

Editors: Rebecca Raynes, Robert Hill Design and art direction: Nadia Maestri Computer graphics: Simona Corniola Picture research: Laura Lagomarsino

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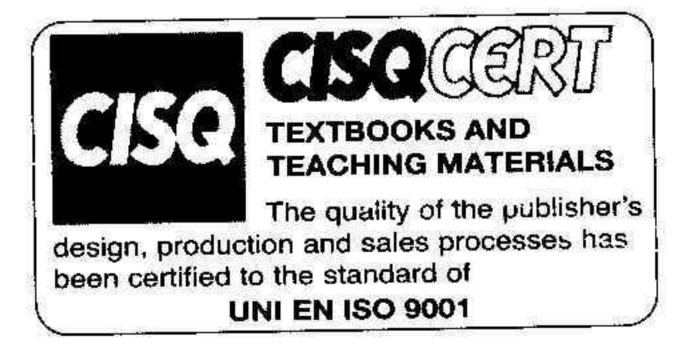
First edition: April 2007

Picture credits:

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ISBN 978-88-530-0643-1 Book ISBN 978-88-530-0642-4 Book + CD

Printed in Italy by Litoprint, Genoa

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# The story of Tristan and Isolde

The story of Tristan and Isolde takes place during the time of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Most of the story takes place in Cornwall and Ireland, but at the end we find Tristan in Brittany. All these places are part of 'the Celtic world': you will read about this on pages 18-20.

The story of Tristan and Isolde is one of the most popular stories of the Middle Ages. It is an old legend and like all old legends many writers wrote about it through the centuries. The most famous versions are by the German writer Gottfried von Strassburg, who died about 1219, and the English writer Sir Thomas Malory (about 1405-1471), who wrote a collection of stories based on Arthur and his knights called *Le Morte D'Arthur* ('the Death of Arthur' in French). The story is also represented in music, art and film. In 1857–59, the German composer Richard Wagner composed the opera *Tristan and Isolde*, one of the most important pieces of music of the 19th century. There are several films of the story, both for the cinema and television. The most recent is the American *Tristan and Isolde* (2006), produced by Ridley Scott, and starring James Franco and Sophia Myles.

### 1 Famous lovers

The 2006 film used this sentence to promote it:

'Before Romeo and Juliet there was Tristan and Isolde.'

What other famous pairs of lovers do you know from literature, music and film? Make a list in class. Do their stories end happily or sadly?



This map of the British Isles and northern France (1623) shows the so-called Celtic nations.





From left to right: Sir Morholt, Isolde of the White Hands, King Mark, Tristan, Isolde,

Queen of Ireland, King Gurman, Lady Bragnae

### Before you read

Vocabulary

Match the words with the pictures. Use a dictionary to help you.

knight minstrel harp sword spear armour lance shield





#### 2 Listening

You will hear the beginning of the story. Listen and complete questions 1-5.

1	Time of day:	
2	People present:	
3	Where the minstrel is from:	
4	Where the minstrel sat:	on a
5	What he played:	



PART ONE

# The Minstrel



ne cold winter evening King Arthur and his knights were sitting at the Round Table in the castle of Camelot. Suddenly a tall young man came into the great hall. He had dark hair and dark, sad eyes. His clothes were old but clean. He had a harp under his arm.

'Welcome to Camelot, young man,' said King Arthur. 'Are you a minstrel?'

'Yes, your majesty, I am,' said the young man.

'Where are you from?' asked King Arthur.

'I'm from Cornwall,' answered the minstrel.

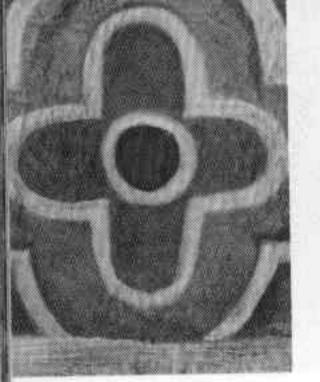
'Well,' said King Arthur, 'we like minstrels and their stories.

Tell us a good story about brave knights and lovely ladies.'

'Do you know the story of Sir Tristan of Lyonesse?' 1 asked one of the knights.

'Yes, I do,' answered the minstrel. 'Sir Tristan is a brave knight, but his story is very sad.'

 Lyonesse: legend says that this land lies at the bottom of the sea between Land's End (the most western point of Cornwall) and the Isles of Scilly.



'Sit down and tell us,' said King Arthur. Everyone in the hall was interested in the story of Sir Tristan of Lyonesse.

The minstrel sat on a stool and started telling his story to the king and his knights. Sometimes he spoke and sometimes he sang and played his harp. This is the story he told:

For many years there were wars between Cornwall and Ireland. The Irish often sailed across the sea to Cornwall and attacked it. There were terrible battles and many people died.

King Mark of Cornwall wanted peace <sup>1</sup> but the Irish did not. He didn't know what to do. One day he asked his cousin King Rivalin of Lyonesse for help.

'Help me fight the Irish and you can marry my beautiful sister,' said King Mark to his cousin.

'The Irish are my enemies too,' said King Rivalin. 'I'll help you fight them. Together we can win, and I'll marry your beautiful sister.'

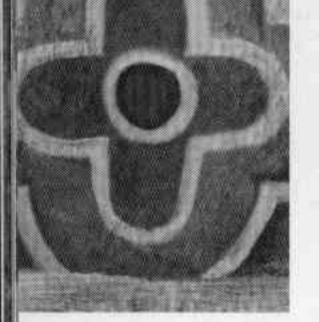
King Rivalin and King Mark fought together and won the war against the Irish. King Rivalin married King Mark's sister and they returned to his castle in Lyonesse. They loved each other and were very happy together. But their happiness did not continue for long. A year later King Rivalin was killed in battle. At the same time the queen had a son, but she died soon after. Before dying she called her servant, Rual.

'Rual, I'm dying,' said the young, beautiful queen. 'Take my child and call him Tristan. His name means sadness. It comes from the French word "triste". Look after him and love him like a



<sup>1.</sup> peace: a period of time with no war and violence.





son. And when he is a man he must go and meet my brother, King Mark of Cornwall. He will help him.'

Rual and his wife loved little Tristan and they looked after him. He became a strong, brave boy. He learned to use a sword, a spear, and to ride a horse. He also learned to play the harp and speak other languages.

When Tristan became a man he left Lyonesse and went to Cornwall to meet his uncle, King Mark. The king lived in a big castle in Tintagel. Tristan entered the great hall of the castle and saw his uncle for the first time.

'Your majesty, I'm your nephew Tristan from Lyonesse.'

'My nephew, Tristan — my sister's son!' said King Mark, looking at the tall young man. 'Welcome to Tintagel! This is your new home. I'm very happy you're here. My knights and I will teach you many things and you'll become a great knight.'

Everyone welcomed Tristan to the castle. He was happy with his uncle, who loved him like a son. He became a famous knight and fought in many battles. The people of Cornwall knew about his great courage and liked him. But some of the knights and nobles were jealous of him because he was King Mark's favourite knight.

One day Sir Morholt from Ireland came to Tintagel Castle. He was a gigantic man with a dark face and strong hands.

'King Gurman of Ireland sent me here,' he said in a loud voice. 'He wants a tribute from you, King Mark.'

'A tribute?' said King Mark, surprised.

'Yes, a tribute!' said Sir Morholt. 'If you send a tribute, King Gurman won't attack Cornwall.'

'What is the tribute?' asked King Mark.





'You must send him thirty noble boys who will become his servants.'

'What!' cried King Mark. 'Thirty of our noble boys! This is terrible!'

'You must do what King Gurman wants,' said Sir Morholt, 'or one of your knights can fight me. If your knight wins you don't have to send the tribute to the king. But no one will fight me! I'm the strongest knight in the world and everyone's afraid of me.'

Everyone was silent, but Tristan's face was red with anger.

'I will fight you, Sir Morholt!' said Tristan. 'I'm not afraid of you!'

Everyone was surprised and looked at Tristan.

'No, Tristan, don't fight him — he's too big and strong,' said King Mark. 'You can't win! He'll kill you.'

'No, Uncle Mark,' said Tristan, 'I'm a knight of Cornwall and I must fight him.'

Sir Morholt looked at the young man in front of him and started laughing. Tristan was much shorter and thinner than the Irish giant.

'I'll meet you in a week on the small island opposite the castle,' said Sir Morholt. 'Come alone, early in the morning!'

'I'll be there!' said Tristan, looking at Sir Morholt's cold eyes.



# The text and beyond

	omprehension check noose the correct answer, A, B or C.
1	The minstrel was from  A
2	Tristan was the son of  A
3	Tristan learnt to  A ride a horse and use a knife.  B play the harp and use a sword.  C speak other languages and sing.
4	At King Mark's court  A everyone was happy to welcome Tristan.  B all the knights were jealous of Tristan.  C Tristan had a son.
5	Sir Morholt gave King Mark  A  two choices.  B  three choices.  C  four choices.
6	Tristan wanted to fight Morholt because  A Tristan was shorter and thinner.  B Morholt was big and strong.  C Tristan was angry.

### A C I I V I I E

#### 2 Characters

Look at these sentences. Which characters are they about?

- 1 He was the king's favourite knight.
- 2 He loved Tristan and looked after him.
- 3 He welcomed the minstrel.
- 4 He wanted something from King Mark.
- 5 Tristan was his favourite knight.
- 6 He was King Mark's brother-in-law.



#### 3 Vocabulary

Put the letters of the adjectives in order and write them next to their opposite.

		lalt nugoy kdar elbifuatu	dol nelca gronst pyaj	A PRINT OF THE PARTY OF
1	light		6 ugly	
2	happy		7 dirty	
3	weak		8 young	***************************************
4	old		9 short	
5	bad		<b>10</b> sad	

4 'Everyone in the hall was interested in the story'

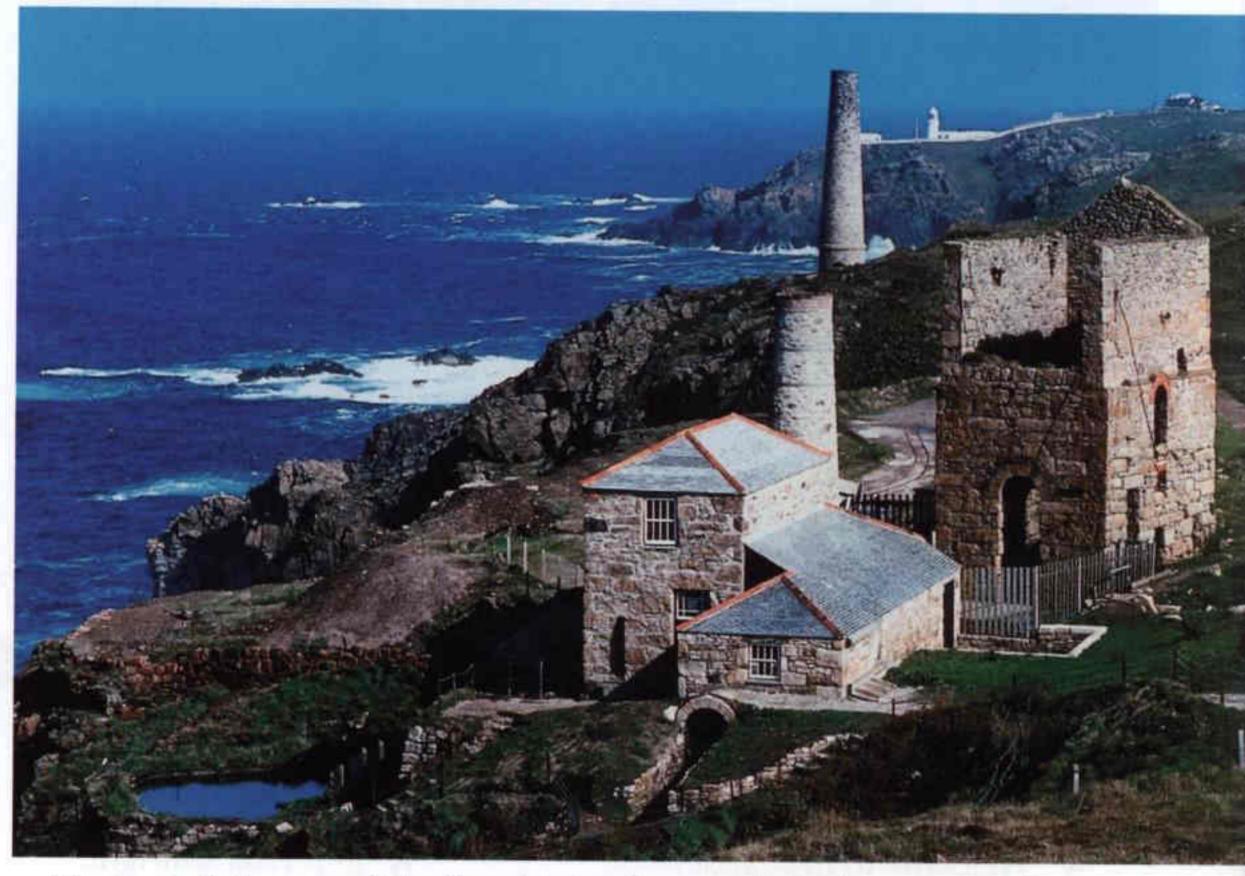
Use the prepositions below to complete the sentences. You can use them more than once.

