*Once and Future King* by T.H. White

Chapter First Sentences 639 pgs

**Sword and the Stone 1-209 pgs**

1. *On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays* it was Cour Hand and Summulae Logicales, while the rest of the week it was the Organon, Repetition and Astrology. The governess was always getting muddled and her astrolabe, and when she got specially muddled she would take it out of the Wart by rapping his knuckles. (8 pgs)
2. *A good while later, when they had been whistling* and luring and following the disturbed and sulky hawk from tree to tree, Kay lost his temper.

“Let him go, then,” he said. “He is no use anyway.” (10 pgs)

1. *The boy slept well in the woodland next where he* had laid himself down, in that kind of thin but refreshing sleep which people have when they begin to lie out of doors. At first he only dipped below the surface of sleep, and skimmed along like a salmon in shallow water, so close to the surface that he fancied himself in air. (10 pgs)
2. *The Wart started talking before he was half-way* over the drawbridge. “Look who I have brought,” he said. “Look! I have been on a Quest! I was shot at with three arrows. They had black and yellow stripes. The owl is called Archimedes. (3 pgs)
3. *Sir Ector’s home was called The Castle of the Forest* Sauvage. It was more like a town or a village than any one man’s home, and indeed it was the village during times of danger: for this part of the story is one which deals with troubled times. (12 pgs)
4. *One Thursday afternoon the boys were doing their* archery as usual. There were two straw targets fifty yards apart, and when they had shot their arrows at one, they ahd only to go to it, collect them, and shoot back at the other, after facing about. (2 pgs)
5. *Tilting and horsemanship had two afternoons* a week, because they were the most important branches of a gentleman’s education in those days. Merlyn grumbled about athletics, saying that nowadays people seemed to think that you were an educated man if you could knock another man off a horse and that the craze for games was the ruin of scholarship—nobody got scholarships like they used to do when he was a boy… (16 pgs)
6. *It was a cold wet evening, such as may happen even* toward the end of August, and the Wart did not know how to bear himself indoors. He spent some time in the kennels talking to Cavall, then wandered off to help them turn the spit in the kitchen. (13 pgs)
7. *“Well!” said the Wart,* as he woke up in his own bed next morning. “What a horrible, grand crew!”

Kay sat up in bed and began scolding like a squirrel. “Where were you last night?” (7 pgs)

1. *Wart knew that if he told the elder boy about his* conversation with Merlyn, Kay would refuse to be condescended to, and would not come. So he said nothing. It was strange, but their battle had made them friends again, and each could look the other in the eye, with a kind of confused affection. (11 pgs)
2. *Robin smiled at the elder boy and patted him on the* back, while the Wart thought despairingly about his dog. Then the outlaw cleared his throat and began to speak again.

“You are right about going there,” he said, “but I ought to tell you the unpleasant part. Nobody can get into the Castle Chariot, except a boy or girl.” (9 pgs)

1. *But Morgan le Fay, although in her fairy shape she* could not stand iron, still had the griffin. She had cast it loose from its golden chain, by a spell, the moment her castle disappeared.

The outlaws were pleased with their success, and less careful than they should have been. (8 pgs)

1. *In spite of his protests, the unhappy invalid was* confined to his chamber for three mortal days. He was alone except at bedtime, when Kay came, and Merlyn was reduced to shouting his washing. (9.5 pgs)
2. *In the autumn everybody was preparing for the winter.* At night they spent the time rescuing Daddy-long-legs from their candles and rushlights. In the daytime the cows were turned into the high stubble and weeds which had been left by the harvest sickles. (6 pgs)
3. *It was Christmas night, the eve of the* Boxing Day Meet. You must remember that this was in the old Merry England of Gramarye, when the rosy barons ate with their fingers, and had peacocks served before them with all their tail feathers streaming, or boars’ heads with the tusks stuck in again—when there was no unemployment because there were too few people to be unemployed—when the forests rang with knights walloping each other on the helm… ( 5 pgs)
4. *The Wart got up early next morning. He made a* determined effort the moment he woke, threw off the great bearskin rug under which he slept, and plunged his body into the biting air. (12 pgs)
5. *“I think it must be time,” said Merlyn, looking at* him over the top of his spectacles one afternoon, “that you had another dose of education. That is, as Time goes.”

