady of the Lake - an enchantress - **might have given** Excalibur to Arthur. Malory did not **deny** the version of the sword in the stone, he thought that it **might have been** another sword.



Answer the following questions:

- Did Arthur Pendragon really exist? Justify.

Arthur Pendragon, the character never existed. However, some authors wrote about a chief who might have lived during the 5th century and whose name may have been Arthur.

- In de Boron's story, how did Arthur get his sword?

According to Robert de Boron, Arthur became king by pulling Excalibur out of a magic stone.

- What can you say about Malory's opinion on de Boron's story?

Malory did not ignore de Boron's version of the story, but he gave another view on how it must have happened.

- Do you think that there are only two versions of the Arthurian Myth? Justify.

The document at stake only mentions two writers (de Boron and Malory). Other authors may have written about the Arthurian myth and many different versions must have been brought to life. For example, Walt Disney's cartoon or even Alexandre Astier's Camelot series are representative of the several stories that have been created.

Correction

En vert, le vocabulaire utile, nouveau, ou que vous rencontrerez fréquemment :

- **To attempt** [to do something] : tenter / essayer [de faire quelque chose]
- **Nevertheless** : néanmoins
- **The latter** : ce dernier
- **Empty** : vide
- **Kingdom** : royaume
- **To stick** : planter / coller
- **Blade** : lame
- **To pull out** : retirer
- **To achieve** : accomplir
- **According to** : selon / d'après
- **To deny** : nier

Rappel :

1. « Must, May, Might » indiquent des degrés de certitude. Ce sont des auxiliaires modaux (ils n'ont donc pas besoin de l'auxiliaire « do » pour être conjugués). Ils ne peuvent pas être suivis du prétérit. On est obligé d'utiliser le Past Perfect.
2. Le Past Perfect se compose de deux éléments. Le verbe « have », au présent, et n'importe quel verbe, au participe passé.

Exemple : I have written. (J'ai écrit)

3. Le passif se compose de deux éléments. L'auxiliaire « be » et n'importe quel verbe au participe passé. « Must, may ou might » suivis de la forme passive, au passé, impliquera : Past Perfect + passif. Autrement dit : Have + Be (participe passé) + verbe (participe passé).

Exemple : This book must have been written by Malory.

[must/ may/ might] [have] [Be p. passé] [verbe p. passé]

Ce livre doit avoir été écrit par Malory.