	of at with	for to	
1	King Mark was very proud	his nephew.	
2	Tristan was angry Sir M	1orholt.	
3	King Mark was grateful	. King Rivalin's help.	
4	Some of the knights were jealous	Tristan.	
5	Tristan was good : langua	ages.	
6	Sir Morholt wasn't afraid		
7	King Rivalin was very happy	King Mark's sister.	
8	CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR O		
C	onversations		
Co	omplete these conversations. For que	estions 1-5, choose A, B or C	•
	Ana mana laminhto	A Yes, I'm.	
1	Are you a knight?	A Yes, I'm.  B Yes, I am.	
		C Yes, we are.	
2	Do you know the story of Tristan?	A Yes, I do.	
		B Yes, I know.  C Yes, he does.	
3	Will you look after my child?	A No, I won't look.	
		B Yes, I'll look.	
		C Yes, I will.	
4	Welcome to my castle!	A That's alright.	
		B Thank you, sir.	
		c Don't mention it	•
5	See you next week.	A OK, see you then	ì.
3		B OK, I'll see.	
		c OK, we'll see.	

# Cornwall and the Celtic Nations

The beautiful county <sup>1</sup> of Cornwall is in the south-west of England. The promontory <sup>2</sup> in the south-west of Cornwall called Land's End is the most western point of England.

Let's first find out about Cornwall and the Celts. The Celts came from the centre of Europe in about 1200 BC. <sup>3</sup> They moved all over



Two typical elements of the **Cornish landscape**: the rocky coast and the tin mines, very important in the past but not used now.

- 1. county: region of the United Kingdom that has a local government.
- 2. promontory: a high piece of land that goes out into the sea.
- BC: Before Christ: before Christ was born. Some people use BCE (before the Common Era) instead of BC, and CE (Common Era) instead of AD (Anno Domini: after Christ was born).

Europe, and began living in Great Britain and Ireland from the 5th century BC. They were living in Cornwall before the Romans came to Britain in 43 AD. After the Romans left, the Celts became important again in Cornwall. This is the period when the story of Tristan and Isolde takes place. The Anglo-Saxons finally took over Cornwall in the 9th century, but Celtic culture continued.

Today Cornwall is one of the six 'Celtic nations', places where people like their Celtic background and want to keep it. The other five are Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany (a region of north-west



The Celts created a special form of the cross with a ring around it: the **Celtic cross**. There are many in Cornwall.

France) and the Isle of Man (an island between northern Ireland and northern England).

The Celtic nations all have languages that come from Celtic languages. The last person who spoke only Cornish (who didn't also speak English) died in 1777. Now only a few Cornish people know the Cornish language, but most know the Cornish name for Cornwall – Kernow – and hundreds of place names and family names begin with Tre, Pol, or Pen, the Cornish words for town or farm, lake and head.

The most important part of the Cornish economy was tin mining. <sup>1</sup> Even before the Celts people mined tin

 tin mining: tin is a soft metal with a silver-white colour; mining is the work of getting metal or coal from the earth.



A legend says that King Arthur was born in **Tintagel Castle** on the north coast of Cornwall. The remains we can see today are of a 12th century castle, but there was a Celtic building here after the Romans left.

in Cornwall, and at one time all of Britain's tin came from here. But in the 20th century it became easier and cheaper to mine tin in Malaysia. The last Cornish tin mine closed in 1998.

Today Cornwall is one of the poorest counties in Britain, and tourism is important for the economy.

About five million tourists visit Cornwall each year. Most of them come for the beautiful countryside, coast and beaches.

### 1 Comprehension check

Look at the words and phrases below. Prepare to say a sentence about each of them with reference to Cornwall.

geographical position Celts Celtic nations language economy tourism

### 2 Regions

Is there a region in your country similar to Cornwall in any way? Imagine you have a foreign visitor in class: bring some photographs to class and describe them to her/him.

### Before you read

3 1	Listening
AT	Listen to Pa

Listen to Part Two. For questions 1-5 tick (✓) A, B or C.

1	What time did Sir Morholt come to the island?	
	A in the morning	
	B in the afternoon	
	c in the evening	
2	Who won the fight?	
*	A Sir Morholf	
	B Tristan	
1	C no-one	
3	Why did Tristan go to Ireland?	
	A to visit the Queen of Ireland	
	B to cure his wound	
	c to become a minstrel	
4	King Gurman wanted Tristan to	
	A teach his daughter to play the harp.	
	B play the harp in the castle.	
	c teach him to play the harp.	
5	If Tristan teaches Isolde to play the harp	
	A he will stay in Ireland for ever.	
	B he can marry her.	
	c the Queen will cure his wound.	

#### T: GRADE 3

#### 2 Speaking: musical instruments

Find pictures of different musical instruments and bring them into class. Use the following questions to help you talk about them.

- 1 Do you play any musical instruments?
- 2 Are there any instruments that you would like to learn to play?
- 3 Try and name as many different instruments as you can think of.
- 4 Can you divide these instruments into different categories?

# Sir Morholt



week later Sir Morholt came to the island early in the morning. He pulled his boat onto the beach. Then Tristan came to the island but he pushed his boat away.

'Why did you push your boat away?' asked Sir Morholt. 'You'll need it when you decide to

run away from me.'

Tristan looked at him bravely and said, 'I won't run away because I'm not afraid of you. Remember, only one man will leave this island alive!'

Sir Morholt laughed and raised <sup>1</sup> his big sword. Tristan did the same and they started fighting. Tristan was young and light and he moved quickly. Sir Morholt was slow and heavy, but he was very strong. Tristan jumped here and there, and soon Sir Morholt was tired. But he continued fighting. The fight went on for many hours.

Suddenly Sir Morholt wounded <sup>2</sup> Tristan's leg with his big sword.

- 1. raised: moved it up in the air.
- 2. wounded: (verb: to wound, noun: wound) hurt, injured.

# Sir Morholt



'There's poison <sup>1</sup> on my sword,' said Sir Morholt, laughing. 'If you don't find someone to cure <sup>2</sup> your wound you'll be very ill. And only a few people in the world can cure it.'

Tristan was very angry and raised his heavy sword. He cut through Sir Morholt's helmet and wounded his head. A small piece of Tristan's sword broke and remained in Sir Morholt's head. The Irish giant fell to the ground — he was almost dead.

That evening some of Sir Morholt's men came to the island. They were surprised to see him on the ground, wounded. They put him/on their boat and sailed back to Ireland, where he died. His sister was the Queen of Ireland, and she was very sad because she loved her brother. She took the small piece of sword from Sir Morholt's head and put it in a small blue box in her room.

'One day I'll find the man who killed my brother,' she thought.

Tristan returned to Tintagel Castle but his wound made him very ill. King Mark called the best doctors of Cornwall but they could not help him.

'Tristan must go to Ireland to cure his wound,' said an old doctor, 'because the poison comes from there. The Queen of Ireland knows everything about poisons and herbs. She can help him.'

'Then Tristan must go to Ireland immediately,' said King Mark. 'Get a ship ready!'

Tristan went to Ireland dressed as a minstrel and called himself Tantris. He did not want anyone to know that he was Sir Tristan. He played the harp and sang beautifully, and the Irish liked his songs. One day King Gurman heard about the minstrel and called him to his castle.

King Gurman and his Queen had only one child - a lovely

- 1. poison: a substance that can kill you or make you ill.
- 2. cure: make better.



daughter called Isolde. She was the most beautiful girl in the world, with long blonde hair, blue eyes and a lovely smile. Everyone talked about her beauty. The King wanted Isolde to play the harp, but there were no good teachers in Ireland.

Tantris entered the great hall of the castle with his harp. He walked slowly because his leg hurt.

'Are you the famous minstrel Tantris?' asked King Gurman.

'Yes, I'm the minstrel,' said Tristan.

'What's wrong with your leg?' asked the King.

'I wounded it during a terrible battle,' said Tristan.

'People say you play the harp beautifully,' said King Gurman. 'Play something for me.'

Tristan played the harp and sang a lovely song, and the king was pleased. 1

'Can you teach my daughter Isolde to play the harp?' asked the King.

'Of course I can,' said Tristan happily.

'Very well,' said the King. 'The Queen will cure your wound with her special herbs. And you will teach Isolde to play the harp. You can live here at the castle.'

'Thank you, your majesty,' said Tristan, smiling.

'I'm glad everyone thinks I'm a minstrel,' thought Tristan.
'Now my leg will get better and I'll soon go back to Cornwall.'

Tristan's leg slowly got better. Every morning he taught Isolde to play the harp and sing. Isolde learned quickly and the King was very happy.

During the harp lessons Tristan often thought, 'Isolde is very beautiful!'

1. pleased: happy and satisfied.



### The text and beyond

### KET (1) Comprehension check

Are the sentences below 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C).

- 1 Sir Morholt arrived on the island before Tristan.
  - A Right

- B Wrong
- C Doesn't say
- 2 Tristan was afraid of Sir Morholt.
  - A Right

- B Wrong
- C Doesn't say
- 3 Sir Morholt's men find Morholt dead on the island.
  - A Right

- B Wrong
- C Doesn't say
- 4 The Queen of Ireland was Morholt's older sister.
  - A Right

- B Wrong
- C Doesn't say
- 5 Only the Queen of Ireland could help Tristan cure his wound.
  - A Right

- B Wrong
- C Doesn't say
- 6 King Gurman heard about the minstrel from one of his knights.
  - A Right

- B Wrong
- C Doesn't say
- 7 King Gurman asked Tantris to teach his daughter to play the harp.
  - A Right

- B Wrong
- C Doesn't say
- 8 Tristan's leg got better immediately.
  - A Right

- B Wrong
- C Doesn't say

### 2 Past simple

Complete the table with the past simple forms of these verbs from Part Two.

Infinitive	Past	Infinitive	Past	Infinitive	Past
come		fall		say	
do		put		hear	
go		take		have	
cut		think		get	
break		can		teach	

## 3 Adverbs

A Look at the adverbs and write their adjective next to it. Then complete the rules about the spelling of adverbs.

Adverb	Adjective
slowly	.,
bravely	
beautifully	
happily	
terribly	
magically	

٠	Most adverbs a	are forme	d by adding		
---	----------------	-----------	-------------	--	--

- If the adjective ends in -y, the adverb has ...............
- If the adjective ends in -e, the adverb has ...............
- If the adjective ends in -able or -ible, the adverb has .......
- If the adjective ends in -ic, the adverb has .................
- B Now complete the sentences below with the adverbs from the list of adjectives.