It was an afternoon in early spring and everything outside the window looked beautiful. (6 pgs)

1. *The Wart lay awake as he had been told to do.* He was to wait until Kay was asleep, and then Archimedes would come for him with Merlyn’s magic. He lay under the great bearskin and stared out of the window at the stars of spring… (8 pgs)
2. *There was something magical about the time and space* commanded by Merlyn, for the Wart seemed to be passing many days and nights among *the* grey people, during the one spring night when he had left his body asleep under the bearskin. (6.5 pgs)
3. *It was hay-making again, and Merlyn had been with* them a year. The wind had visited them, and the snow, and the rain, and the sun once more. The boys looked longer in the leg, but otherwise everything was the same. (4.5 pgs)
4. *The day for the ceremony drew near, the invitations* to King Pellinore and Sir Grummore were sent out, and the Wart withdrew himself more and more into the kitchen. (12 pgs)
5. *King Pellinore arrived for the important week-end* in a high state of flurry.

“I say,” he exclaimed, “do you know? Have you heard? Is it a secret, what?” (5.5 pgs)

1. *The knighting took place in a whirl of preparations,* Kay’s sumptuous bath had to be set up in the box-room, between two towel-horses and an old box of selected games which contained a worn-out straw dart-board—it was called flechette in those days—because all the other rooms were full of packing. (6.5 pgs)3
2. *Perhaps there ought to be a chapter about the coronation.* The barons naturally kicked up the fuss, but, as the Wart was prepared to go on putting the sword into he stone and pulling it out again till Doomsday, and as there was nobody else who could do the thing at all, in the end …

(2 pgs)

**The Queen of Air and Darkness 213-312 pgs**

1. *There was a round to312wer with a* weather-cock on it. The weather-cock was a carrion crow, with an arrow in its beak to point to the wind.

There was a circular room at the top of the tower, curiously uncomfortable. (7 pgs)

1. *On the battlements of their castle at Camelot,* during an interval of peace between the two Gaelic Wars, the young king of England was standing with his tutor, looking across the purple wastes of evening. (7 pgs)
2. *Sir Kay had heard stories about the Queen of Orkney, and he was inquisitive about her.*

“Who is Queen Morgause?” he asked one day. (5 pgs)

1. *The hay was safe and the corn would be ripe in a week.* They sat in the shade at the edge of a cornfield, watching the dark brown people with their white teeth who were aimlessly busy in the sunlight, rehanging their scythes, sharpening their sickles, and generally getting ready for the end of the farm year. (4 pgs)
2. *Mother Morlan’s house in the Out Isles was hardly* bigger than a large dog kennel—but it was comfortable and full of interesting things. There were two horseshoes nailed on the door—five statues bought from pilgrims, with the used-up rosaries wound round them—for beads break, if one is a good prayer—several bunches of fairy-flax laid on top of the salt-box—some scapulars wound round the poker—twenty bottles of mountain dew, all empty but one—about a bushel of withered palm, relic of Palm Sundays for the past seventy years—and plenty of woolen thread for typing round the cow’s tail when she was calving. (8 pgs)

1. *In Carlion everything was at sixes and sevens* in preparation for the second campaign. Merlyn ha made suggestions about the way to win it, but, as these involved an ambush with secret aid from abroad, they had had to be kept dark. (4 pgs)
2. *The situation at Dunlothian was complicated*. Nearly every situation tended to be when it was connected with King Pellinore, even in the wildest North. In the first place, he was in live—that was why he had been weeping in the boat. He explained it to Queen Morgause on the first opportunity—because he was lovesick, not seasick. (15 pgs)
3. *The plain of Bedegraine was a forest of pavilions.* They looked like old-fashioned bathing tents, and were every colour of the rainbow. Some of them were even striped like bathing tents, but the most part were in plain colours, yellow and green and so on. (3.5 pgs)
4. *The Queen’s suggestion about hunting unicorns had a curious result.*The more lovelorn King Pellinore became, the more obvious it was that something would have to be done. Sir Palomides had an inspiration. (16.5 pgs)
5. *In Bedegraine it was the night before the battle.* A number of bishops were blessing the armies on both sides, hearing confessions and saying Mass. Arthur’s men were reverent about this, but King Lot’s men were not—for such was the customs all armies that were going to be defeated. (3 pgs)
6. *The Queen of Lothian had taken to her chamber,* cutting off communication with her guests, and Pellinore broke his fast alone. Afterwards he went for a walk along the beach, admiring the gulls who flew above him like white quill pens whose heads had been neatly dipped in ink. (8.5 pgs)
7. *The battle of Bedegraine was fought near Sorhaute* in the forest of Sherwood, during the Whitsun holiday. It was a decisive battle, because it was in some ways the twelfth century equivalent of what later came to be called a Total War. (7 pgs)
8. *In the September moonlight, several weeks later,* King Pellinore was sitting on the cliff top with his fiancée, staring out to sea. Soon they were setting off for England, to be married. His arm was about her waist and his ear was pressed to the top of her head. (3.5 pgs)
9. *Fortunately for Sir Palomides and Sir Grummore,* the Questing Beast saw reason at the last moment, before the cavalcade set out—otherwise they would have had to stay in Orkney and miss the marriage altogether. Even as it was, they had to stay up all night. (6 pgs)

