

UTOPIA: THE SWORD IN THE STONE (15 DAY UNIT)

This unit introduces students to the concept of Utopia using the story of *The Sword in the Stone*. Arthur (the Wart) must learn lessons about the best way to govern his subjects through magical adventures with his mentor, the wizard Merlyn.

1. **Read (or view) "The Idea of Utopia" and discuss the follow-up questions**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
 - b. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/JX6YyAV0PXQ>
2. **Read "The Princess and All the Kingdom" and discuss the follow-up questions.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
3. **Introduction to King Arthur: Read "So You Want To Be a Knight" and "The Quest for Character" worksheets and respond to the follow-up questions.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
4. **Design a coat of arms.** Usually I give students one day to work on this in class, and then a few days out of class to complete it.
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
5. **Read "A Tutor for the Wart" (script-story) and discuss the follow-up questions.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
6. **Read "The Education of the Wart" (worksheet) and discuss the questions.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
7. **View first hour from Disney's *The Sword in the Stone* and fill out first part of the viewing guide.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
8. **Read "The Sword in the Stone" (script-story) and discuss the follow-up questions.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
9. **View "Wizardly Wisdom with Merlin" video and assign "The Sword in the Stone Character Essay Questions"**
 - a. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/IMfcln7iXbk>
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
10. **View second half of Disney's *The Sword in the Stone* and complete the viewing guide.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
11. **Read "The Knights of the Round Table" worksheet and discuss the follow-up questions.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
12. **Read "The Sword Excalibur" (script-story) and respond to the follow-up questions.**
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
13. **Create a map of Utopia:** Give students the task of creating their own Utopia using the provided map.

- a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>
- 14. Read “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” by Ursula K. LeGuin (short story) and discuss the story’s message.
 - a. The story is available in many anthologies.
- 15. Read “Don Quixote” (script-story) and discuss the follow-up questions. How is *Don Quixote* commenting on the Utopian concept of knighthood and chivalry?
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-utopia-and-dystopia>

Don’t forget the free printable posters from the website!

Follow-up unit: Dystopia featuring *Animal Farm!* Resources available here:
<https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/animal-farm-teaching-materials>