## quick tragic immediate real easy possible

- 1 King Mark sent Tristan to Ireland ......
- 2 In the end Tristan killed Sir Morholt quite ......
- 3 Isolde learned to play the harp ...............
- 4 Tristan was ...... angry with Sir Morholt.
- 5 Tristan likes Isolde a lot and he will ...... fall in love with her.
- 6 The story ends ......
- C Discuss statements five and six with a partner. What do you think will happen?



Read the descriptions below. What is the word for each one? The first letter is already there. There is one space for each other letter in the word.

A substance that can kill you or make you very ill.
 A protective hat.
 A man trained to fight on a horse.
 A weapon with a long sharp blade.
 The wife of a king.
 A singer and musician who travels from one place to another.



# INTERNET PROJECT

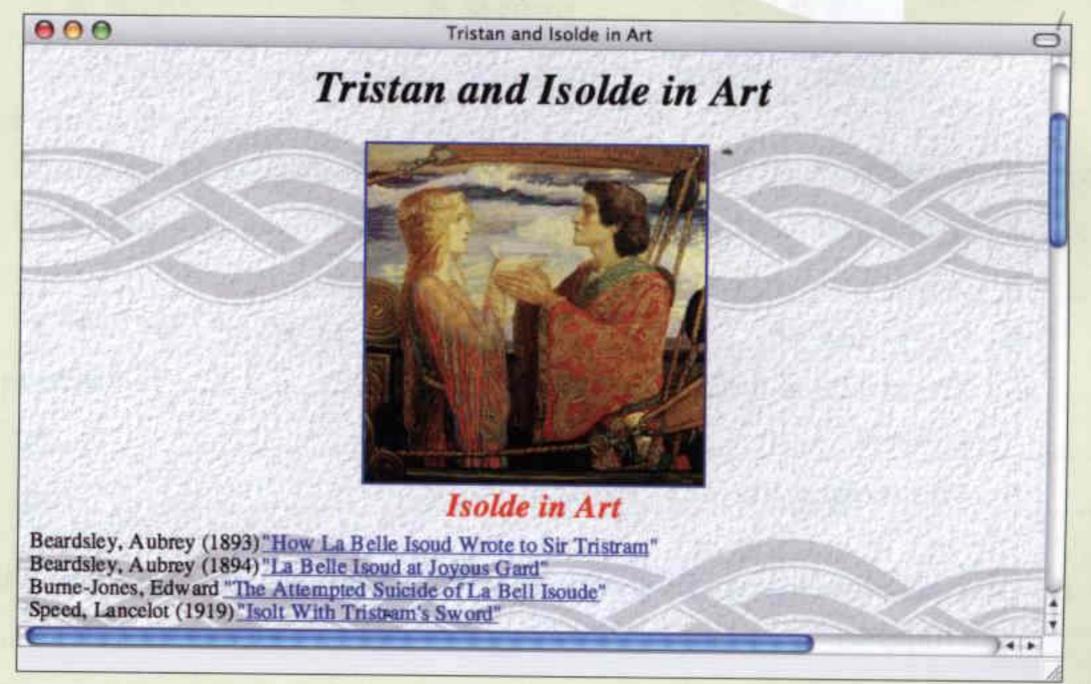


#### Tristan and Isolde in Art

Connect to the Internet and go to <a href="www.blackcat-cideb.com">www.blackcat-cideb.com</a> or <a href="www.cideb.it">www.cideb.it</a>. Insert the title or part of the title into our search engine. Open the page for *Tristan and Isolde*. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

Work in small groups and choose 2 different pictures. Then write:

- a brief description of what is happening in each one
- who each picture is by and when it was painted
- which one you like best and why



# Before you read

# 1 Reading pictures

Look at the pictures on pages 33 and 35 and say:

- who is in each picture and what is happening
- what you think is going to happen next



## 2 Listening

Listen to Part Three. For questions 1-5 tick (✓) A, B or C.

1	Why did Tristan stay in Ireland?
	A to sing songs for the Irish
1	B o laugh and talk
	c to teach Isolde
2	Isolde's eyes were
	A gold.
	B blue.
	c gentle.
3	King Mark wanted to marry Isolde because
	A he wanted peace between the two countries.
	B he loved her.
	c she played the harp well.
4	Tristan promised his uncle
	A to marry Isolde.
	B to bring Isolde to him.
	c to make the queen angry.
5	The dragon
	A killed a few people.
	B wanted to marry Isolde.
	c destroyed houses and trees.



PART THREE

# The Dragon



ristan stayed in Ireland at King Gurman's castle and taught Isolde to play the harp and sing. He and Isolde became good friends and often laughed and talked together. Isolde became a good singer and harp player. She played the harp and sang songs for her

parents and other nobles.

After a year Tristan returned to Cornwall. King Mark was very happy to see his nephew. Every day Tristan told his uncle about Isolde's great beauty.

'Isolde is the most beautiful girl in the world, and she is gentle and kind. Her hair is the colour of gold and her eyes are the colour of the sea. She plays the harp well and sings with a sweet voice.'

King Mark listened to Tristan and said, 'Isolde is King Gurman's only daughter and she is beautiful and kind. If I marry her there will be peace between our two countries.'

1. gentle: calm and quiet.

# The Dragon

The king's knights and nobles agreed with him, but there was one problem.

'We agree with you,' said one noble, 'but how can you marry Princess Isolde? The king and queen of Ireland hate us because Sir Morholt was killed here.'

'He's right,' said another noble.

King Mark was silent for a moment and then said, 'I want to marry Isolde. I'll have the most beautiful wife in the world and there will be peace between our countries. We must find a way!'

He looked at Tristan but he didn't say anything. Tristan knew what his uncle wanted.

'Uncle Mark,' said Tristan, 'I know this is a dangerous adventure. When the Queen of Ireland discovers who I am, she'll be very angry. She hates the knight who killed her brother Morholt. But I'm not afraid. I'll bring Isolde to you, Uncle Mark, and you can marry her.'

'You're brave and loyal, Tristan,' said King Mark. 'Be very careful.'

Tristan sailed to Ireland on a small ship with thirty men. They arrived in Ireland on a stormy night.

'I must think of a plan,' thought Tristan. 'I must bring Isolde to King Mark.'

At that time a terrible green dragon lived in Ireland. It killed a lot of people and burned houses and trees with its fire. No one could kill it. King Gurman was worried and didn't know what to do.

One day he said to his nobles, 'The man who kills the terrible green dragon will marry my lovely daughter Isolde!'



Everyone in Ireland was talking about this, and Tristan heard about it too. He was excited because he wanted to kill the dragon. He had a heavy sword, a long lance and a big shield. He rode to the valley of the dragon and saw the dead bodies of other knights who tried to kill it.

Suddenly Tristan saw the angry dragon. It was a terrible green monster with long white teeth, angry red eyes and a long tail. Fire and smoke came out of its mouth.

'What an ugly creature!' thought Tristan.

He attacked the dragon with his lance and sword. They fought for more than an hour, and in the end Tristan killed it with his long lance. The dragon's last breath 1 was hot and poisonous. Tristan soon felt very bad. He went to the dead dragon and opened its big mouth, Then he cut out its tongue and put it in his bag.

'This tongue will show that I killed the dragon,' he thought.

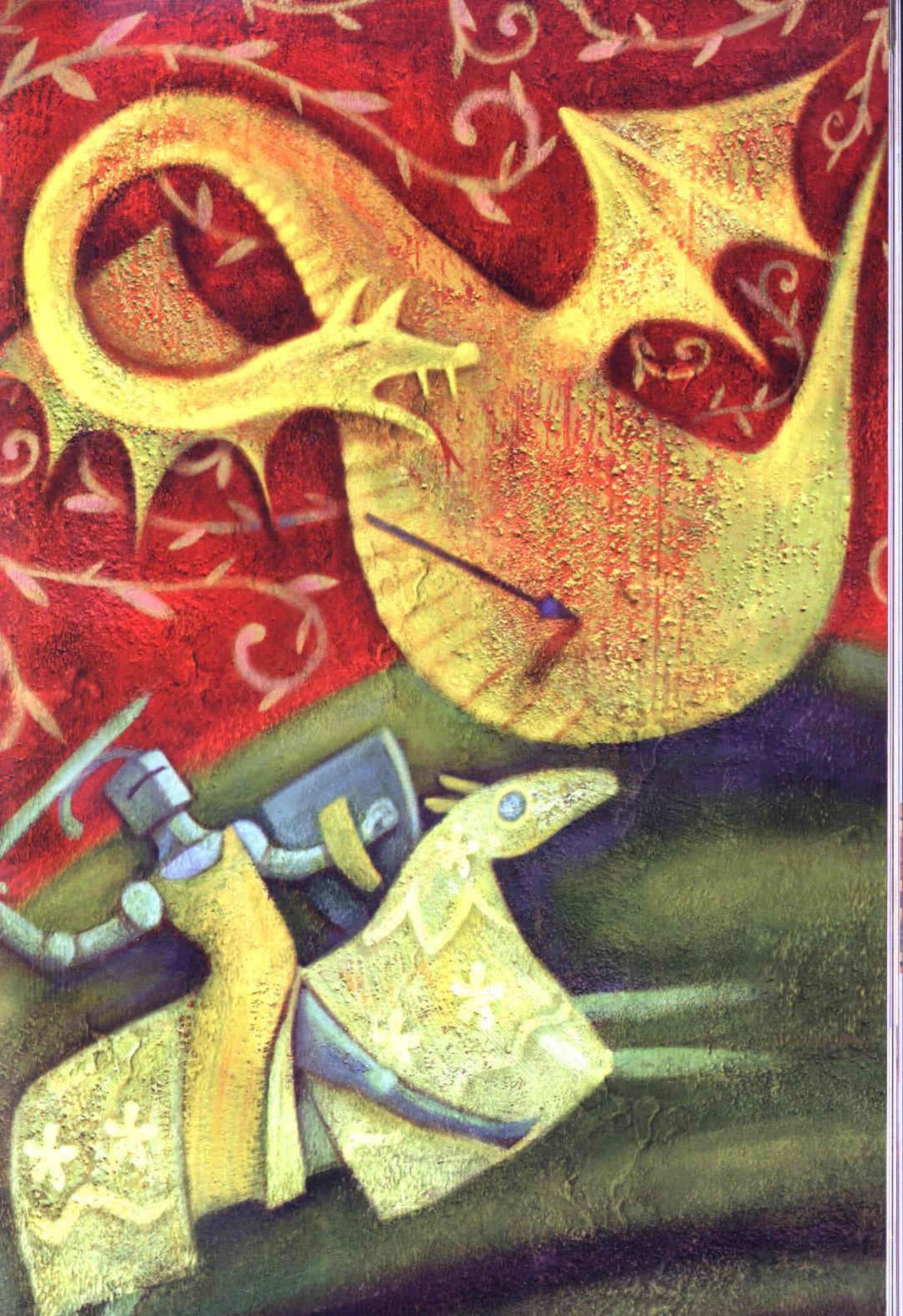
The poison made him ill and he fell to the ground.

Later that day one of the king's nobles called Seneschal came to the valley of the dragon. He liked Isolde very much and he wanted to marry her. But he was a coward 2 and was afraid of the dragon.

When Seneschal saw the dead dragon he thought, 'This is wonderful — someone already killed the dragon! I can tell the King I killed it and then I can marry Isolde! But first I must cut off the dead dragon's head to show the King.'

He cut off the head and took it to the King.

- 1. breath: air that comes out of your mouth.
- 2. coward: a person who is afraid of everything.





'Your majesty,' he said, 'I killed the green dragon! Look, here is its head. Now I can marry your daughter, Princess Isolde.'

The King knew Seneschal was a coward and he did not believe him. But the head of the dragon was in front of him.

When Isolde heard this she started crying and could not stop.

'What's wrong, Isolde?' asked the Queen.

'Oh, mother,' said Isolde crying, 'I don't like Seneschal and I don't want to marry him!'

'Don't cry, my dear,' said the Queen. 'I don't believe Seneschal killed the dragon. Come with me quickly.'