**The Ill-Made Knight 315-514**

1. *In the castle of Benwick, the French boy was looking* at his face in the polished surface of a kettle-hat. It flashed in the sunlight with the stubborn gleam of metal. (3 pgs)
2. *Lancelot ended by being the greatest knight King Arthur had.* He was a sort of Bradman, top of the battling averages. Tristram and Lamorak were second and third. (5 pgs)
3. *There was a feature about the great families which* centered round the doom of Arthur. All three had a resident genius of the family, half-way between a tutor and a confidant, who affected the characters of the children in each. (5 pgs)
4. *The her-worshipper rode towards Camelot with a bitter heart.* It was hard for him at eighteen to have given his life to a king, only to be forgotten—hard to have spent those sorrowful hours with the heavy arms in the dust of the Armoury, only to see Sir Gawaine knighted first—hardest of all to have broken his body for the older man’s ideal, only to find his mincing wife stepping in at the end of it to snatch away his love at no cost at all. (7 pgs)
5. *The first two people to notice that Lancelot and Guenever were falling in love with each other were Uncle Dap and King Arthur himself.* Arthur had been warned about this by Merlyn—who was now safely locked up in his cave by the fickle Ninue… (3.5 pgs)
6. *What sort of picture do people have of Sir Lancelot* from this end of time? Perhaps they only think of him as an ungly young man who was good at games. But he was more than this. ( 2 pgs)
7. *This was the beginning of the famous quests.* They were not made to win him fame or recreation. They were an attempt to escape from Guenever. (14.5 pgs)
8. *Lancelot had several other adventures during his first quest—*it lasted a year—but perhaps only two are worth repeating in detail. They were both mixed up with the conservative ethics of Force Majeur against which the King had started his crusade. (7 pgs)
9. *It is difficult to explain abut Guenever,* unless it is possible to love two people at the same time. Probably it is not possible to love two people in the same way, bt there are different kinds of love. (3 pgs)
10. *Uncle Dap said, turning the helm round in his hands:* “Your mantling is cut and torn. We shall have to get another. It is honourable to have the mantling slashed, but dishonourable to keep it so when there is an opportunity to replace it. (1 pg)
11. *Lancelot stayed at the court for several weeks this time,* and each week made it more difficult to go away. On top of the more or less social tangle in which he found himself, there was a personal puzzle—for he put a higher value on chastity than is fashionable in our century. (4pgs)
12. *Lancelot stayed at the castle of Corbin for days.* Its haunted rooms were up to expectation, and there was nothing else to do. He felt such feelings in his breast because of Guenever—the frightful pang of hopeless love—that he was drained of effort. (4.5 pgs)
13. *Guenever was doing some petit point in the gloomy room,* which she hated doing. It was for a shield-cover for Arthur, and had the dragon rampant gules. Elaine was only eighteen, and it is fairly easy to explain the feelings of a child—but Guenever was twenty-two. (3 pgs)
14. *Arthur said:* “Here is a letter from your father, Lance. He says he is being attacked by King Claudas. I promised to help him against Claudas, if it was necessary, in exchange for his help at Bedegraine. I shall have to go.” (3.5 pgs)
15. *The year of their happiness ended with Arthur’s return—*and almost immediately collapsed in ruin, but not on account of the king. The evening after his home-coming, while he was still giving them details of the defeat of Claudas as they happened to come into his memory… (2pgs)
16. *In the castle of Corbin, the child Elaine was making ready for her journey. She was coming to capture Lancelot from Guenever, an expedition of which everybody except herself could feel the pathos. (5 pgs)*
17. *Elaine arrived at the yawning barbican, and Guenever kissed her coolly.* “You are welcome to Camelot,” she said. “Five thousand welcomes.”

