

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Vocabulary:

The Sword in the Stone

1. **conjure (KON-jer)** *verb*; *Conjure* means “to make something happen or appear unexpectedly, by magic or as if by magic.” A magician might conjure a rabbit from a hat. Your mom might conjure up a delicious meal for you and your friends, even if there’s almost nothing in the fridge. (*Conjure* is often followed by *up*.)

2. **destiny (DES-tuh-nee)** *noun*; Your destiny is what will happen in your future. Often, people think of destiny as what is *meant* to happen to you, not just what will happen. Your best friend might believe that it is her destiny to become president of the United States one day—that being president is what she was born to do.

Destiny can also mean “the hidden powers that decide a person’s future,” as in “The dog I adopted from the shelter was so perfect for me that I was certain destiny had brought us together.”

3. **fanfare (FAN-fehr)** *noun*; A fanfare is a short, showy piece of music played by a trumpet to announce something, usually a special event or the arrival of an important person such as a king, queen, or president.

4. **hearth (hahrth)** *noun*; A hearth is the floor inside and in front of a fireplace.

5. **heir (AIR)** *noun*; As it is used in the play, *heir* refers to a person who will become king or queen after the current king or queen has died. Usually, the heir to the throne (as such a person is called) is the son or daughter of the current king or queen.

Heir can also refer to a person who has the legal right to receive the money or property of someone who dies. If Kim is the heir to her family’s goat farm, the goat farm will one day belong to her.

6. **hilt (hilt)** *noun*; A hilt is the handle of a sword, knife, or tool, as in “The pirate wrapped his fingers around the hilt of his sword and pulled it from its scabbard.” (*Scabbard* is a fancy word for “sword holder.”)

7. **melee (MAY-lay)** *noun*; A melee is a chaotic hand-to-hand fight or struggle involving many people. In medieval times, the melee was an event at tournaments in which two teams of armed men on horseback battled with each other.

- 8. petty (PEH-tee)** *adjective*; Something that is petty is of little or no importance. Siblings may have a petty argument over whose turn it is to take out the garbage. A cranky customer at a restaurant might make a petty complaint about the way a napkin is folded.
- 9. quaver (KWEY-ver)** *verb or noun*; If your voice quavers, it sounds shaky and unsteady because of fear, sadness, or some other strong emotion. If public speaking makes you nervous, your voice might quaver during a class presentation. Your voice might also quaver when you are talking about something you feel passionate about.
- As a noun, *quaver* means “a shake or tremble in a person’s voice,” as in “There was a quaver in Alex’s voice as he said goodbye to his friends from camp.”
- 10. vie (vahy)** *verb*; To vie for something is to compete for it. At a gymnastics competition, the gymnasts vie for the gold medal. If during class, two kids raise their hands and wildly wave them around, the kids are vying for the teacher’s attention.

Directions: Below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the play whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Vocabulary Practice

The Sword in the Stone

Directions: Underline the boldfaced word in each pair that best completes the sentence.

1. The two dogs **vied/quavered** for the ball, running as fast as they could to be the first to reach it.
 2. As the queen entered the castle, a lively **fanfare/destiny** sounded through the great hall.
 3. The magician-in-training tried to **conjure/vie** a flower out of thin air, but the trick didn't work.
 4. The fire in the **hearth/melee** quickly warmed up the room.
 5. David believed it was his **destiny/hilt** to become an actor.
 6. Everyone is wondering who the mysterious, old millionaire has named as the **heir/fanfare** to her fortune. Some say she has left everything to her cats!
 7. When a food fight broke out in the camp cafeteria, Jennifer moved away from the **melee/hearth** as quickly as possible.
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Directions: Choose the best response to each question or prompt below.

8. Who is upset about something petty?

- Ⓐ Mark, who is upset that someone else is wearing the same shirt he is
- Ⓑ Matt, who is upset that he broke his leg

9. Which sentence uses *quaver* correctly?

- Ⓐ Tara's voice began to quaver, and I thought she was going to cry.
- Ⓑ I decided to quaver inside, in case it started to rain.

10. What does one do with a hilt?

- Ⓐ grip it
- Ⓑ wear it