That evening they went to the valley and found the dead dragon and Tristan on the ground.

'Look!' cried Isolde. 'It's Tantris the minstrel. But he's dressed like a knight. I don't understand.'

Tristan heard Isolde's sweet voice and slowly moved his head.

'Are you Tantris?' asked the Queen.

He opened his eyes and said, 'Yes, I am.'

'Why are you in Ireland?' asked the Queen.

'I came to Ireland with some merchants,' 1 he said.

'Did you kill the dragon?' asked the Queen.

'I knew there was a terrible dragon in your country and I decided to kill it,' said Tristan.

The Queen listened and smiled. 'Tantris, you did a great thing and helped our country. The King will be very pleased. But you aren't well because the dragon poisoned you. Come with us to the castle and I'll cure you again with my herbs.'

1. merchants: people who sell things.



### The text and beyond

#### 1 Comprehension check

Are these sentences true or false? Correct the false ones.

		T	F
1	Tristan and Isolde liked spending time together.		
2	After a few months Tristan returned to Cornwall.		
3	King Mark decided he wanted to marry Isolde.		
4	Tristan didn't want to help King Mark marry Isolde.		
5	Tristan returned to Ireland alone.		
6	The dragon killed many people and destroyed houses.		
7	Tristan was poisoned by the dragon.		
8	Seneschal told the king that he killed the dragon.		
9	Isolde was happy to marry Seneschal.		
10	The Queen cured Tristan again with her herbs.		

### 2 Vocabulary

Complete the crossword.

#### Across

- 2 opposite of wonderful
- 7 if you are not brave you are a...
- 8 something which can hurt you is...
- 10 if you have courage you are...
- 14 opposite of light
- 15 an animal like a big lizard which breathes fire
- 16 windy and rainy weather is...
- 17 opposite of beautiful

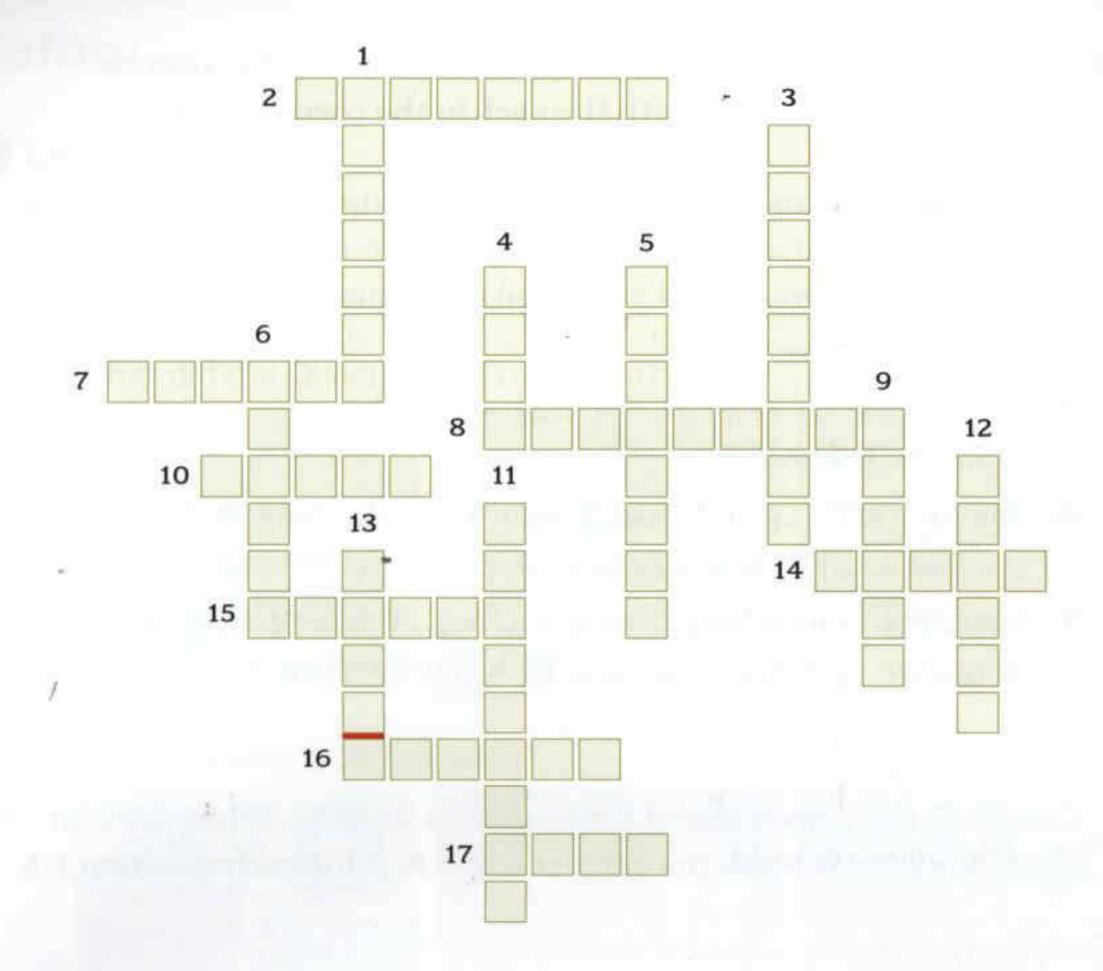
#### Down

- 1 opposite of bored
- 3 something which can kill you if you swallow it is...
- 4 a precious metal
- 5 a female child
- 6 another word for frightened



- 11 opposite of terrible
- 12 beautiful





Now use some of the words from the crossword to complete the sentences below.

- 1 Whoever kills the ...... will marry Isolde.
- 2 Morholt is slow and .....
- 3 The green dragon is ......
- 4 Isolde learns to play the ......
- 5 Seneschal is a ......
- 6 The dragon's breath is ......
- 7 When Tristan arrived in Ireland the weather was ......
- 8 Everyone is..... of the dragon.
- 9 Isolde's hair is the colour of ......
- 10 Tristan uses this to protect himself from the dragon.
- 11 Isolde is King Gurman's ......
- 12 It is very ...... for Tristan to go to Ireland.

A C T I V I T I E S

3 First conditional – 'If I marry her there will be peace.'
Complete the sentences with the verb in the correct tense.

1	The Queen	Tristan's leg if he	 Isolde.
	(cure/teach)		

- 2 If the Queen ...... who Tristan is she ...... very angry. (discover/be)
- 3 If someone ...... the dragon then he ..... to marry Isolde. (kill/be αble)
- 4 The King ...... that Tristan killed the dragon if he ...... him the dragon's tongue. (believe/show)
- 5 Seneschal thinks that if he ...... the dragon's head to the King then people ...... he killed the dragon. (take/think)

## KET 4 Conversation

Complete the conversation between two knights. What does Sir John say to Sir Druce? Mark the correct letter A-H for each question 1-5.

Sir Druce:	Have you heard the news, Sir Gawain?
Sir John:	(1)
Sir Druce:	Seneschal has killed the dragon.
Sir John:	(2)
Sir Druce:	Why not?
Sir John:	(3)
Sir Druce:	Do you really think so?
Sir John:	(4)
Sir Druce:	And have you seen all the preparations in the castle?
Sir John:	(5)
Sir Druce:	They're preparing a banquet in honour of Seneschal.

A I know.

E Yes, what's happening?

B No, what are they?

F No, what's happened?

C But, that's not possible!

G Yes. I've seen him in battle.

D He would never fight a dragon. He's a coward.

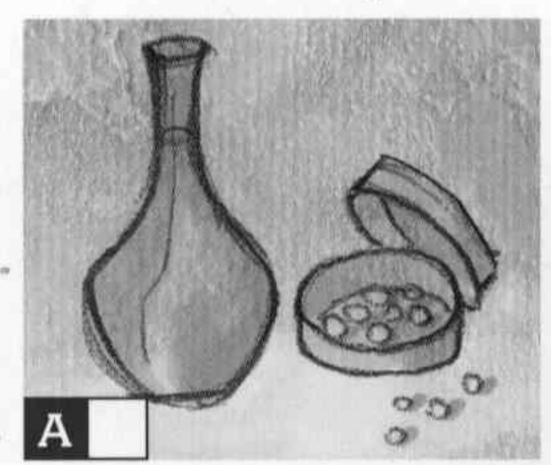
H Yes, I am.

## Before you read

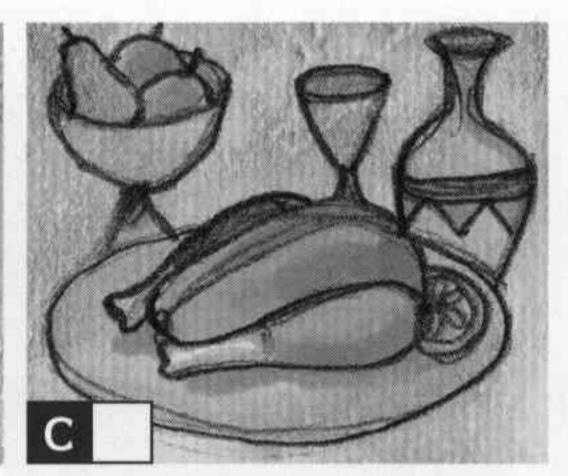


Listen to the beginning of Part Four and answer the following questions. For each question there are three pictures. Choose the correct picture and put a tick  $(\checkmark)$  in the box below it.

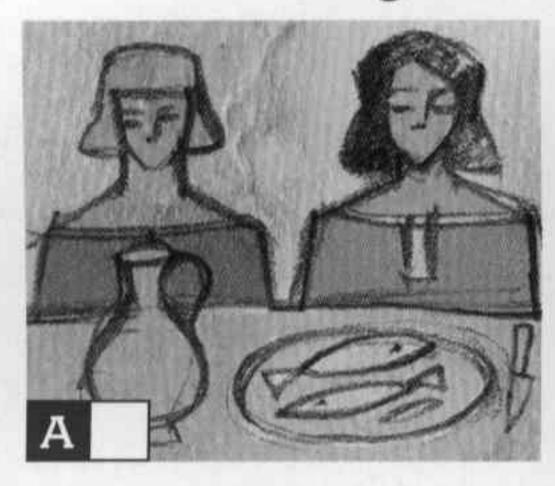
1 What did the Queen cure Tristan with?



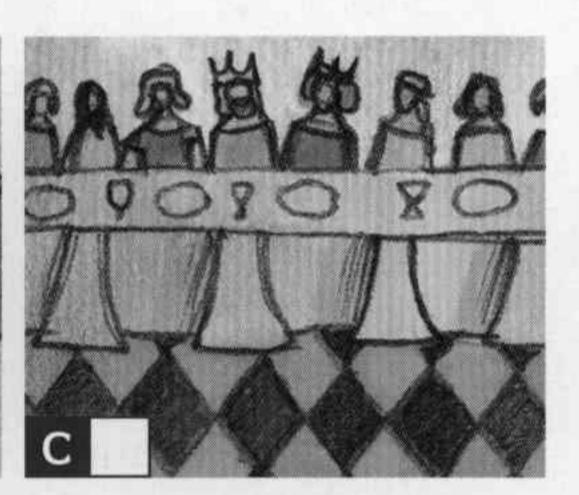




2 Who was sitting at the table?



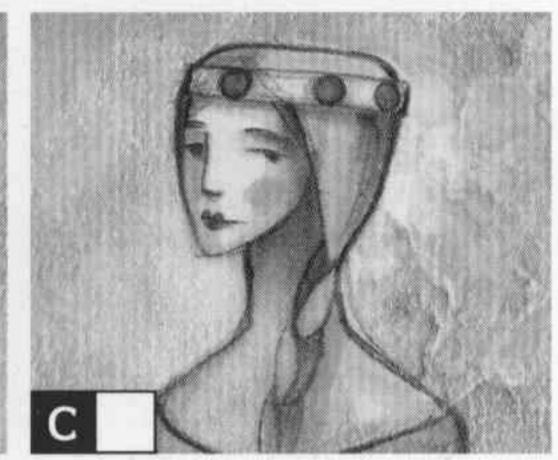




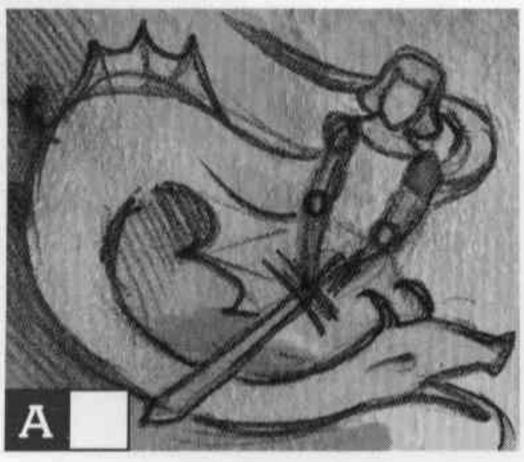
3 Who said 'you didn't kill the dragon'?

