

# ADVENTURE GUIDE

## The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp

By Rick Yancey

### Annotation:

Alfred Kropp is fifteen. He is shy, underachieving, uncoordinated, oversized, and destined for great things. His father left before he was born and his mother died of cancer when he was twelve. After being shuffled around between foster homes, he comes to live with his Uncle Farrell who works as a night watchman at Samson Towers. In a get-rich-scheme, Alfred reluctantly agrees to help his uncle take a sword from Samson Towers, the sword Excalibur. From the moment he accepts the deal, Alfred's life is changed forever.

### Theme: Responsibility

- the quality of being responsible, reliable, answerable
- to choose for oneself between right and wrong

### Internet resources:

- [www.rickyancey.com](http://www.rickyancey.com)
- [teacher.scholastic.com](http://teacher.scholastic.com)
- [TeenReads.com](http://TeenReads.com)
- [www.legendofkingarthur.com](http://www.legendofkingarthur.com)
- [www.legends.dm.net/kingarthur](http://www.legends.dm.net/kingarthur)
- [www.arthurian-legend.com](http://www.arthurian-legend.com)
- [www.kingarthursknights.com](http://www.kingarthursknights.com)
- [www.fleurdelis.com](http://www.fleurdelis.com)

### Realia:

Sword  
Sports cars  
Motorcycle

### Food:

- Corn dogs, chips, & fountain drinks (p. 117)
- Beef stew (p. 137)
- Bugles and Coke (p. 157)
- Boiled peanuts, pecan logs & turtles (p. 158)

### Challenging Words: Ten Tier Two Words

inquisitive	p. 29	discretion	p. 30
literally	p. 30	gratitude	p. 92
paranoid	p. 93	forfeit	p. 135
fortuitous	p. 196	punctual	p. 256

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**Vocabulary Words:** (attachment)

**Figurative Language:**

- Metaphors
- Similes
- Quotes from Bennacio (Words of Wisdom attachment)

**Curriculum Connections:**

- Characters
  1. Alfred Kropp
  2. Uncle Farrell
  3. Bernard Samson
  4. Mogart
  5. Bennacio
  6. Natalia
  7. Mike Arnold
  8. Define Hero
- Fine Arts
  1. Create a *Coat of Arms* for your team, grade, or class
  2. Create a menu to serve at a banquet in King Arthur's Court
  3. Research music from the Medieval period
  4. If this book were made into a movie, who would you cast as the main characters? What type of music would you select for the theme?
  5. Design a Medieval costume: knight or court lady
  6. Select a scene from the book and write it as a play.
  7. Tapestries (p.144)
  8. Music: p. 157 Frank Sinatra  
p. 157 Gregorian Chants
  9. Create a graphic Book Cover using Graphic Techniques (attachment)

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- Language Arts
  1. Imagine you are a writer for a news magazine. Your assignment is to contact Alfred and interview him for a feature story in an upcoming issue. What questions would you ask Alfred? Write your article so the public will believe the unbelievable events.
  2. "Address-a-Castle" Apostrophe Poem (sample attached)
  3. "Key to the Castle" Acrostics ( sample attached)
  
- Math
  1. Seats of Honor: King Arthur's table was round for a reason. It was a symbol of equity. Each time a new knight joined the king's court, his name was written on the back of one of the seats around the table. Figure out what the diameter of the table would have to be to accommodate 12, 25, and 100 knights.
  2. Ethnography (p. 116): Create a diagram of your family tree using ethnographic symbols (triangles, circles).
  
