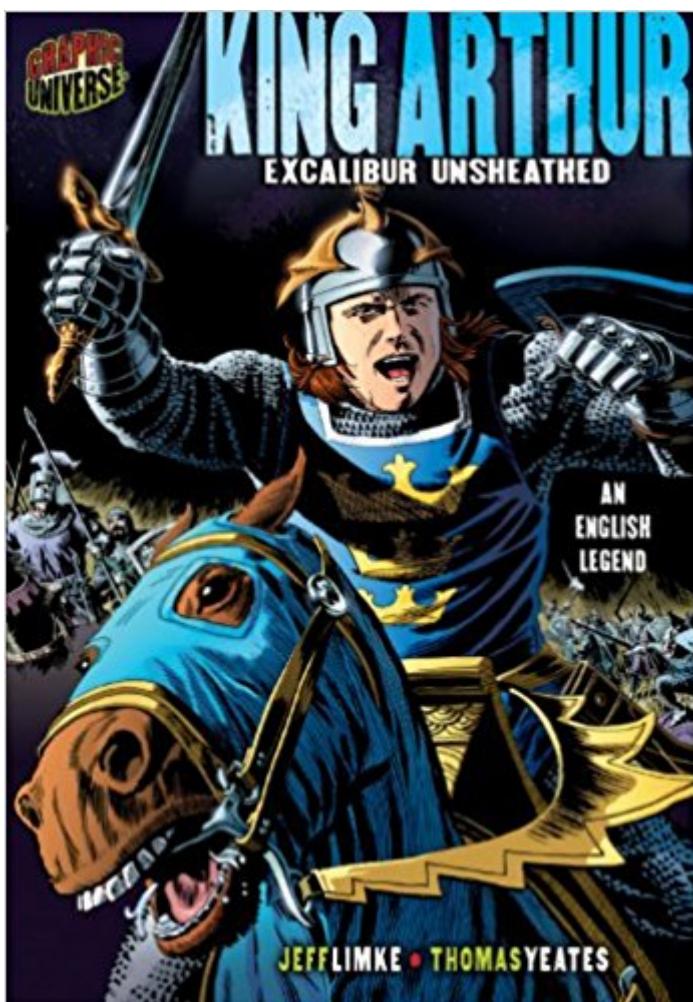


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# King Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathed: An English Legend (Graphic Myths & Legends (Paperback))



## **Synopsis**

Young Arthur spends his days toiling as a squire--feeding the horses and hauling his big brother's armor. Around him, England is in turmoil, left without a king. But all that changes in one day, with one pull on the mysterious sword in the stone. Guided by Merlin the Magician, Arthur takes his place as the rightful heir to England's throne. He receives the sword Excalibur and wins the loyalty of the Knights of the Round Table. But can the young king win peace and freedom for England?

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 590 (What's this?)

Series: Graphic Myths & Legends (Paperback)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Graphic Universe; Gph edition (October 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0822564831

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Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #430,041 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Arthurian #2521 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

"Fast and simple . . . all action, right to the end." -- Library Media Connection "Full-color, realistic illustrations, dramatic points of view and stylish layouts make these old stories visually fresh and accessible to modern audiences." -- BayViews

Graphic Myths and Legends The Graphic Myths and Legends series brings to life some of the most enduring tales from a variety of cultures. Action-packed and richly illustrated, the age-old stories will engage readers in new ways. Graphic Myths and Legends Titles Amaterasu: Return of the Sun Atalanta: The Race Against Destiny Demeter & Persephone: Spring Held Hostage Hercules: The Twelve Labors Isis & Osiris: To the Ends of the Earth Jason: Quest for the Golden Fleece King

Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathed Robin Hood: Outlaw of Sherwood Forest Thor & Loki: In the Land of Giants The Trojan Horse: The Fall of Troy Yu the Great: Conquering the Flood