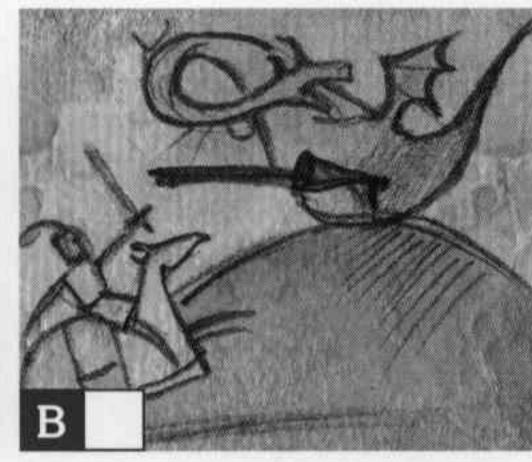


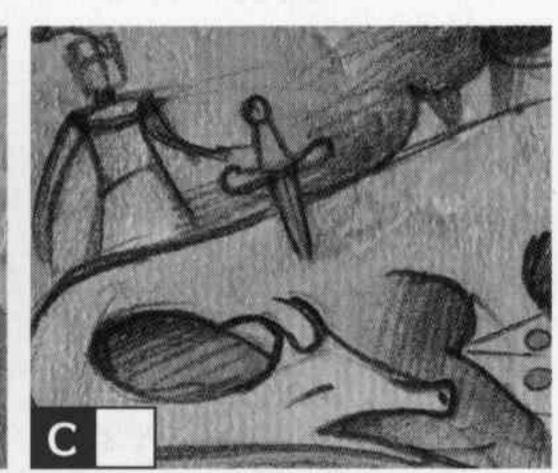




4 How was the dragon killed?







PART FOUR

# Seneschal



nce again the Irish Queen cured Tristan with her magic herbs and Isolde helped her. After a week he got better and went to the great hall to see King Gurman. There was a big dinner in honour of Seneschal, who wanted to marry Isolde. King Gurman, the

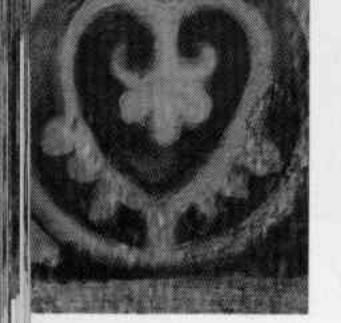
Queen, Isolde, knights, nobles and their ladies were sitting at a long table.

Seneschal talked to his friends and told them about his fight with the dragon.

'It was a long, terrible fight,' he said loudly, 'but I was never afraid. I got very near to the green monster and looked at his red eyes. I saw his long, white teeth and felt his hot breath in my face. I knew I had to kill him, and in the end I did! Then I cut his head off.'

The King was silent but the Queen was not. She looked at Seneschal and said, 'You didn't kill the dragon. You found the dead dragon and cut his head off!'





'What!' said Seneschal, angrily.

'I killed the dragon with my lance after a long fight,' said Tristan, getting up from his chair. 'You're a liar 1 and a coward!'

ENE

Seneschal got up from his chair and said, 'Everyone knows I'm a brave man. I brought the King the head of the dragon.'

'Look in the dragon's mouth,' said the Queen.

Seneschal opened the dragon's mouth and cried, 'The tongue's gone!'

'Yes,' said Tristan. Everyone was surprised and looked at Tristan. He opened his bag and pulled out the dragon's tongue.

'Oh!' everyone said when they saw the long green tongue.

'Liar! Coward!' everyone shouted at Seneschal.

'No,' cried Seneschal angrily, 'you're a liar and a thief! <sup>2</sup> I killed the dragon and you took its tongue! Fight me in battle and we'll see who marries Princess Isolde!'

'Very well,' said Tristan, 'I'll fight you, Seneschal, and I'll win!'

'Very well, there will be a tournament <sup>3</sup> in three days,' said King Gurman, 'and everyone is invited. The winner will marry my daughter, Isolde.'

Everyone started talking about the tournament and there was a lot of excitement in the great hall.

'Who do you think will win?' asked one noble.

'I don't know, but they're both young and strong,' answered his friend.

'It will be a great fight,' said a young knight.

- 1 liar: person who doesn't tell the truth.
- 2 thief: person who takes something which isn't theirs.
- 3 tournament: (here) a battle between two or more knights.

# Seneschal

'And the winner will have a beautiful prize: Princess Isolde!' said a noble lady.

On the morning of the tournament Tristan went to prepare his horse. Isolde brought some of the Queen's herbs to Tristan's room, but he wasn't there. His big sword was on the table and she looked at it.

'How strange,' she thought, 'a small piece of the sword is missing.' She immediately thought of the blue box with the small piece of sword from her uncle Morholt's head.

'Oh no,' she thought, 'is this the sword that killed my uncle?' She ran to her mother's room and got the blue box. She opened it slowly and saw the small piece of sword inside. Then she looked at Tristan's sword and said, 'The piece comes from the same sword! I must tell my mother.'

She went to her mother and said, 'Come with me to Tantris's room.'

When they got there she said, 'The minstrel Tantris is not a minstrel! He's Sir Tristan of Lyonesse, who killed uncle Morholt! Look at his sword.' She showed her mother Tristan's sword and the small piece in the blue box.

'You're right, Isolde!' said the Queen, surprised. 'This is the sword that killed Morholt.'

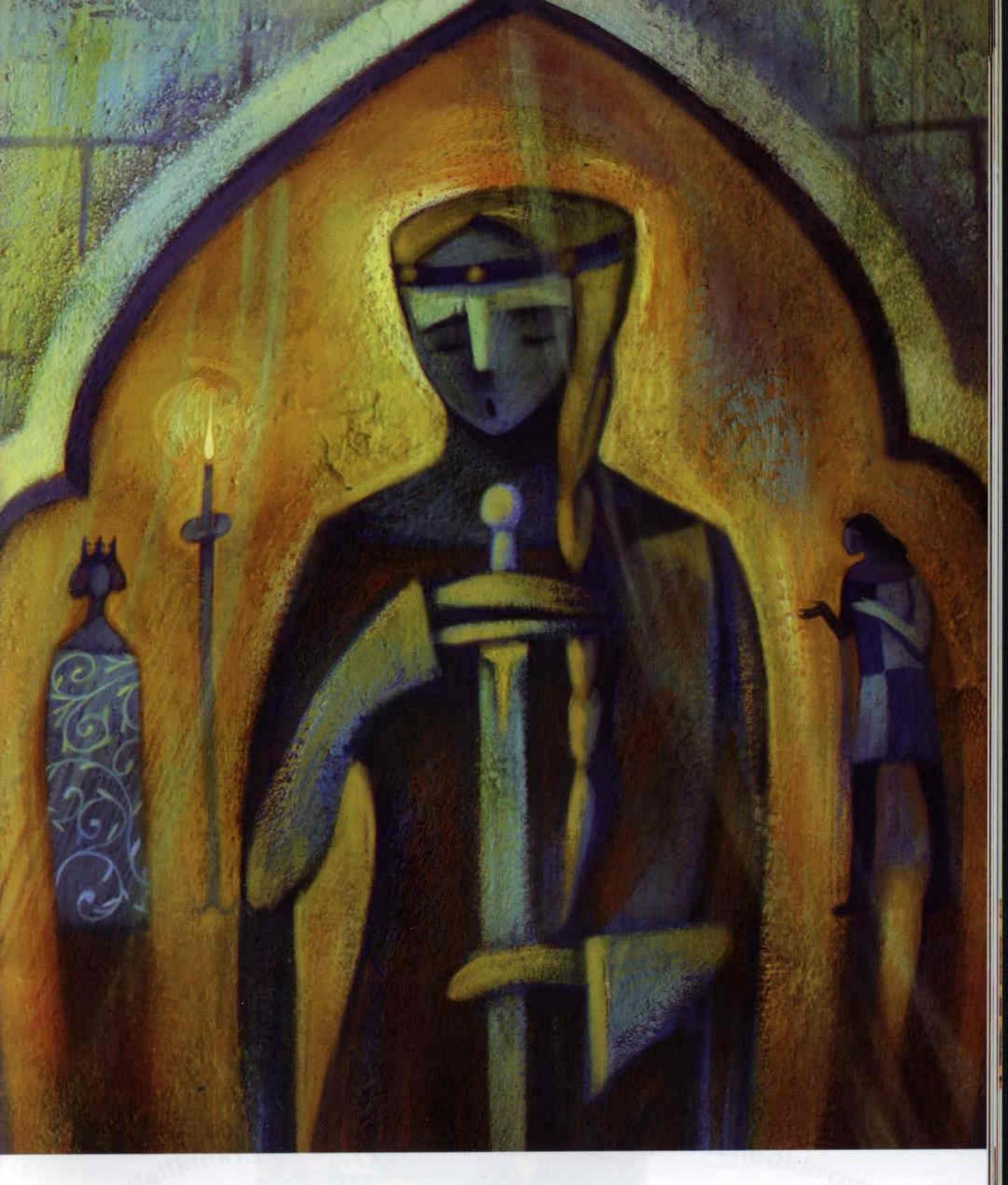
Isolde's face was red with anger. 'Now I'm going to kill Tristan with this sword!'

'No, Isolde!' cried the Queen. 'What are you saying? Tristan fought against Morholt in a fair battle. He's a brave knight and a good man. Let's talk to him.'



When Tristan returned to his room the Queen and Isolde confronted him, and he told them the truth.

'Yes, I'm Sir Tristan of Lyonesse. My uncle is King Mark of Cornwall, a rich and important king. He sent me here because he wants to marry Isolde and bring peace to our countries.'



The Queen listened to Tristan and said, 'You came to Ireland for a good reason — we want peace too. A marriage between our families is a good idea.'

'But mother!' said Isolde. 'Tristan killed my uncle Morholt!'
'Morholt was my brother, and I loved him very much,' said the



Queen. 'But we must forget the bad things of the past and build a future for our countries.'

'You're a good Queen,' said Tristan. Isolde was silent.

Then the Queen looked at her daughter and smiled. 'My dear Isolde, King Mark is a great king and you'll be his queen — the Queen of Cornwall. You'll be happy with him.'

'But he's much older than I am,' said Isolde.

'King Mark isn't an old man,' said Tristan. 'He's tall and good-looking, and he's not a coward like Seneschal. He's a brave man.'

'Did you hear that, Isolde?' asked the Queen.