- Science
  1. Cancer (p. 3) Alfred's mother died of cancer. Research what this disease is. What are the known causes and cures for cancer?
  2. Bridges (p.178): Many bridges were crossed on Alfred's adventures. Design and build the strongest bridge that you can with toothpicks or other creative materials.
  3. Yew Tree (p. 204): What is the genus and species name of the yew tree? Be sure to write it in the correct format. The yew is an evergreen. Describe what an evergreen is. What does the yew symbolize?
  4. Caves (p.288): Research the organisms that live in caves. What adaptations do they possess to allow them to survive in this type of environment? What food sources are available to them? What is a spelunker?
  5. Attachment

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- Social Studies

1. World of Myths in Society
2. Legendary Tales
3. King Arthur and the Round Table
4. 

<u>Page#</u>	<u>Reference</u>
78	King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table
88	King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table Excalibur, Camelot, Lancelot, Guinevere, Mordred, Lady of the Lake
89	Atlas
97	Toronto, Pau, London, Bayonne, Jativa
116	Holy Grail
119	Halifax of Nova Scotia
121	Archangel Michael
125	George Washington National Forest
133	Harrisburg, PA Swatara State Park
156	Scranton, PA
157	NY, MA, I-95, New England, NH
175	Canada
179	Nova Scotia
254	Stonehenge
288	Merlin

- Physical Education

1. Fencing (p. 58)
2. Archery (p. 162) quiver, bows, arrows

- Technology

1. Ferrari Enzo (p. 130)
2. Suzuki Hayabusas (p. 159)
3. F-16's (p. 120)
4. Bentley (p. 254)

## Suggested Fiction Books and Video tie-ins in the library collection

### Fiction Books

At the Crossing Places by Kevin Crossley-Holland 4.4 12 pts  
The Ballad of Sir Dinadan by Gerald Morris 5.3 8 pts  
The Battle for the Castle by Elizabeth Winthrop 4.4 6 pts  
Bella at Midnight by Diane Stanley 6.0 9 pts  
Blood Red Horse by K. M. Grant 6.3 13 pts  
Book without Words: A Fable of Medieval Magic by Avi 4.4 5 pts  
The Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Winthrop 4.9 6 pts  
Catherine Called Birdy by Karen Cushman 7.4 9 pts  
Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Twain 9.2 21 pts  
Corbenic by Catherine Fisher 4.5 9 pts  
Crusader by Edward Bloor 3.8 20 pts  
Daughter of the Wind by Michael Cadnum 7.2 9 pts  
The Edge of the Sword by Rebecca Tingle 6.6 11 pts  
Endymion Spring by Matthew Skelton 6.3 13 pts  
Far Traveler by Rebecca Tingle 5.8 8 pts  
Grail Quest Book One: Camelot Spell by Laura Anne Gilman 5.6 9 pts  
I Am Mordred by Nancy Springer 5.4 7 pts  
Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott 12.9 40 pts  
King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table by Roger L. Green 7.7 11 pts  
King of the Middle March by Kevin Crossley-Holland 4.2 12 pts  
Knight at Dawn by Mary Pope Osborne 2.9 1 pt  
The Lioness and Her Knight by Gerald Morris 5.1 11 pts  
Men of Iron by Howard Pyle 9.0 13 pts  
Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman 6.0 3 pts  
Mists of Avalon by Marion Bradley 6.7 73 pts.  
Once and Future King by T.H. White 7.4 41 pts  
The Princess, the Crone, and the Dung-Cart Knight by Gerald Morris 5.2 10 pts  
The Reluctant Dragon by Kenneth Grahame 4.0 1 pt  
Road to Camlann by Rosemary Sutcliff 6.8 6 pts  
The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland 4.3 10 pts  
The Shining Company by Rosemary Sutcliff 7.1 13 pts  
The Story of King Arthur and His Knights by Howard Pyle 9.4 21 pts  
Sword of the Rightful King by Jane Yolen 5.1 10 pts  
The Wings of Merlin by T. A. Barron 5.8 14 pts

### VHS/DVDs

Arthurian Legends	DVD 50 min	VR 398.2209 ART
Camelot	DVD 50 min	VR 942.014 CAM
King Arthur	DVD 50 min	VR 942.014 KIN
The Knight	DVD 23 min	VR 940.1 KNI
Knights and Armor	DVD 100 min	VR 623.441 KNI
Knights of the Round Table	VHS 116 min	VR F KNI (classic version)
Merlin	DVD 50 min	VR 942.014 MER
Sword in the Stone	79 min DVD	VR F SWO