While perusing the .com website one day, I was surprised to discover this graphic novel and immediately thought...Huh?Thomas Yeates, the talented comic artist who took on the challenge and the privilege of illustrating the "Prince Valiant" comic strip in 2012, drew a comic retelling of the tale of King Arthur in 2007? As a long time fan of the Valiant newspaper strip, and someone who always enjoyed Mr. Yeates' work...this was something I had to see!"King Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathed" is a 48 paged graphic novel published for young readers by the Lerner Publishing Group and Millbrook Press, Inc. It is part of a line of illustrated books called "Graphic Universe" which features "Graphic Myths and Legends" from around the world retold using the sequential art medium. As written by Jeff Limke, "King Arthur" relates the story of how the young Arthur first takes the enchanted sword Excalibur from the stone and begins his mythic life to become the King of all England. During the quickly paced comic novel, Arthur is guided by the mysterious magician Merlin in the ways of knighthood and leadership, and as he matures into a young man, he learns how to be a king."King Arthur" is an admirable introduction to the early years of the boy who would become king, especially for the graphic novel's intended audience, young people. For older readers more familiar with the classic tale of Arthur, like myself, they may find the story a bit too condensed for their tastes. Still, Mr. Limke does embue the story with a good sense of its characters, notably in the young boy Arthur, and the loving bond he shares with his older brother Kay, and their father, Lord Ector. Importantly, even as an abridged version of Arthur's adventures, the book offers the rewarding artistry of Thomas Yeates, who brings his lush rendering style to the legend, heightening the power of the story. For example, Arthur's famous initial freeing of the Excalibur blade from the stone is imagined as a truly magical moment by Mr. Yeates, a comic page worthy of the mythology. From this reviewer's perspective, this graphic novel can not only be an introduction to the Arthurian Legends for children but also a companion to the "Prince Valiant" comic strip, especially since Mr. Yeates is currently drawing that classic contemporary take on the tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Mr. Limke's and Mr. Yeates' "King Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathed" is an entertaining prequel to the Valiant comic strip as well as an enticing introduction to the life and growing legend of a character who was to become known and cherished throughout the world. Recommended. A final note:"King Arthur: Excalibur Unsheathed" has a follow-up novel in the "Graphic Myths and Legends" series, also created by Mr. Yeates and Mr. Limke, titled Arthur & Lancelot: The Fight for Camelot (An English Legend) (Graphic Myths and Legends) This comic story delves into the

days of an older King Arthur, and his relationship with his beloved Queen Guinivere, and best friend, Sir Lancelot. More good reading for young and old alike!

I found this graphic novel excellent in all its features. The graphics are colorful. The characterization of King Arthur and other important characters made the story interesting and gave the old legend a refreshing view. Another important aspect is that this graphic novel only covers the beginning of the legend of Arthur until he receives Excalibur from the hands of the Lady of the Lake, and it does so in 48 pages. This gives enough room to give new life in Jeff Limke's adaptation. I purchased this product with the aim of using it in the classroom in ESL context. However, most sentences are complex, and most of the narration in the yellow boxes is too long. I find this inadequate for low proficiency ESL learners. I may consider using some of its graphics, though, avoiding to burden students' working memory as they try to comprehend the story.

very good graphic novel.

Based on the legendary King Arthur, this English tale has been entertaining audiences since Sir Thomas Malory created the character in the 15th century. Whether or not King Arthur was inspired by a real man has never been determined, but one thing is certain: Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur* looked nothing like the Limke-Yeates version. According to Yeates, he used both historic and traditional sources when shaping the artwork for the book. Together, he and Limke created a 21st-century version of Arthur that fans of both Arthurian legend and graphic novels will be unable to resist. Limke's adaptation of Malory's story is strong. This particular telling of the legend begins with the young Arthur, when he was a squire and England was in turmoil, without a king. When he pulls the sword from the stone, he becomes the next king of England--quite a responsibility for a boy. But, with the guidance of Merlin the Magician and the loyalty of the Knights of the Round Table, he becomes a good and powerful leader. The colorful graphics supplied by Yeates are stunning, and the glossary, index, and list of Web sites at the end will enhance this Arthurian experience for younger readers. Additionally, readers who enjoy this book should check out other books in the publisher's "Graphic Myths and Legends" series. Reviewed by: Mechele R. Dillard

Right off, I confess that I didn't read the whole book. I just looked at the first few pages in the on-line preview. That was enough to convince me not to purchase it. I don't know what sources the author used, but the idea that the sword-in-the-stone was located near Westminster Abbey is ludicrous.

King Arthur is a semi-mythological figure lost in the mists of the post-Roman chaos in Britain. If there was a King Arthur, he must have lived in the period 400-800 A.D. Furthermore, all the King Arthur literature I've read places him in western Britain (Cornwall or Wales). The Westminster Abbey pictured in the book was finished in 1065, just before the Norman invasion. There was certainly no King Arthur during or after this time. I was looking for graphic novel versions of classic literature, to introduce my 6-year-old son to some of these famous stories. The least I expect is for the graphic version to be faithful to the sources, both historical and literary.

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