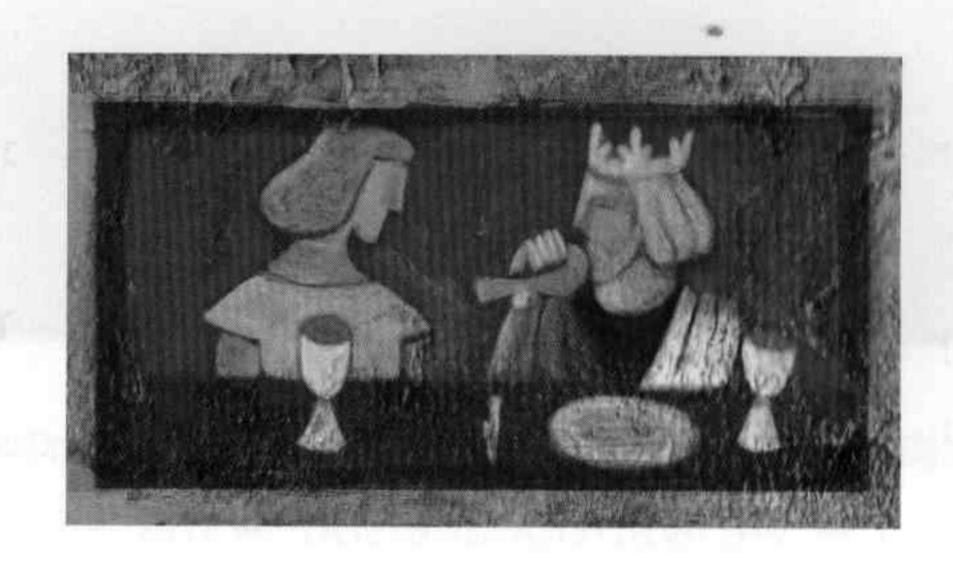
Isolde looked at her mother and asked, 'Will I love him, mother?'

'Yes, Isolde, you'll love him,' she answered quietly and looked away. Isolde smiled.

'But now Tristan must win the tournament,' said the Queen. 'If he doesn't, you must marry Seneschal.'

'I'll fight and win!' said Tristan.

'Please win, Tristan!' said Isolde. 'I don't want to marry Seneschal — he's a coward and a liar.'



## The text and beyond

It took one week	k for Tristan to get bett	
A Right	B Wrong	C Doesn't say
	marry Seneschal.	
A Right	<b>B</b> Wrong	C Doesn't say
3 Seneschal said h	now he killed the dragor	
A Right	B Wrong	C Doesn't say
1 Tristan's bag wa	as green.	
A Right	B Wrong	C Doesn't say
Seneschal admir	tted that he didn't kill t	he dragon.
A Right	B Wrong	C Doesn't say
Isolde was very uncle.	angry when she discov	ered that Tristan killed
A Right	B Wrong	C Doesn't say
7 King Mark was	forty years old.	
A Right	B Wrong	C Doesn't say
8 Isolde wanted t	o become Queen of Cor	nwall.
A Right	B Wrong	C Doesn't say
Verbs		
	the word snake and t	hen write their past
form below.		
le m	eseeghfindaffeeldo	. ringmesender.

'Ch		act the blue bew'		
21	ie	got the blue box'		
		an use the verb <i>get</i> in a lot of different expressions with many rent meanings.		
		e the correct form of <i>get</i> with one of the words or phrases in the to complete the sentences.	e	
		wet ready better the news to the room		
	1	After the Queen cured Tristan, his legvery quickly.		
	2	It was stormy when Tristan arrived in Ireland and he		
	3	Isolde didn't find Tristan in his room because he was for the tournament.		
4 We that Tristan had killed the drago				
5 When Isolde and her mother they saw Tristan's sword.				
		nich of the words below could you use to substitute with get in the ntences above?	9	
	Δ	become B receive C recover		
	D	arrive  B receive C recover prepare		
Ве	f	ore you read		
0	Re	ading pictures ok at the picture on page 51 and answer the following questions:		
1	1	Who can you see and what is happening?		
2	2	How do you think Isolde is feeling?		

What do you think is going to happen next?

#### 2 Vocabulary

A Match these sentences to the pictures.

- 1 Tristan and Isolde fell in love.
- The Queen prepared a love potion for Isolde and King Mark.
- 3 Tristan won the tournament.
- 4 Tristan and Isolde drank the wine from the green bottle.





B Now listen to Part Five and put the pictures (A-D) in order.

1 .....

2 .....

3 .

4 .....



PART FIVE

# The Green Bottle



he tournament started early in the afternoon, and hundreds of people were there to watch it. King Gurman, the Queen and Isolde sat in the first seats. Isolde was very anxious.

Both men wore heavy armour. Seneschal rode a black horse and Tristan rode a white

one. Senescal fought bravely because he wanted to marry Isolde so much, but in the end Tristan killed Senescal. He was the winner.

'Hurrah for Sir Tristan!' cheered the people. 'Hurrah!' Now Tristan could take Isolde to his uncle, King Mark.

The Queen loved Isolde and wanted her to be happy with King Mark. 'Isolde must fall in love with King Mark,' she thought, 'then she'll be happy. I must prepare the best love potion I in the world for them. When they drink this love potion they will always love each other.'

She quickly went to her herb garden and took the magic herbs for the love potion. Then she went to her secret room in the castle and made the potion. When it was ready she called Lady Bragnae, who was Isolde's maid <sup>2</sup> and friend.

- 1. potion: a drink made with herbs that has magic powers.
- maid: a lady servant.





'Listen carefully, Lady Bragnae,' said the Queen. 'You'll go with Isolde to Cornwall. The ship leaves tomorrow.'

'Yes, my Queen,' said Lady Bragnae, 'I'm happy to go with Isolde.'

'On the day of her marriage you must give this green bottle to Isolde and King Mark,' said the Queen. 'Tell them to drink this excellent wine — a good luck present from me. Remember, Bragnae, they both must drink it. This is the strongest love potion in the world. When they drink it they will always love each other. Their love will be the greatest in the world and it will never die. Do you understand?'

'Yes, I do,' said Lady Bragnae. She left the Queen's room with the green bottle in her hands.

The next day Tristan's ship left Ireland for Cornwall. The sea voyage took many days. There was stormy weather at sea and Isolde sat in her cabin all day. Sometimes she was sad because she thought about her mother and father. Tristan often visited her and told her stories of old Cornwall. He also told her the story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Isolde liked listening to his stories.

During the stormy weather Lady Bragnae was often ill and stayed in bed in her cabin. One evening Tristan and Isolde played the harp and sang together all evening.

Tristan was thirsty. 'Do you have anything to drink in the cabin?'

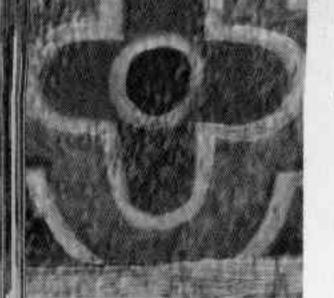
'Lady Bragnae brought a bottle of wine,' said Isolde, pointing to a green bottle on a shelf. 'Would you like some?'

'Hmm... yes, I would,' said Tristan.

Isolde took two gold cups and they drank the wine together. They did not know that it was the Queen's love potion!

The green bottle was soon empty. Tristan and Isolde talked and laughed together, but something strange was happening to





them. They started looking into each other's eyes and feeling strange. What was this new feeling? They were in love!

That evening the sea became calm and Bragnae soon felt better. She went to find Isolde and immediately saw the empty bottle and the two gold cups. But Bragnae had a cold heart and did not say anything to Tristan and Isolde.

'This is terrible!' she thought. 'They both drank the potion and they will be unhappy lovers until they die! But they must never know the truth. Oh, why did this happen?'

That night when Isolde was sleeping Bragnae took the empty green bottle and threw it into the sea.

The next morning Tristan went to visit Isolde in her cabin.

'Isolde,' said Tristan, 'something strange happened to me last night and now... I'm in love with you!'

'Oh, Tristan, 'said Isolde, smiling, 'the same thing happened to me — I'm in love with you too.'

They looked at each other and embraced 1 and kissed.

'Our love is impossible, Tristan — I must marry King Mark.'

'Yes, I know,' said Tristan sadly. 'King Mark is my uncle and I love him like a father. But I love you more than anyone or anything in the world, my sweet Isolde.'

'We must enjoy these few wonderful days at sea together,' said Isolde.

'These are the only days we have,' said Tristan. 'When we get to Cornwall our happiness will end, but not our love.'

'No, our love will never end,' said Isolde, touching his hand. 'Never ever.'

1. embraced: put their arms around each other.



A C T I V I T I E S

## The text and beyond

w	Summary	

Put the sentences in the correct order.

A	Lady Bragnae was ill.
В	Lady Bragnae didn't say anything to Tristan and Isolde.
С	The Queen gave the potion to Lady Bragnae.
D	There was stormy weather at sea.
E	Tristan and Seneschal fought and Tristan won the tournament.
F	Tristan and Isolde embraced and kissed.
G	They drank the potion and fell in love.
Н	Tristan and Isolde played the harp and sang.
I	Tristan was thirsty and Isolde opened the green bottle.
J	The Queen made a love potion for King Mark and Isolde.

## Fill in the gaps

Read the letter below which Lady Bragnae wrote to a friend after Tristan and Isolde drank the potion and choose the best word (A, B or C) for each gap.

Dear Mary,	
(0) terrible has happened! I don't (1) what	to do.
The Queen gave me (2) special love potion and to	
to give it to King Mark and Isolde on their wedding o	
(3) drink. But (4) the journey to Cornwall	
and Isolde drank it. Now they are (5) love. I'm a	
tell the Queen because she will be (6) angry with	
I threw the bottle in (7) sea. What shall I do?	
Yours	
Bragnae	

0	Α	Anything	<b>B</b> Son	nething	С	Someone
1	A	know	<b>B</b> thir	nk "	С	see
2	A	an	<b>B</b> the		C	a
3	A	for	B to		С	too
4	A	during	<b>B</b> whi	le	С	in
5	A	on	<b>B</b> into		С	in
6	A	not	B too		С	very
7	A	the	<b>B</b> a		С	to
CI	nar	acters				
A		atch the descriptions		th the characters	A-G.	Some name
can be used more than once.						
	This person					
	said he killed the dragon.					
	2	wanted peace between Ireland and Cornwall.				
	felt sea sick.					
	4	didn't believe that	at Sene	schal killed the dr	agon	•
	5	wanted to kill Tr	istan.			
	6	asked Tristan to	teach I	solde to play the h	narp.	
	7	wanted Isolde to	be hap	ру.		
	8	didn't tell anyon	e about	what happened t	o the	potion.
	9	loved Tristan like a son.				
	10	thought that Tris	stan wa	s a brave knight.		
	A	Tristan	E	Lady Bragnae		
	В	Isolde	F	King Mark		
	С	Seneschal	G	King Gurman		
		and the second s				

B Choose three of the characters and write a phrase about each of them similar to 1-10 above. Then read them to the rest of the class, who must say who you are describing.

D Queen of Ireland

## 4 Superlatives

Make superlatives from the list of adjectives below to fill the gaps and then match the two halves of the sentences.

	strong	beautiful	good (x2)	brave	fierce
1 Tris	tan was			•••••	
4 The	dragon wa	as	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
6 Isolo	de was				
A	knight in F	King Mark's	court.	D	creature in
	girl in Irela			E	and won t
		ng special h	erbs	F	man in Ire
	for curing				
		tan, I feel so	strange.		
	Do you l				
	I love yo			***************************************	
		is impossib	le.		
solde:	I must n	narry King N	lark. But ou	r love w	ill never er
Tristan:	(5)	•••••••			
<b>A</b> Idor	n't.	<b>D</b> No, n	ot at all.	G Wha	at are we g
B Yes,			o I.		ight do.
	it won't.	F Yes, I			

#### 6 Vocabulary

Match the words to the pictures.

stormy rainy sunny cloudy windy

What kind of weather do you like and hate most?

#### Before you read

#### 1 What happens next?

With a partner read the four sentences below and discuss what you think will happen next.

- 1 Tristan and Isolde will run away together.
- 2 Isolde will marry King Mark.
- 3 King Mark will discover that Tristan and Isolde are in love and will refuse to marry Isolde.
- 4 King Mark will discover that they are in love and will kill both of them.
- 5 Your idea: .....

#### 2 Look at the picture on page 63. In pairs:

- 1 talk about who you can see in the picture
- 2 talk about what they are doing
- 3 write down what you think each character is saying.

