

Legends from the British Isles



Student summaries

The Legend of the Unicorn

A Legend from England

Rihanon was a girl who lived with her parents in a village, near Sir Brangwin's castle. Sir Brangwin was a Lord and he was very bad and greedy. One day Sir Brangwin argued with Simon Grimstone(Rihannon 's Father) and he took him to prison.

Unfortunately he took his wife too, because she could work in the castle. Rihannon was very sad and lonely but she needed a job. She decided to look for truffles for Sir Brangwin.

One afternoon, a villager saw a beautiful little white horse with Rihannon. The villagers tried to catch it but the little horse ran into the forest. Day after day, Rihannon found big truffles because the little horse helped her find them. Sir Brangwin heard the story and he knew why the little horse had a lump: it was a unicorn.

The Lord wanted to talk to her to catch the unicorn. Rihannon didn't want to help him and Sir Brangwin told her that he 'd kill her parents. She felt terrible. She went to the forest and jumped on the unicorn. Sir Brangwin followed them. The next morning, the Knights and hunters started looking for the Lord. They found him in the forest mysteriously dead.

Rihannon's parents went back home and she was very happy.



Gelert

A Legend from Wales

The Prince Llewellyn had a baby son. His wife died when the baby was born. This baby was usually looked after by his loyal dog Gelert.

One day, the Prince went hunting and he decided to leave Gelert his son's care. A few hours later, Gelert discovered a hungry wolf standing at the door. Suddenly, the wolf jumped towards the baby's cradle and the Prince's son fell on the floor. Then they started fighting. Gelert was badly hurt, but he was capable of defeating the wolf. The wolf died on a dark corner in the room, and Gelert fell asleep next to the baby because he was very tired.

When the Prince returned, he saw the blood on the baby's face and he didn't see the dead wolf. The Prince thought Gelert had killed his son, and then he killed Gelert with a sword. After that, The Prince heard his son cry and he discovered the dead wolf on the dark corner. So he realized that he had committed a terrible mistake.

Prince decided to bury Gelert in the graveyard of the village and every morning he brought flowers to the grave of his best friend.



The King of the Wizards

A Legend from Scotland

A family of fishers lived in a village near the sea in Scotland. Their names were Hamish and Catrionna. They were happy. One day, Hamish found a wooden box in his net. There was a baby boy inside. They called him Calum.

When Calum was seventeen an old juggler arrived in town. Calum was interested in him and he took the juggler to talk with his parents. Calum left his home for one year and a day.

After a year and a day Calum went back home. Now he was an excellent juggler. The old juggler said to Hamish and Catrionna: “ if Calum stays with me another year and day he will become the best juggler in the world”. But Calum never returned home.

Hamish went out to find Calum, but Calum was in the hands of the evil King of wizards. He was a terrible magician. Hamish went to the king of the wizards' castle to get his son back home, but Calum was a pigeon now. Hamish talked to the wizard and he tricked him. If he found his son he could leave with him. His son was a pigeon with a tiny black feather on its head. Suddenly Calum was standing in front of his father. The wizard was very angry and cried.

They returned home with Catrionna. After that, Calum became a famous juggler and magician and he made a lot of money. The people of the town told scary stories about the king of the wizards, who lived in the dark castle on the high hill.



King Arthur

A Legend from England

- **Characters** : King Arthur, an important British King
Uther: Arthur's father
The magician Merlin: a magician who lives at Uther's court
The Lady of the Lake: she lives in the Lake and she has got Excalibur
King Laodegan: Guinevere's father
Guinevere: Laodegan's daughter and King Arthur's wife
Mordred: an Arthur's Knight, he is bad and he wants to be King of Britain
Sir Bedivere: a loyal Knight
- **Place/Places**: Britain, Cornwall, Ireland, Canterbury, Camelot, Denmark, Dover, Avalon
- **Plot**: Arthur is Uther's son and he becomes King as he is able to take the sword out of the stone.

One day he breaks his sword during a fight. So he and Merlin go to a lake and they take the Excalibur sword from the Lady of the Lake. After sometime, Arthur goes to help King Laodegan in his castle because the Saxons are attacking him. Then Arthur meets Guinevere at a Laodegan's banquet; they fall in love and they get married. Arthur fights against Mordred because he wants to be King of Britain, but Arthur is wounded. Sir Bedivere gives Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake and he puts Arthur in a boat because he wants to die in Avalon.

- **Meaning**. Always be loyal and honest



Robin Hood

A Legend from England

It's the year 1090. Richard the Lionheart is away on a crusade, so his brother, Prince John, is ruling but he's a cruel king: he orders to pay taxes and if people don't pay them, he kicks them out of his house.

One day Robin doesn't pay his taxes and then he runs away to a Sherwood Forest, where he becomes the leader of outlaws. He and his men take money to the rich to give it to the poor.

At one point, he meets a tall man and they begin to fight, when they stop, they become best friend. The tall man is Little John.

After some days Robin meets another knight. They fight and when the knight's helmet falls to the ground, he discovers that the Knight is Lady Marian, the girl he loves.

Mariam is surprised and happy too because she finds out that the man is Robin. So she decides to live in the forest with Robin and the outlaws.

One evening a mysterious knight on an old horse arrives at Sherwood Forest, he's hungry and very tired. This knight is King Richard, the Lionheart, but Robin doesn't know that. They stay together all night. Robin tells him about the cruel Prince John, King Richard's brother, that they are outlaws because they want to help poor people and are waiting for the return of good King Richard.

Now he knows the truth about his bad brother and the Sheriff of Nottingham.

The following morning Richard, Robin and his men go to Nottingham and they defeat the cruel King John

Meaning: all cruel people are sooner or later defeated.



THE Sprightly Tailor

A Scottish Fable

Fables are short simple stories that have a moral, that is, they teach us a lesson. Their characters are animals, plants, objects or forces of nature

- **CHARACTERS:**

The leader of the clan Mc Donald

The (sprightly) tailor

The monster/the monster is horrible. He's got large red eyes, bat like ears, a big mouth with long teeth and his face is full of black hair. He's very big too! He's got a big head, a big neck, a big chest, big arms, hands and long legs.

- **PLACE/PLACES :**

The big castle of Saddell in Scotland

The ruins of a Church near the castle

- **PLOT:** the leader of the clan Mc Donald wants a pair of new elegant trousers with a lot of decoration. He asks a tailor to sew the trousers in a old Church at night. The people of the village say that there are ghosts and monsters in that Church but he accepts. A monster lives there but the tailor is not afraid of him. In fact, the tailor sews the trousers and returns safely to Mc Donald's castle. He gets double money for the trousers.

- **Final moral:** Energy and determination conquer all things.