“Thank you,” said Elaine. (2.5 pgs)

1. *In the morning he and Elaine were summoned to the Queen’s chamber.* He, for his part, went with a kind of happiness. He was remembering how Guenever must have pleaded illness on the previous evening, so as to leave the King’s room. (3 pgs)
2. *King Pelles was sitting in the solar with Sir Bliant two years later.* It was a fine winter morning with the fields frosted, no wind, and a light fog which was not enough to confuse the pigeons. (5 pgs)
3. *After Sir Bliant had ridden away,* King Pelles stumped upstairs to do some biblical genealogy. He was puzzled about the Lancelot affaire, and interested in it on account of his grandson Galahad. (3 pgs)
4. *Elaine had done the ungraceful thing as usual.* Guenever, in similar circumstances, would have been sure to grow pale and interesting—but elaine had only grown plump. (3 pgs)
5. *Lancelot’s body revenged itself on his mind.* He lay in bed for a fortnight in the airy bedroom which an ache in every gone, while Elaine kept herself outside the room. She had him at her mercy, and could have nursed him day and night. (3 pgs)
6. *The spring came slowly, the new menage settled down, and Elaine arraged a tournament for her cavalier.* There was to be a prize of a fair maid and a jerfalcon. (3.5 pgs)
7. *“I can’t leave Elaine,” he said.* Ector Demaris said: “Why not? You don’t love her. You are under no obligation to her. You are only making yourselves miserable by staying together.” (4 pgs)
8. *Fifteen years after leaving Elaine,* Lancelot was still at court. The King’s relations with Guenever and her lover were much as they had always been. (5.5 pgs)
9. *“We don’t see many arrows thrilling in people’s hearts nowadays,”* remarked Lancelot one afternoon at the archery butts. “Thrilling!” exclaimed Arthur. “What a splendid word to describe an arrow vibrating, just after it has hit!” (4 pgs)
10. *Gawine and Mordred came straight to Camelot* from their foray among the Old Ones, but Agravaine did not come with them. They had quarreled as soon as Lamorak was dead, or rather, as soon as they had found time to realize what had happened. (6 pgs)
11. *If you want to read about the beginning of the Quest for the Grail,* about the wonders of Galahad’s arrival—Guenever, in a strange mixture of curiosity, envy and horror, made a half-hearted attempt to vamp him—and of the last supper at court, when the thunder came and the sunbeam and the covered vessel and the sweet smell through the Great Hall…. (6.5 pgs)
12. *The next person to get home was Sir Lionel, one of Lancelot’s cousins.* Lancelot had one brother called Ector, and two cousins called Lionel and Bors. Lionel was in a temper, rather like Gawaine, but the object of his annoyance was not Galahad. (6.5 pgs)
13. *The third important arrival was Sir Aglovale, who came rather late in the afternoon*, when the rubies had left the table and climbed the wall. He was a lad of less than twenty summers, with a fine noble face and a sense humour. (6.5 pgs)
14. *Still there was no news of the great Dulac.* He had become a magical name which gave warmth to all hearts, particularly women’s in whatever place he was. He had become a *maestro* himself—was regarded as he had once regarded Uncle Dap. (2.5 pgs)
15. *Guenever had overdressed for the occasion.* She had put on a make-up which she did not need, and put it on badly. She was forty-two. (8 pgs)
16. *Arthur could not stand much more of this.* “It is disgusting,” he exclaimed indignantly.

“I don’t like to listen to it. Why should a good, kind, dear person be tortured like that? It makes me feel ashamed inside, even to hear of it. What---” (3.5 pgs)