# Queen Isolde of Cornwall



ristan's ship arrived in Cornwall at Tintagel, and before getting off Tristan and Isolde said goodbye to each other.

'You'll always be my only love, sweet Isolde,' said Tristan. 'My heart will always be yours.'

'And you'll always be the only person in my heart, Tristan,' said Isolde. They embraced for the last time.

When King Mark met Isolde he was amazed 1 by her beauty and her sweet voice. He loved her immediately. She became King Mark's wife and the Queen of Cornwall. There was a great celebration with music and dancing that lasted many days. The people of Cornwall liked their new queen. King Mark was very happy with Isolde but she was not, because she loved only Tristan.

1. amazed: very, very surprised.

# Queen Isolde of Cornwall

A year later, in the spring, Isolde decided to go hunting <sup>1</sup> in the forest with Lady Bragnae and other nobles.

King Mark called Tristan and said, 'Isolde and Lady Bragnae want to go hunting in the forest today. I don't want them to go alone because it's dangerous. Go with them, and look after them. I trust <sup>2</sup> only you, Tristan.'

Tristan's heart jumped when he heard Isolde's name.

'Very well, uncle Mark,' he said. 'I'll go hunting with them.'

During the hunt Lady Bragnae and the others took different paths in the forest.

Soon Isolde and Tristan were alone. They stopped near a small river. They were still in love.

'I'm happy we're alone, dear Isolde,' said Tristan quietly.

'I am too, Tristan,' said Isolde, looking into Tristan's eyes. 'But our love's wrong...'

'I know, it's wrong and impossible,' said Tristan, 'but you're in my heart and you'll always be there. My love for you is stronger than my loyalty to the King...'

Isolde could not speak — they embraced and stayed near the river until sunset.

After that day they met at the river in the forest many times. One day some of King Mark's nobles saw them. They were jealous of Tristan because he was the best knight in Cornwall. They decided to tell King Mark.

'Don't trust Sir Tristan and Queen Isolde,' said one noble. 'I saw them sitting together at the river in the forest.'

- 1. hunting: killing animals for food and/or sport.
- 2. trust: be sure someone is your friend and will help you.



'My nephew and my wife are good friends and nothing more,' said King Mark angrily. 'I trust them both!'

'They are more than good friends, King Mark,' said another noble.

'Don't say these bad things about my wife and my nephew!' cried King Mark angrily.

Tristan and Isolde continued seeing each other in the forest and one day Sir Melot saw them. He was a bad man and hated Tristan. He immediately went to tell King Mark.

'I saw Sir Tristan and Queen Isolde together again in the forest,' he said.

'I don't believe you!' said King Mark. 'You're a liar.'

'Then come with me quickly and you'll see them too,' he said.

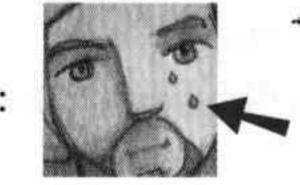
King Mark got on his horse and followed Sir Melot to the forest. They hid behind some trees and saw Tristan and Isolde sitting near the stream. Tristan was touching Isolde's long blonde hair.

Now King Mark believed Sir Melot and he was very angry. That evening he called all of his nobles and explained everything to them.

'Sir Tristan is a traitor!' cried King Mark. 'I loved him like a son and taught him everything he knows. I trusted him and I trusted Queen Isolde — but now he must die!' King Mark had tears 2 in his eyes.

'No,' said the oldest noble. 'We don't like Sir Tristan but he is a brave knight. We may need him for future battles. He's the

- 1. traitor: a person who does something against his king or country.
- 2. tears:







best knight we have, and the people of Cornwall love him — he's their hero. If you kill him the people will be angry. Send him away, and if we need him for future battles we'll call him.'

'You're right,' said King Mark. 'He must leave Cornwall immediately and never see Isolde again! The Queen is young and she'll forget Tristan soon.'

King Mark sent Tristan away from Cornwall and Isolde was very sad. She stayed in her room and cried because she could not forget Tristan.

Tristan left Cornwall and he was very unhappy. He did not want to be a knight any more because he did not have a king. Now he was alone in the world. He decided to became a minstrel and went from village to village. He played the harp and sang the story of his love for Isolde.

\*\*\*

This was the end of the minstrel's story. He stopped singing and playing, and suddenly there was silence in the great hall of King Arthur's castle.



#### The text and beyond

#### T 1 Comprehension check

Choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

1	Wh	en I	ristan and Isolde arrived in Cornwall, they
	Α		ran away together.
	В		said goodbye to Lady Bragnae.
	С		kissed and said goodbye.
2	Kin	ig Ma	ark asked Tristan to go hunting with Isolde because he
	Α		wanted Tristan to look after her.
	В		wanted Tristan and Isolde to be alone.
7	С		knew that Tristan liked hunting.
3			of King Mark's nobles decided to tell King Mark about Tristan Ide because they didn't like
	Α		King Mark.
	В		Tristan.
	С		Isolde.
4	Wh	nen k	King Mark saw Tristan and Isolde together
	Α		they were kissing.
	В		Tristan was touching Isolde's hair.
	С		they were embracing.
5	Kir	ng M	ark decided to
	A		send Tristan away.
	В		kill Tristan.
	С		send him away to fight in battle.
6	Aft	ter T	ristán left Cornwall, he became
	Α		a knight.
	В		a minstrel.
	С		a beggar.

## 2 Vocabulary

Write the words to the definitions and then use the numbered letters to find the names of another famous pair of lovers.

- believe in a person's loyalty: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 person who does something against his king or country: \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 man trained to fight on a horse: \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 looking for animals to kill as a sport: \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 channel of water: \_\_\_\_\_
  2 5 10 11 2

  \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_
  6 5 7 8 4 2 1 9 3 2

  8 3 5 7 11 10 11 2 11

## 3 Writing

Choose to be either Tristan or Isolde. Before Tristan leaves Cornwall, you have the chance to write one last note to the person you love. Write your note in 25-35 words, and sign it 'Tristan' or 'Isolde'. Put the notes on a wall in the classroom. Choose one of them and write a reply to it.

#### T: GRADE 3

## 4 Speaking: hobbies

Hunting was a hobby for the nobles. Talk about your hobbies. Use the questions below to help you.

- 1 Make a list of as many different hobbies as you can.
- 2 Talk about three of your hobbies. If so, how often do you practise them?
- 3 Are there any hobbies you don't do and would like to?
- 4 What do you think are the five most common hobbies for people your age?

# King Arthur: fact or fiction?

The story of Tristan and Isolde is one of many 'Arthurian' stories. Other stories are about Sir Lancelot – who loved Arthur's wife, Guinevere – or about Sir Gawain or other knights, or about the magician Merlin. Arthur himself is important only in the story about when, as a boy, he pulls the sword Excalibur from a stone, or in stories about how he dies.

These stories start with a book from about 1136, Historia Regum Britanniae ('A History of the Kings of Britain' in Latin) by Geoffrey of Monmouth. After this book, many English and French writers



Clive Owen as the king in the film **King Arthur** (2004). In this film, the story takes place just after the Romans left, so Arthur's armour and helmet seem Roman.



King Arthur and Queen Guinevere in the film *Excalibur* (1981).

This film follows the Arthur stories written by Thomas Malory (see page 4), so the characters wear armour and clothes from the 15th century.

Excalibur is the name of Arthur's sword.

translated and changed these stories. Even today writers and filmmakers continue telling Arthurian stories in different ways.

But was Arthur a real person? Did he really live?

A writer called Nennius, from ninth-century Wales, wrote about a war leader called Arthur, who fought against the Saxons. This is possible. Roman soldiers left Britain in the first half of the fifth century, just when the Saxons (people from modern Denmark and north Germany) were attacking England. Perhaps a local leader, someone from the pre-Roman, Celtic culture, fought against the Saxons.

If so, was this Arthur? We don't know – unfortunately.

The Arthurian stories say different things. One says Arthur was born in Tintagel, in north Cornwall. Then, the stories give different places for his capital city, Camelot. Some say it was in Wales; others say it was in Somerset, a county in south-western England; others say it was Winchester, the main city of the county of Hampshire, south-

west of London. When he died – the stories say – some women took him to the island of Avalon. In Celtic culture, Avalon was a place where good, brave people went when they died. Some stories say that this is near Glastonbury, in Somerset – and there are people who still think this is a magical place.

There are too many stories and not enough facts. But they are very good stories!

- 1) Comprehension check Does the article above give the idea that King Arthur was a real person or a fictional character?
- What kind of Arthur? Look at the pictures from films on pages 67 and 68. Which do you prefer, and why?
- **National figures** Why, do you think, is King Arthur famous in British culture? Is there anyone in your culture similar in some way to King Arthur?



## INTERNET PROJECT



#### King Arthur

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of this book into our search engine. Open the page for Tristan and Isolde. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant links for this project.

Work in small groups and find out if there is any conclusive proof of the following:

- Did King Arthur actually exist?
- Was the name inscribed on the stone from Arthur's time?
- What does the inscribed stone show?



PART SEVEN

# Sir Tristan of Lyonesse



ing Arthur looked at him and said, 'Minstrel, why do you know the story of Tristan and Isolde?

The minstrel got up from his stool and said, 'Because I am Tristan of Lyonesse!' Everyone in the great hall was very surprised.

King Arthur stood up and said, 'Welcome to Camelot, Sir Tristan, and welcome to the Round Table! Many years ago Merlin the magician said, "One day Sir Tristan will be a knight of the Round Table." He was right! Look, there's a seat with your name, next to Sir Lancelot. Sit down, Sir Tristan! Today's an important day for us because we have another brave knight at the Round Table.'

'This is a great honour for me,' said Tristan, sitting down. 'Thank you, King Arthur.' The other knights cheered and welcomed him.

Sir Tristan became an important knight of the Round Table, and the other knights liked him because he was brave, kind and loyal. Only the bravest knights could sit at the Round Table.

# Sir Tristan of Lyonesse

He fought for King Arthur in many wars and battles, and had many adventures in the kingdom. But he was always sad because he could not forget Isolde. He thought about her all the time, day and night.

The years passed and one day he went to Brittany in France, where he met the daughter of the Duke of Arundel. Her name was Isolde too — Isolde of the White Hands. She was a pretty, young girl and Tristan liked her.

'Why do I like Isolde of the White Hands?' he thought. 'Do I like her smile or her voice? Do I like her lovely white hands or do I like her name? Do I love her?'

Tristan could not answer these questions, but he decided to marry her. Isolde of the White Hands was a good, loving wife and Tristan was a kind, loyal husband. But he was not happy because he could not forget Queen Isolde. She was his first and only love.

Isolde of the White Hands knew this and she was jealous.

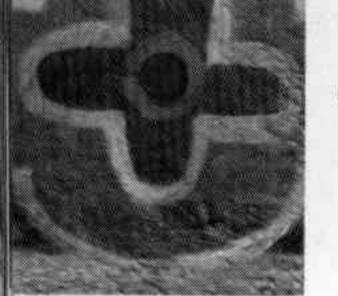
'Why can't Tristan love me like he loves her?' she thought.

One day Tristan fought in a battle to help his wife's brother, Kahedin. It was a long, terrible battle and Tristan was wounded with a poisoned spear. His wound made him very ill. He could not walk and stayed in bed a long time. But he did not get better — he got worse.

'I'm very ill,' said Tristan to Kahedin, 'and I think I'm going to die soon.'

'No, Tristan!' said Kahedin. 'Don't say that! You helped me during the battle and now I want to help you. Tell me what I can do, my friend.'

'Only Queen Isolde of Cornwall can cure my wound because the spear was poisoned,' said Tristan weakly. 'She learned the secrets of the magic herbs from her mother.'



'Then I'll sail to Tintagel immediately, and ask Queen Isolde to come here and cure you,' said Kahedin.

'Oh, Kahedin, thank you!' said Tristan. 'If Isolde comes with you, raise the white sail on your ship. But if she doesn't, then raise the black sail.'

'Very well,' said Kahedin. 'I'm leaving this evening."

Isolde of the White Hands heard this conversation and she was angry and jealous.

Kahedin sailed to Cornwall and told King Mark and Queen Isolde about Tristan's wound.

'I must go and cure his wound with my magic herbs,' said Queen Isolde. 'I'm the only person who can save his life!'

King Mark looked at his wife and said, 'Time is helping me to forget many things. I think I can trust you now, Isolde. Go and cure Tristan's wound.'

'Yes, my King,' said Queen Isolde quietly, 'you can trust me.'

Isolde left Cornwall with Kahedin the same day with some bottles of herbs and potions. When the ship arrived near Tristan's castle Kahedin raised the white sail. Tristan was very weak and could not get up from bed and look out of the window.

He called his wife and said, 'Go and look out of the window. Kahedin's ship will be here soon. Can you see it?'

Isolde of the White Hands went to the window and saw Kahedin's ship with its big white sail.

'Oh, no,' she thought, 'the sail's white — Queen Isolde is here!' She was very jealous.

'Yes, Tristan,' said Isolde of the White Hands, 'Kahedin's ship is here.'

'What colour is the sail?' asked Tristan weakly.





'The sail is... black!' answered Isolde of the White Hands.

'Oh, no, Isolde, my love,' said Tristan sadly, 'you didn't come to me. I won't see your beautiful face again. Dearest Isolde, dearest Isolde...' and then he closed his eyes and died.

Queen Isolde came to Tristan's room and saw his dead body. She sat down on the bed and looked at him for the last time. Her sadness was very great and her heart broke. She died next to him.

'What did I do! My terrible jealousy killed them both!' said Isolde of the White Hands, and she was very sorry — but it was too late.

Tristan and Isolde were buried together in one grave. 1 And over the grave Isolde of the White Hands planted two rose trees, a red one and a white one. They grew together with red and white roses.

And this is the end of the great love story of Sir Tristan of Lyonesse and Queen Isolde of Cornwall.



grave :



## The text and beyond

## 1 Comprehension check

Are these sentences true or false? Correct the false ones.

			I F		
1	The minstrel was Sir Tristan of Lyonesse.				
2	Lancelot said that Tristan would become a knight of the Round Table.				
3	Sir Tristan became a knight of the Round Table but the other knights didn't like him.				
4	Tristan married Isolde of the White Hands because he loved her.				
5	Tristan forgot about Queen Isolde.				
6	Isolde of the White Hands loved her husband ver	y much.			
7	Tristan was wounded in battle and needed Queen Isolde's magic herbs.				
8	King Mark didn't want Isolde to go to Tristan.				
9	Isolde of the White Hands told Tristan that Queen Isolde didn't come.				
10	Queen Isolde arrived and she and Tristan embrad	ced.			
11	Isolde of the White hands was sorry for what she	e did.			
12	The story ends happily.				
2) CI	aracters				
W	hich characters said the sentences below?				
1	'You are now a knight of the Round Table.'				
2	'Will you marry me?'				
	'I need the help of Queen Isolde.'				
	'I will go to Cornwall and ask her to come here.'				
5	'I don't want her to come here.'				
6	'Only I can help him; I must go.'				
7	'You can go. I trust you.'				

8	'The sail is black.'	•••••
9	'Oh no he's dead! I cannot bear it.'	
O	'What have I done!'	

## KET 3 Vocabulary

Read the descriptions below. What is the word for each one? The first letter is already there. There is one space for each other letter in the word.

1	fighting between two or more countries or groups: w
2	person who practices magic: m
3	man a woman is married to: h
4	husband of a queen: k
	the opposite of ugly: b
6	a room in a ship: c
	feeling of unhappiness and anger because you feel unloved:
	j
8	place where a dead person is put underground: g

#### 4 Discussion

With your partner or in small groups discuss the following questions.

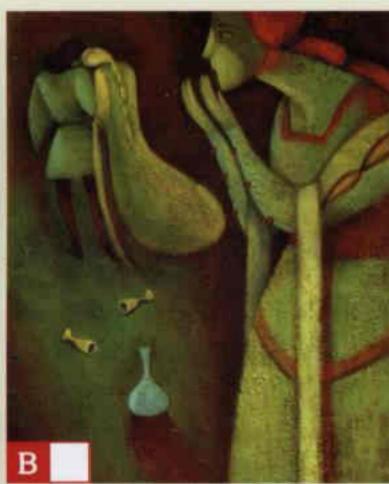
- 1 Do you think the story has a surprise ending? How did you think the story was going to finish?
- 2 Who was your favourite character in the story and why?
- 3 Which character did you like least and why?
- 4 Think of an alternative ending to the story and tell it to the rest of the class.
- 5 Can you think of any other famous famous love stories in films or in literature which do not have a happy ending?

  Discuss with a partner and then compare your ideas in class.

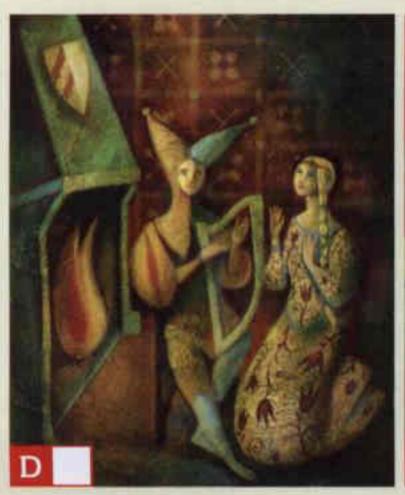
#### 1 Picture summary

Look at the pictures from the story. Put them in their correct order by numbering them from 1 to 9 and write a caption under each one.

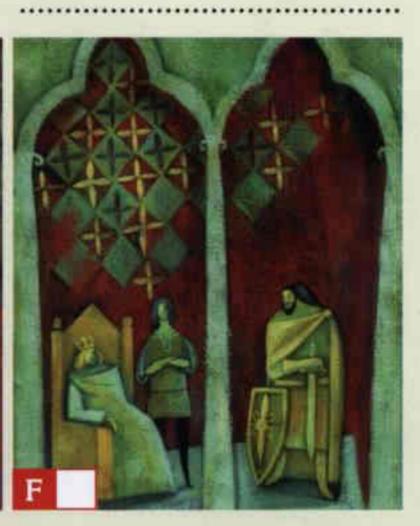




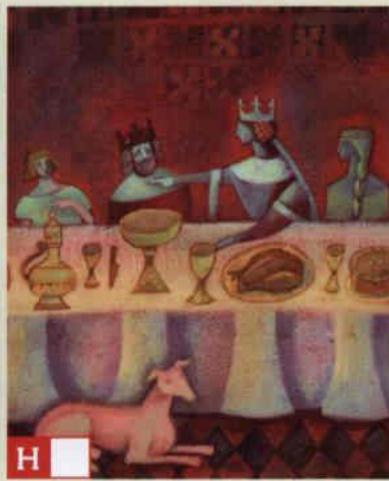














2	Now	choose	one	of the pic	tures	and wr	ite abo	out	that	point	in	the
	story	. What	has	happened	just	before,	what	is l	happe	ening	in	the
	pictu	re and v	what	is going to	happ	en imme	diately	af	terwa	rds?		

3	Co	mprehension check mplete these questions about the story and then tick (✓) the rect answer A-O below.
	1	who/arrive/King Arthur's court?
	2	what/story/he/tell?
	3	what / Morholt /want?
	4	who / fight / Morholt?
	5	why/Tristan/go/Ireland?
		who/Tristan/teach?
		why/Tristan/return/Ireland?
		where / Tristan / kill / dragon?  why / Seneschal / say / he / kill / dragon?
		when / Tristan and Isolde / drink / potion?
		what / happen?
		how / King Mark / discover / relationship?
		what / he / do?

#### EXITEST

14	why / Isolde of the White Hands jealous?							
15	why / Tristan /die?							
		•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••						
A		to be cured from his poisoned wound						
В		They fell in love.						
С		He wanted a tribute for his king.						
D		because he thought that Isolde didn't come.						
E		a minstrel						
F		He wanted to marry Isolde.						
G		to try and win Isolde's hand for his uncle Mark						
Н		He told the story of Tristan of Lyonesse.						
I		because her husband loved another woman						
J		on the boat on the way to Cornwall						
K		He sent Tristan away.						
L		Tristan fought him and won.						
M		He taught Isolde to play the harp.						
N		in the valley of the dragon						
0		Sir Melot told him and took him to where they were.						



3 1 Who arrived at King Arthur's court? E 2 What story did he tell? H 3 What did Morholt want? C 4 Who fought Morholt? L 5 Why did Tristan go to Ireland? A 6 Who did Tristan teach? M 7 Why did Tristan return to Ireland? G 8 Where did Tristan kill the dragon? N 9 Why did Seneschal say he killed the dragon? F 10 When did Tristan and Isolde drink the potion? J 11 What happened? B 10 When did King Mark discover their relationship? O 13 What did he do? K 14 Why was Isolde of the White Hands jealous? I 15 Why did Tristan die? D

2 Open answers.

1 10:5E:3D:41:2H:6A:7B;8C;9E.

Key to Exit Test

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our READING & TRAINING series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

## Step One A2

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

#### Verb tenses

Present Simple
Present Continuous
Past Simple
Past Continuous
Future reference: Present Continuous;
going to; will; Present Simple
Present Perfect Simple: indefinite past
with ever, never (for experience)

#### Verb forms and patterns

Regular and common irregular verbs
Affirmative, negative, interrogative
Imperative: 2<sup>nd</sup> person; *let's*Passive forms: Present Simple; Past
Simple
Short answers
Infinitives after verbs and adjectives

Gerunds (verb + -ing) after prepositions and common verbs
Gerunds (verb + -ing) as subjects and objects

#### Modal verbs

Can: ability; requests; permission

Could: ability; requests

Will: future reference; offers; promises; predictions

Would ... like: offers, requests

Shall: suggestions; offers

Should (present and future reference): advice

May (present and future reference): possibility

Must: personal obligation

Mustn't: prohibition

Have (got) to: external obligation

Need: necessity

#### Types of clause

Co-ordination: but; and; or; and then
Subordination (in the Present Simple or
Present Continuous) after verbs such as:
to be sure; to know; to think; to believe;
to hope; to say; to tell
Subordination after: because, when, if
(zero and 1st conditionals)
Defining relative clauses with: who,
which, that, zero pronoun, where

#### Other

Zero, definite and indefinite articles
Possessive 's and s'
Countable and uncountable nouns
Some, any; much, many, a lot; (a) little,
 (a) few; all, every; etc.
Order of adjectives
Comparative and superlative of adjectives
 (regular and irregular)
Formation and comparative/superlative
 of adverbs (regular and irregular)

#### Available at Step One:

- Home for Christmas
  Andrea M. Hutchinson
- Miami Police File: the O'Nell Case Gina D. B. Clemen
- Missing in Sydney
  Andrea M. Hutchinson

- Sherlock Holmes Stories
  Arthur Conan Doyle
- Tales from The Thousand and One Nights
- Tristan and Isolde

AUDIOCO



READING & TRAINING



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A minstrel arrives in the court of King Arthur and tells the king and his knights the story of Tristan, who kills a dragon and wins the hand of the beautiful Isolde for marriage to his uncle King Mark. But on their journey back to Mark's court, they drink a love potion that was intended for the king and his young bride. They instantly fall in love — but their love is impossible...

- Wide range of activities practising the four skills
- KET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grade 3)
- Dossiers: Cornwall and the Celtic Nations and King Arthur: fact or fiction?
- Internet project
- Story recorded in full
- Exit test with answer key



Step One CEFR A2 Exam Level KET

Step Two CEFR B1.1 Exam Preparation PET

Step Three CEFR B1.2 Exam Level PET

Step Four CEFR B2.1 Exam Preparation FCE

Step Five CEFR B2.2 Exam Level FCE

This volume without the side coupon is to be considered a sample copy not for sale.