1. *In the dark chamber there was a coming and going of maids.* The cans and pails rattled on the stairway, and there was much steam. When the maids trod in the puddles on the floor, they made a splashing noise, and from the next room there was whispering mixed with the secret noise of silk. (4.5 pgs)
2. *It was all very well at the first flush of his return.* Queens may see further ahead than common men, but there seems to be a limit to their vision. (2 pgs)
3. *If the maids-in-waiting were pleased by the Queen’s* supposed renewal of intrigue, there were others at court who were not. Or, if they were pleased, it was a cruel and waiting pleasure. (4 pages)
4. *Sir Bors the misogynist had reluctantly consented to fight for the Queen,* if nobody else could be found. He had explained that it was irregular to do so, because he himself had been present at the dinner—but, when discovered by Arthur with the Queen kneeling at his feet, he had blushed, raised her, and consented. (4.5 pgs)
5. *It so happened that the Patrick accusation was cleared up next day,* when Nimue arrived with a second-sighted explanation. Merlyn, before letting her lock him up in the cave, had given the Matter of Britain into her hands. (3 pgs)
6. *If people want to read about the Corbin tournament,* Malory has it. He was a passionate follower of tournaments—like one of those old gentlemen who nowadays frequent the cricket pavilion at Lord’s… (3.5 pgs)
7. *When the Ill-Made Knight came back from Corbin,* Guenever was still in a rage. For some reason she was determined to believe that Elaine had become his mistress again, possibly because this seemed to be the best way of hurting her lover. (1.5 pgs)
8. *The new kind of life went on at Camelot in spite of the suicide.* Nobody could have called it a specially happy kind—but people are tenacious of life, and will go on living. (4 pgs)
9. *When the mounted archers rode back crestfallen,* saying that they had been unable to shoot the boy, Sir Meliagrance knew what we going to happen. (4 pgs)
10. *The wounded knights were laid on stretchers in the outer room.* The inner room, where Guenever slept, had a window with iron bars. There was no glass. (3.5 pgs)
11. *The second trial by combat was as sensatioinal the Mador one had been.* For one thing, Lancelot arrived, at the last moment, by a still narrower margin. (2 pgs)
12. *Well, that is the long story of how the foreigner* from Benwick stole Queen Guenver’s love, of how he left her for his God and finally returned in spite of the taboo. (6 pgs)

**The Candle in the Wind 517-639**

1. *The addition of years had not been kind to Agrevaine.* Even when he was forty he had looked his resent age, which was fifty-five. He was seldom sober. (7 pgs)
2. *The page who had brought Sir Agravaine’s hippocras* came in from the cloister door. He bowed double, with the exaggerated courtesy which was expected of pages before they became esquires on their way to knighthood, and announced: “Sir Gawaine, Sir Gaheria, Sir Gareth.”

(5 pgs)

1. *Lancelot and Guenever were sitting at the solar window.* An observer of the present day, who knew the Arthurian legend only from Tennyson and people of that sort would have been startled to see that the famous lovers were past their prime. (11 pgs)
2. *Lancelot and Guenever looked over the sundown of* chivalry, from the tower window. Their black profiles stood out in silhouette against the settling light. (12 pgs)
3. *When Arthur had said that he was going to arrange some of his famous justice,* he did not mean that he was actually going to sit. Kings did sit personally in the Middle Ages, even as late as the so-called Henry IV, who was supposed to have sat both in the Exchequer and the King’s Bench. (9 pgs)
4. *Lancelot knew that the King had gone to hunt in the New Forest,* so he was sure that the Queen would send for him. It was dark in his bedroom, except for the one light in front of the holy picture, and he was pacing the floor in a dressing-gown. (3 pgs)
5. *Guenever waited for Lancelot in the candle-light of* her splendid bedroom, brushing her grey hair. She looked singularly lovely, not like a film star, but like a woman who had grown a soul.

(9 pgs)

1. *The Gawaine clan was waiting in the Justice Room,* a week later. The room looked different by daylight, because the windows were uncovered. It was no longer a box, no longer that faintly threatening or deceitful blandness of four walls, no long the kind of arras trap which tempted Hamlet’s rapier to prick about for rats. (11.5 pgs)
2. *On a bright winter day, six months later, Joyous Gard was invested.* The sun shone at right-angles to the north wind, leaving the east side of the furrows white with frost. (5.5 pgs)
3. *“So His Holiness has made their peace for them,” said Mordred savagely.*

“Aye.” (10.5 pgs)

1. *Guenever sat in the Queen’s chamber at Carlisle Castle*. The huge bed had been re-made as a settee. It looked tidy and rectangular under its canopy, so that you were shy of sitting down. (9.5 pgs)
2. *It was dark in Gawaine’s tent*, except for a flat pan of charcoal which lit it dimly from below. The tent was poor and shabby, compared with the splendid pavilions of the English knights. (5.5 pgs)
3. *Anguish of Ireland had once dreamed of a wind which blew down all their castles and towns*—and this one was conspiring to do it. It was blowing round Benwick Castle on all the organ stops. (3.5 pgs)
4. *The same wind of sorrow whistled round the King’s pavilion at Salisbury*. Inside there was a silent calm after the riot of the open. (10 pgs)